STATEMENT FROM THE NINETEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-19)

30th May 2025, Online

Summary:

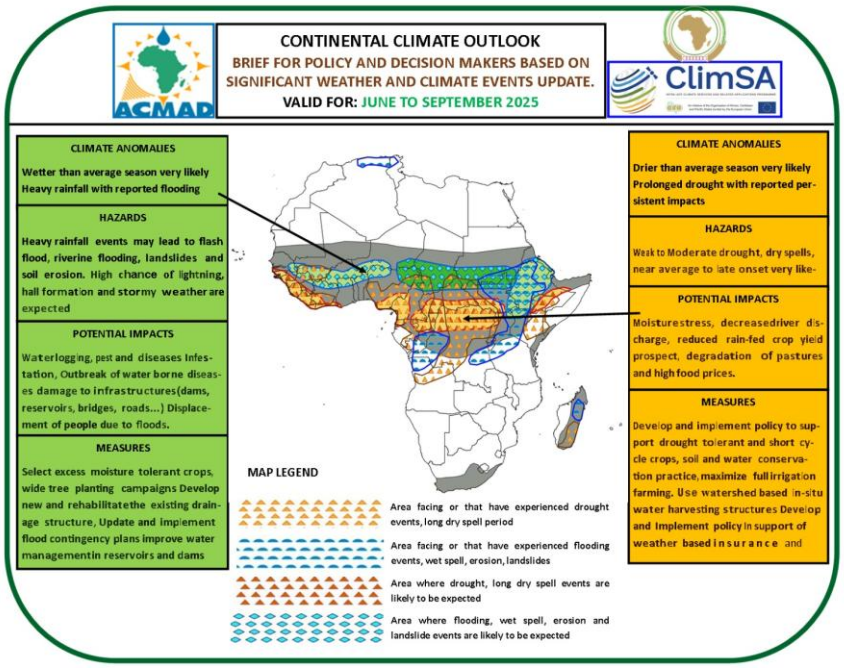
The rainy season from June to September 2025 is expected to be:

- **Wetter-than-usual** over Sahel and Horn Africa region including southern Mali, eastern Senegal, northern Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, southern Burkina Faso, southern Niger, northern Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, southern Chad, northern CAR, southern Sudan, northern South-Sudan, most part of Ethiopia and northern Kenya
- **Normal-to-below** normal rainfall in southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, western Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, south-western Côte d'Ivoire, south-eastern Nigeria, western south-eastern Cameroon, northern Congo, DRC, and southern CAR and south-easternmost of Ethiopia.

The season will be characterized by a normal to late onset of rainfall over southern Africa.

As for temperature, the following conditions will prevail over the upcoming four months period:

- **Warmer-than-average** condition across Northern Africa, northern parts of Sahel region, most of Eastern and SADC region during both the JJA and JAS seasons,
- Meanwhile, **near-average** temperatures are expected in the southern Sahel, Guinea Gulf and Central Africa region.



1. Background :

The Nineteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the African Continent (ACCOF-19) was held online on 30th May 2025. This event was organized by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in close collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Africa Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and other International Partners. ACCOF serves as the platform established by ACMAD to support the implementation of the African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) coordination function designated by WMO for Africa.
The 19th Edition of the forum aimed to review and document the performance and impacts of the January to April 2025 (JFMA) season. It also sought to release the consolidated continental climate outlook for the June to September 2025 (JJA/JAS) season. The forum discussed the implications of the JJAS 2025 climate forecast and developed advisories and management strategies for various climate-sensitive socio-economic sectors.

This outlook covers the rainy season from June to September 2025. It is presented in two superimposed quarterly periods: June-July-August (JJA) and July-August-September (JAS). The Outlook is relevant for seasonal timescales and relatively large geographical areas. Local and month-to-month variations might occur as the season progresses. While wetter than usual seasonal-average conditions are most probable over most parts of the Sahel region and central parts of the Eastern Africa region, including Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, CAR, Sudan, South-Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya dry spells may occur in areas with an increased likelihood of above-normal to near-normal rainfall and vice versa. ACMAD will continue to provide Continental updates regularly while the Other Regional Climate Centers (RCC) will provide regional updates. The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will provide detailed national and sub-national climate updates.

2. Methodology:

Following the recommendations of WMO, the African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) have established an objective procedure for seasonal forecasts. For the seasonal climate outlook of June, July, August, and September (JJA/JAS) 2025, data and products from Global Producing Centres (GPCs) were collected and processed using statistical downscaling, beginning with forecasts initialized in May 2025. The methods employed included the analysis of climate variability and téléconnexions, examination of recent trends, statistical downscaling, and insights from various climate dynamical prediction systems, as well as interpretation by skilled climate experts. The final consolidated forecast is derived by averaging the predictions generated from these diverse approaches.

3. Continental Outlook for the period from June to September 2025:

The seasonal forecast was developed during an online session. During the session, the climate experts from RCCs, representing each Regional Economic Community (REC) and coordinated by ACMAD, evaluated the progress of the January, February, March and April (JFM/FMA) 2025 season. The discussions were fed by inputs from the regional climate outlooks for the upcoming June-July-August (JJA) and July-August-September 2025 season.

The analysis considered the climatic factors of the current atmospheric behavior over different regions of the Continent as well as the current and predicted Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) conditions over the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea. The global and regional climate factors that affect the rainfall

and temperature evolution during the June to September period were also analyzed. These factors were assessed using dynamical and statistical models accordingly.

- Over the Equatorial Pacific region, SSTs forecast from dynamic and statistical models' predictions as well as the analyses of the experts are favorable to near-average throughout the forecast period. WMO and major GPCs have called for the emergence of neutral conditions from June to September 2025.
- Over the Atlantic basin: -Tropical North Atlantic was characterized by near to above normal SSTs, and persistence of this condition is expected for the period June to September 2025. - Tropical South Atlantic has been near average, neutral to warm conditions is very likely from June to September 2025.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently in the neutral phase and forecasted to remain in the neutral state throughout the JJAS 2025 season.

Based on the current and forecast evolution of the influencing factors, as well as the evidence gathered from the analytical tools discussed in Section 2, the following trends are anticipated for the key parameters (precipitation and temperature) during the season from June to September 2025.

3.1. Continental Outlook of Precipitation for the period from June to September 2025:

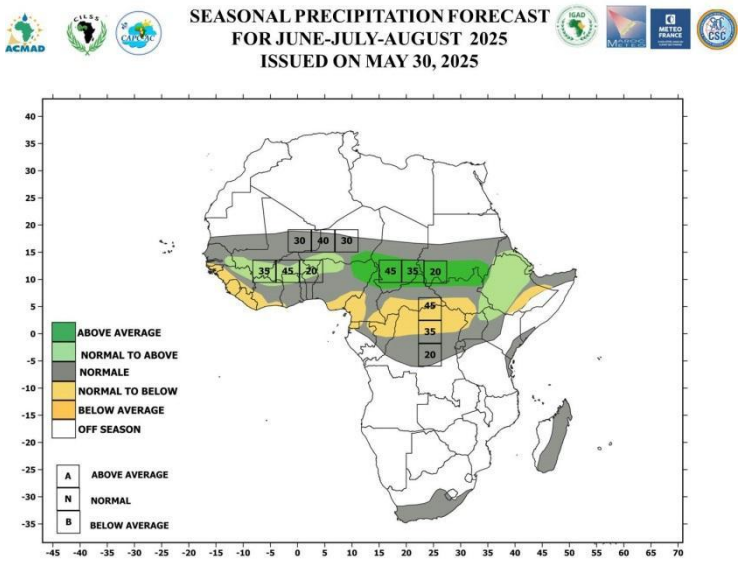


Figure 1. *Probability forecast for precipitation in Africa from June to August 2025. White shading indicates areas where JJA is typically a dry season.*

- ***Above normal precipitation*** *is expected over south-eastern Niger, north-east of Nigeria, northernmost of Cameroon, CAR, South-Sudan, southern Chad, Sudan and most parts of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti;*
- ***Normal to above precipitation is very likely*** *over south-eastern Senegal, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, south-western Niger, north-western Nigeria, western and central of Ethiopia.*

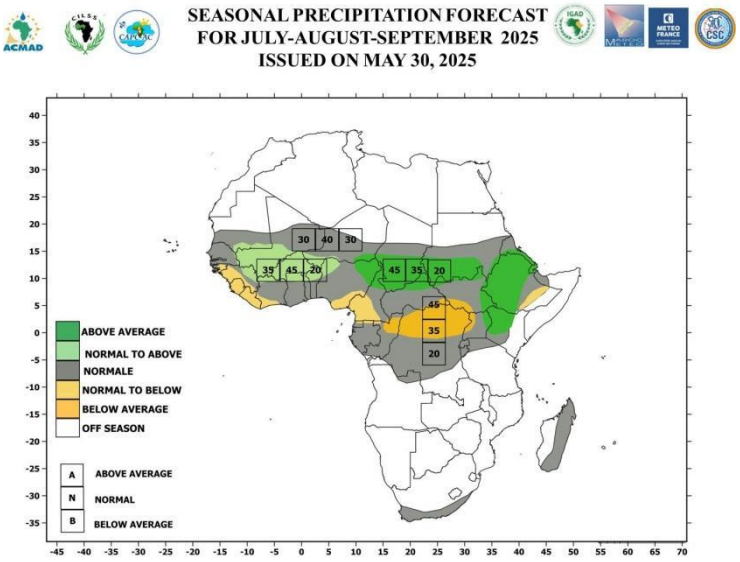


Figure 2. *Probability forecast of precipitation across Africa for July to September 2025. White shading indicates regions where JAS is climatologically a dry season.*

- ***Normal to below normal precipitation*** *is expected over Guinea Bissau, western Guinea, much of Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Côte d'Ivoire, south-eastern Nigeria, western Cameroon, northern Congo, DRC, southern CAR, South-Sudan and south-eastern Ethiopia ;*

- ***For the rest of the Continent, seasonal average conditions are expected.***

3.2. Continental Outlook of Temperature for the period from June to September 2025:

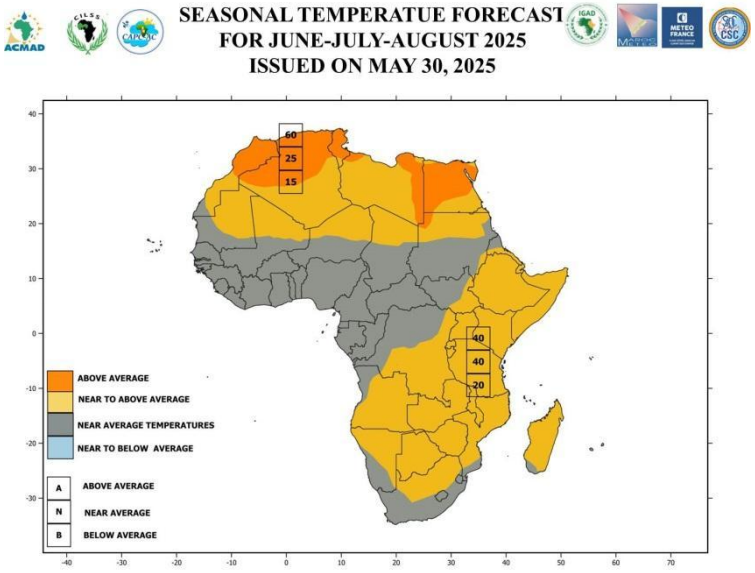


Figure 3. *Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for June to August 2025.*

- ***Warmer-than-average conditions*** *are expected across most parts of Africa, including most of the Northern Africa, northern parts of Sahel region, eastern and southern of Eastern Africa and much of SADC region;*

- ***Near average temperatures*** *are expected over southern of the Sahel region, Guinea Gulf and northern and central of the Central Africa.*

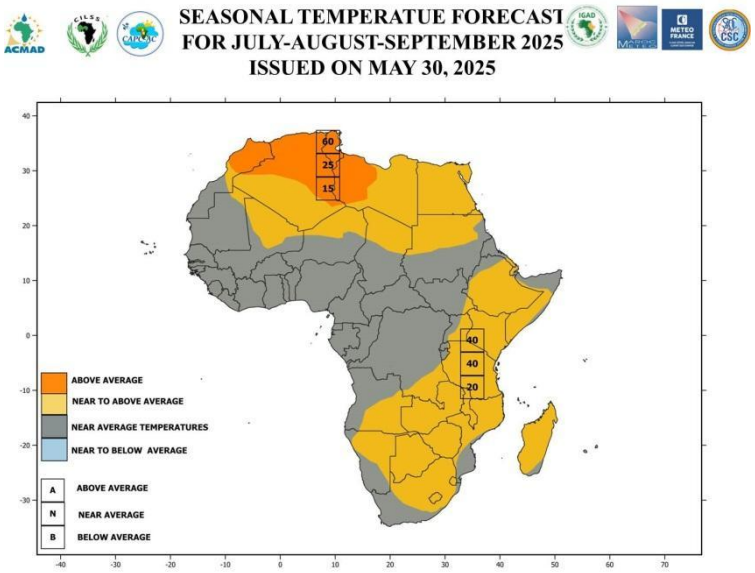


Figure 4. *Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for July to September 2025.*

4. Sectoral Impacts and Mitigation/Adaptation and Advisories for the JJA & JAS Season

Weather and climate significantly impact every sector of the economy and various aspects of human activities in Africa. The forecast conditions for the June-July-August (JJA) and July-August-September (JAS) periods will influence different sectors in unique ways and to varying degrees. Consequently, the responses required by end users will differ across sectors.

Climate Anomaly	Hazards	Potential impacts	Mitigations Measurement
★ **Wetter-than-average Season due to heavy rainfall and Stormy Weather;** ★ **Prolonged rainfall season**	➢ Flooding, landslides, soil erosion, and risk of lightning expected particularly over Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. ➢ Prolonged rainfall season in Central Africa Republic and Cameroon with flood likelihood even in Chad	● Breaching river embankments ● Overflowing drainage systems ● Infrastructure damage (dams, reservoirs, bridges, roads…) ● School Closure, People displacement, Fatalities ● Outbreak of water-borne infectious diseases ● Waterlogging, Pest and diseases infestation ● Agricultural losses	● Protecting river Banks; ● Encourage the development of new drainage systems and rehabilitate existing drains; ● Controlling floods and water levels in dams; ● Mobilize/prepare disaster response teams; ● Update or set up early warning systems; ● Identify high-risk areas (towns along rivers, exposed urban sites, etc.); ● Raising awareness among populations at risk (hygiene promotion, habitat resilience, etc.); ● Consider cross-border coordination measures between countries ● Develop or update national and provincial emergency and contingency plans in exposed areas; ● Selecting crops that are tolerant to excess humidity, ● Strengthening inter-sectoral, institutional and multidisciplinary dialogue.

★ **Drier-than-average season due to rainfall deficit;** ★ **Rainy season shorter than usual**	➢ Sequenced drought of low to moderate intensity associated with late to normal start to the season, ➢ Prolonged dry spell particularly over eastern Africa region, northwestern Morocco, southern Angola, northern Namibia, northwestern Botswana and northern Madagascar.	● Water shortage, reduced flow (low water) in rivers and dams leading to lower energy and drinking water supplies, ● reduced yield prospects for rain-fed crops, ● Degradation of pastures and likely movements of herders with the risk of agro-pastoral or land conflicts, higher food prices. ● Heatwaves, moisture stress, reduced rain-fed crop yield prospect, degradation of pastures, epidemics and high food prices. prolonged drought spell in Namibia, Angola and Botswana, wildfire, and diseases.	● Encourage the development of agro-pastoral systems that are more resilient to drought and the vagaries of the climate (intelligent agriculture, agricultural irrigation and watershed water harvesting, weather insurance, development of forage techniques); ● Develop national contingency plans for drought risk management.

5. Contributors

ACCOF-19 was organized by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in collaboration with several key organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and NORCAP. The forum was supported by the Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (Intra-ACP) Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme, which is funded by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).