

STATEMENT FROM THE SIXTEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-16)

Held virtually on April 8th, 2024

SUMMARY

The rainy season for the period of April to July 2024 is expected to be generally wet in East Africa, central parts of Central Africa and Western Africa, while dry condition is likely over western and eastern parts of the Gulf of Guinea region and the central SADC region.

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The sixteenth African Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-16) was held online on April 8, 2024 to present consensual outlook for the rainfall season for the period from April to July 2024 across the continent. Climate experts from ACMAD, AGRHYMET, ICPAC, IOC, CAPC-AC, SADC-CSC, and RCC networks of North Africa (Morocco), as well as experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Africa participated and contributed to this outlook. Additional contributions were obtained from products of various Global Production Centers (GPC) including the European Medium Range Products Center Weather Forecasting (ECMWF), the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Beijing Climate Center (BCC), Météo-France, the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), United Kingdom Met-Office (UKMO), the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and the World Meteorological Organization Lead Center (WMO-LC).

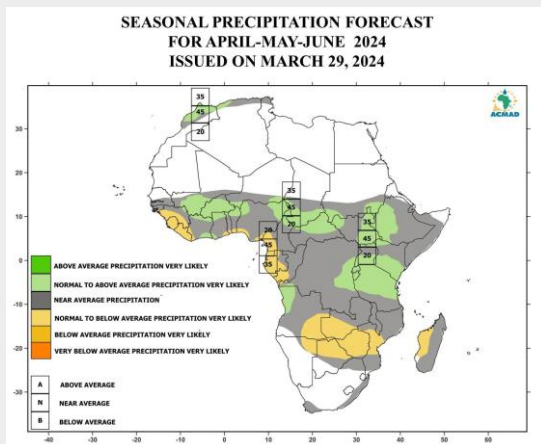
Based on a reference period of 30 years (1991-2020), the likelihood of precipitation for the upcoming seasons is forecast using a combined approach from Global Prediction Centers outputs, Statistical downscaling, tele-connection and climate monitoring analyses. The outlook covers the rainy season from April to July 2024. The outlook is presented in two quarterly periods structured as follows: April-May-June (AMJ) and May-June-July (MJJ).

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL TO JULY 2024

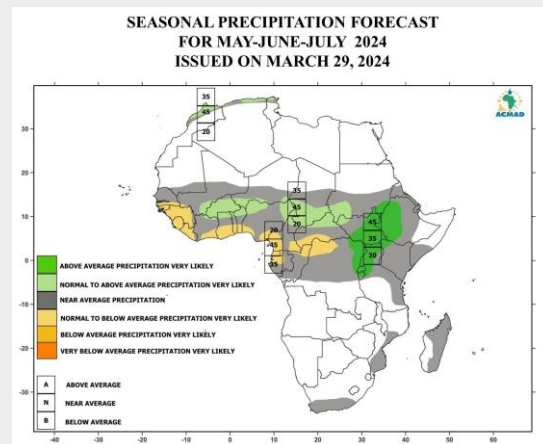
The consensual outlook is generated taking into account the climatic factors of current and future evolution of oceanic and atmospheric behaviors in different regions of the continent. These include the El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which is currently in a moderate El-Niño stage. A transition from moderate El Niño to positive ENSO-neutral is likely by AMJ, with increasing odds of La Niña

developing in JJA 2024. As for the Indian ocean, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is likely to remain positive, while for subtropical dipole Indian Ocean (SIOD) neutral conditions will prevail for the coming few months. Over the Atlantic, from the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) basin to the South Tropical Atlantic (TSA), warm conditions are currently observed and will likely persist from April to July 2024. As per the rain outlook during April to July 2024 season, the following patterns are expected across the continent (See Figure 1.a and 1.b):

- Normal to below average rainfall are very likely over western Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Ghana, southern Togo, Benin and Nigeria, western Cameroon, Guinea Equatorial, Gabon, south-western Congo, most of the central parts of SADC region and west of Madagascar during April to July period.
- From April to July normal to above average precipitation is expected over the southern parts of central Sahel region, Central Africa, central and southern parts of the Eastern Africa.
- Over western Ethiopia, most parts of the South-Sudan, Uganda, north-east DRC, much of Rwanda and Burundi above average precipitation will be observed during the season of May to July 2024.
- The rest of the parts of the Continent could have climatological conditions close to the seasonal average



(a)



(b)

Figure 1: Precipitation outlook for April-to-June (left) and for May-to-July (right) 2024. The likelihood of precipitation is organized in five categories: above normal (green), normal to above (light green), near normal (gray), normal to below (yellow), below normal (dark yellow) and well below normal (orange). Over the continent, white represent arid or seasonally dry areas.