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Asia: Monthly Climate Outlook December to September

Issued: March 2026

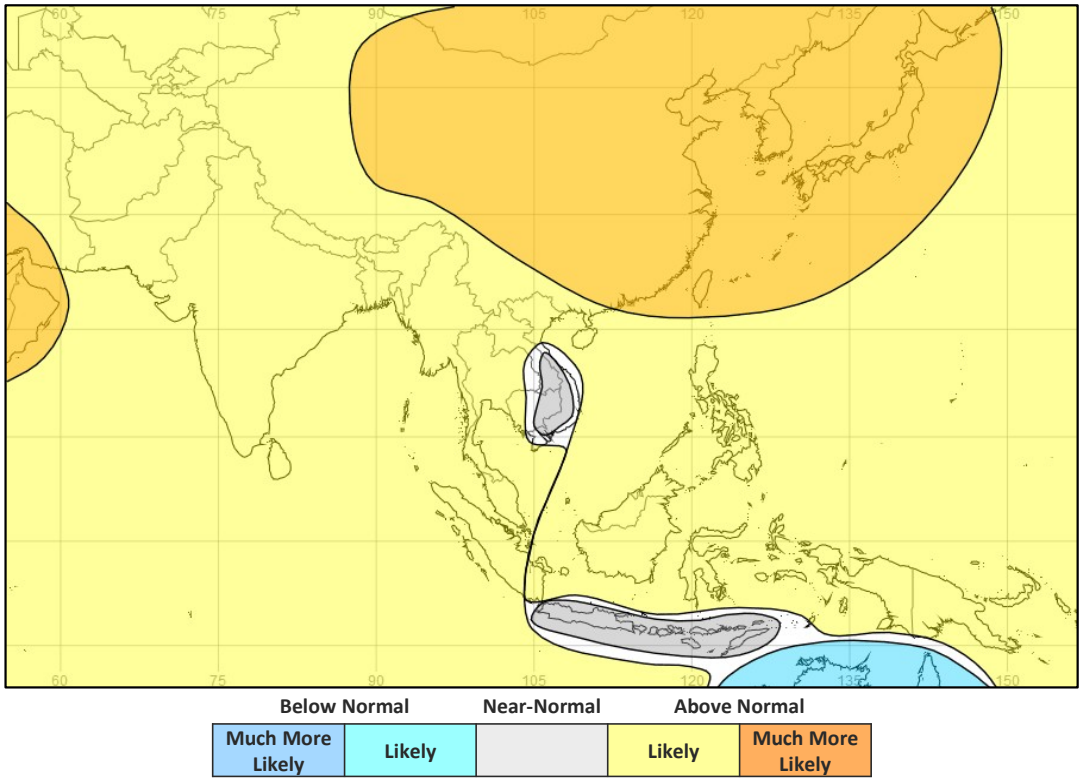
Overview

Asia Current Status and Outlook - Temperature

Current Status: Across Southeast Asia, conditions were mixed but southern Vietnam was cool or cold and Indonesia was warm or hot. However, by February, the whole region was warm or hot. Much of Central Asia was warm or hot from December through to February. Mixed conditions across South Asia with parts of India cool or cold in December. Across China, many parts have been warm or hot.

Outlook: Warmer than normal conditions are most likely across much of the continent. The only exception parts of Vietnam where temperatures are more likely to be closer to normal

3-Month Outlook April to June - Temperature



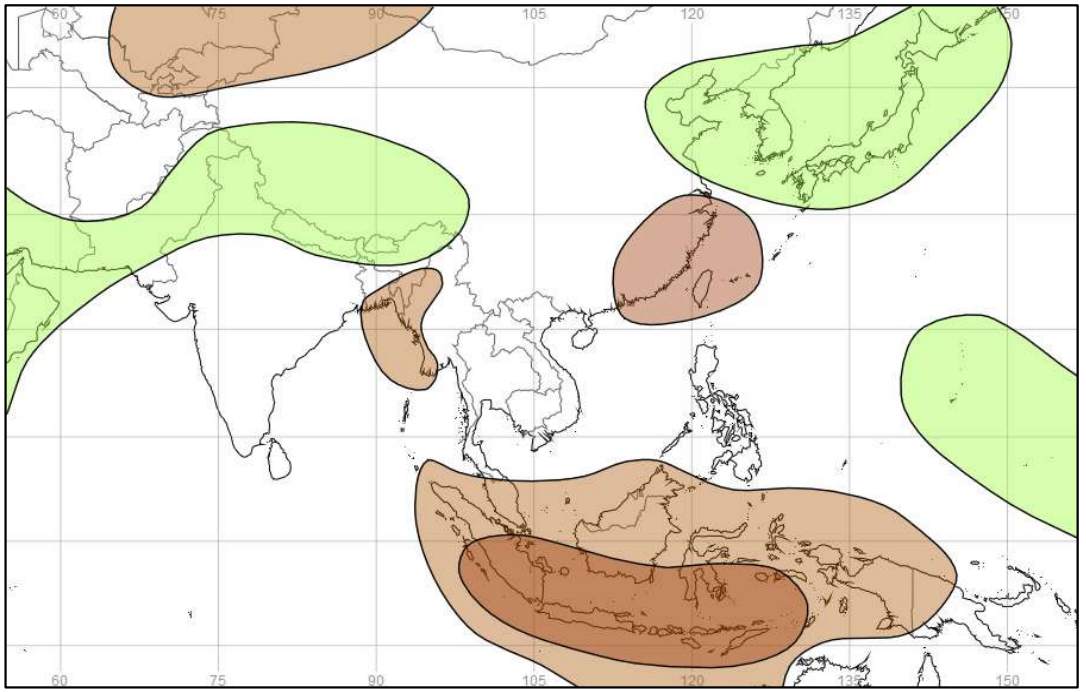
Asia Current Status and Outlook - Rainfall

Current Status: Rainfall conditions have been mostly normal across Southeast Asia during December and January; Vietnam and southern Myanmar were wet in February. In Central Asia many areas were wet or very wet in December and January, with more normal conditions in February. Mostly normal conditions have been observed over South Asia and China although southeast China was very dry in January. Pakistan, northern Indian, Nepal and Bangladesh were dry or very dry in February.

Outlook: This is a transition period for the region, with the South and East Asia summer monsoon systems beginning to influence rainfall patterns towards the end of this period. ENSO-neutral conditions likely dominating at first, but the transition to El Niño later in the period, has the potential to influence rainfall patterns across the continent, increasing the chances of drier than normal conditions across Southeast Asia and wetter than normal across East Asia.

Ahead of the South Asian monsoon becoming established, wetter than normal conditions are slightly more likely across Pakistan, Nepal, parts of northern India and southwest China. This is the peak season for severe thunderstorms, these potentially more widespread and frequent than normal. Wetter than normal across northeast China. Meanwhile, drier than normal conditions are more likely across parts of Myanmar, Bangladesh and southeast China. The strongest rainfall signal is across Indonesia with drier than normal conditions likely widely, with an increased likelihood of wildfires.

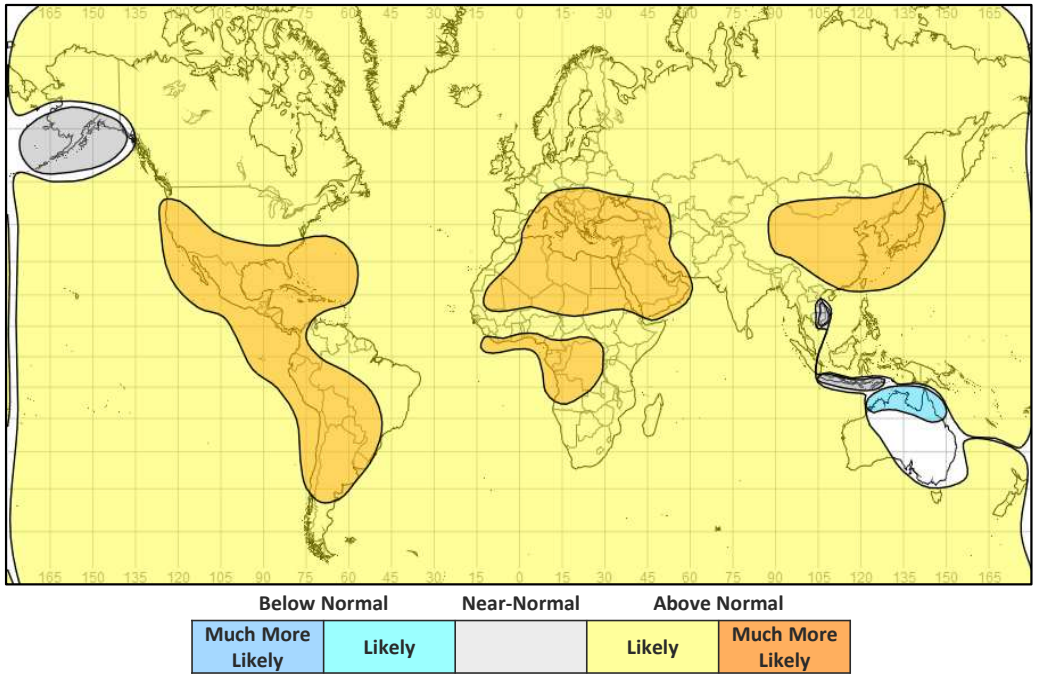
3-Month Outlook April to June - Rainfall



Global Outlook - Temperature

Outlook: With the backdrop of a warming climate and the increased chances of El Niño developing later this year, most land areas are likely to be warmer than normal with limited exceptions. These include northern Australia, southern parts of Indonesia and Vietnam where near normal temperatures or colder than normal conditions are more likely.

3-Month Outlook April to June - Temperature



Below Normal		Near-Normal	Above Normal	
Much More Likely	Likely		Likely	Much More Likely

Global Outlook - Rainfall

Outlook:

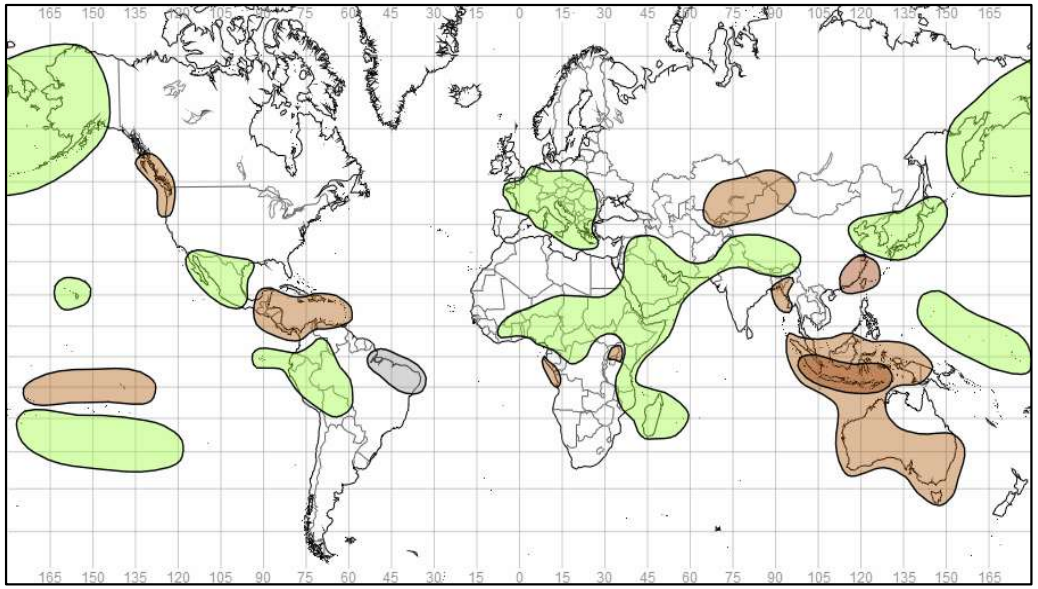
El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) – La Niña continues to decay in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Even as La Niña weakens, it can continue to influence global weather and climate. However, this effect is likely to be short-lived, probably only lasting a few more weeks.

ENSO-neutral is expected to prevail during the northern hemisphere spring. There are increasing chances of El Niño at longer forecast lead times (early- to mid-summer), though uncertainty is high because of the spring prediction barrier, which typically is associated with lower forecast accuracy. According to NOAA, the chance of ENSO-neutral in the period April – June is over 80%, with the chance of El Niño around 15%. Looking further ahead there is an increased chance of El Niño developing during the coming northern hemisphere summer – NOAA currently rate the likelihood of El Niño developing during the period June to August of around 62%. However, it is worth noting that we are approaching the time of year when ENSO predictions have the lowest skill. In summary, ENSO-neutral conditions are expected for much of the Northern Hemisphere spring with a likely transition to El Niño in early- to mid-summer.

Depending on the time of year, El Niño typically results in drier than normal conditions across Southern Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and northern South America, and wetter than normal conditions in parts of East Africa, southern Europe, southern USA, and parts of South America and East Asia. More information on typical impacts can be found here https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/seasonal-to-decadal/gpc-outlooks/el-nino-la-nina/enso-impacts

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – The Indian Ocean Dipole is neutral and therefore won't provide any predictive value for this period.

3-Month Outlook April to June - Rainfall



Current Status

Current Status maps

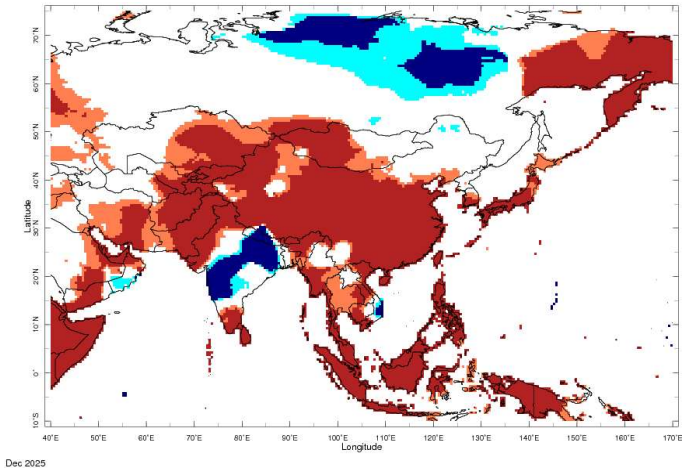
Central Asia

Southern Asia

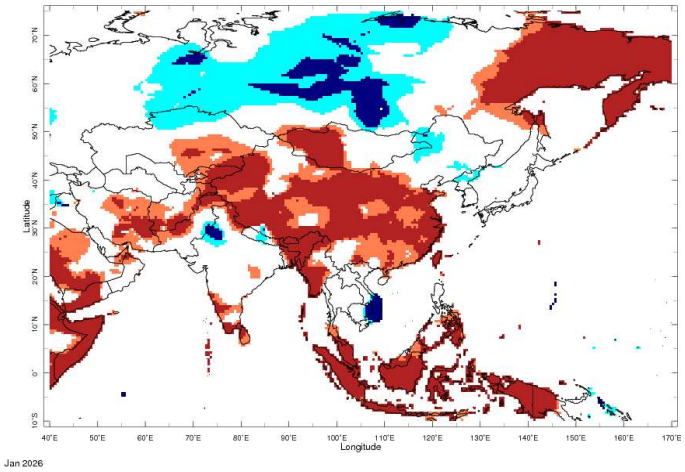
Southeast Asian Peninsula

Southeastern Asia / Indonesia

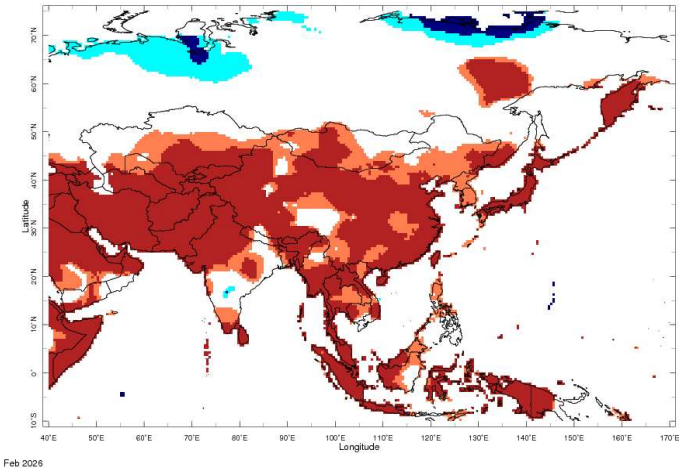
Current Status – Temperature percentiles



December



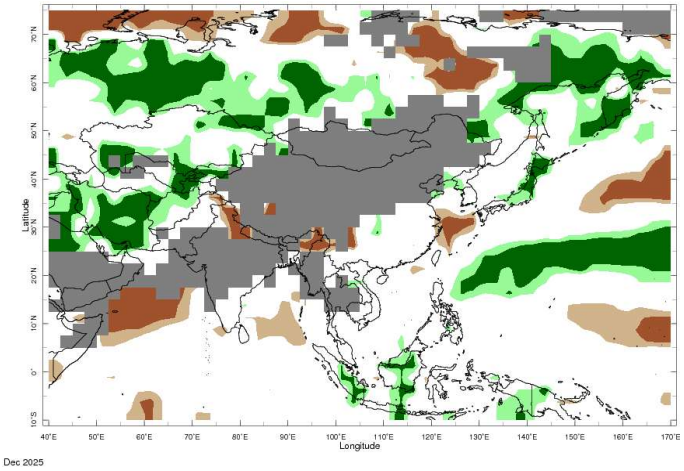
January



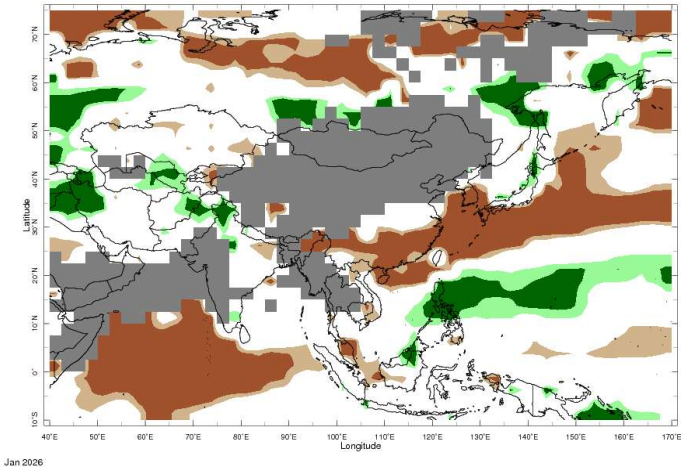
February

Notes: The percentiles shown in the map indicate a ranking of temperature, with the 0th percentile being the coolest and the 100th percentile being the warmest in the 1981-2010 climatology. Orange and red shading represent values above the 80th (Warm) and 90th (Hot) percentile, respectively; regions shaded in light and dark blue indicate values below the 20th (Cool) and 10th (Cold) percentile, with respect to the 1981-2010 climatology. The data used in this map are from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center.

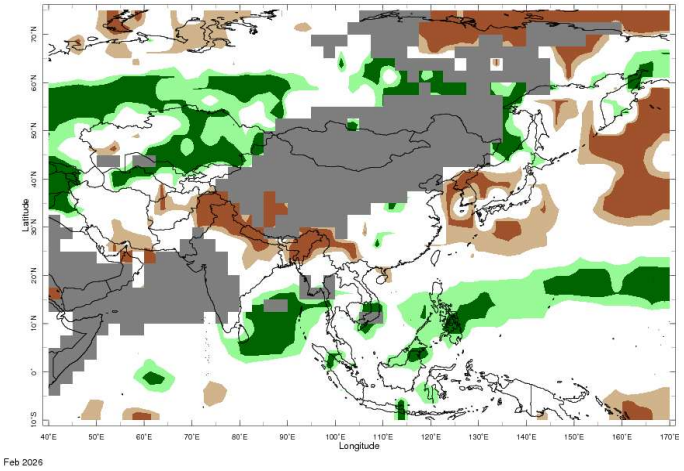
Current Status – Precipitation percentiles



December



January



February

Notes: The percentiles shown in the map indicate a ranking of rainfall, with the 0th percentile being the driest and the 100th percentile being the wettest in the 1981-2010 climatology. Green and dark green shading represent values above the 80th (Wet) and 90th (Very Wet) percentile, respectively; regions shaded in light and dark brown indicate rainfall below the 20th (Dry) and 10th (Very Dry) percentile, with respect to the 1981-2010 climatology. Grey areas on the map mask out regions that receive less than 10 mm/month of rainfall on normal in the 1981-2010 climatology for the month. The data used in this map are from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center.

Current Status – Central Asia

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	December	January	February	December	January	February
Afghanistan	Hot	Normal	Hot	Mixed (1)	Mixed (1)	Dry
Tajikistan	Hot	Warm	Hot	Very Wet	Normal	Normal
Kyrgyzstan	Hot	Warm	Hot	Wet	Normal	Normal

Notes:

The table gives an assessment of whether temperature and rainfall across each country have been above normal, normal or below normal over the past three months, using data from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center and the IRI Map Room: http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.

* Region usually experiences less than 10mm/month rainfall during the month (dry season).

Additional Information:

Note (1): Normal in the south but Wet or Very Wet in the north

Current Status – Southern Asia

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	December	January	February	December	January	February
Pakistan	Hot	Normal	Hot	Normal*	Normal (2)	Very Dry
India	Mixed (1)	Normal	Mixed (1)	Normal	Normal (2)	Normal (3)
Nepal	Cold	Normal	Warm	Normal	Normal	Very Dry
Bangladesh	Normal	Hot	Hot	Normal*	Normal*	Dry
Sri Lanka	Warm	Normal	Warm	Normal	Normal	Wet

Notes:

The table gives an assessment of whether temperature and rainfall across each country have been above normal, normal or below normal over the past three months, using data from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center and the IRI Map Room: http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.

* Region usually experiences less than 10mm/month rainfall during the month (dry season).

Additional Information:

Note (1): Cold in western and central parts, Hot in the northeast and northwest, otherwise Normal
Note (2): Wet or Very Wet in parts of the north
Note (3): Very Dry in the north

Current Status – Southeast Asian Peninsula

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	December	January	February	December	January	February
China	Mixed (1)	Warm	Warm	Normal	Very Dry (4)	Normal
Myanmar	Normal	Warm	Hot	Normal	Normal*	Normal (5)
Vietnam	Mixed (2)	Mixed (3)	Warm	Normal	Normal	Normal (5)

Notes:

The table gives an assessment of whether temperature and rainfall across each country have been above normal, normal or below normal over the past three months, using data from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center and the IRI Map Room: http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.

* Region usually experiences less than 10mm/month rainfall during the month (dry season).

Additional Information:

Note (1): Warm or Hot, but Normal in parts of the north
Note (2): Cool in central Vietnam, Hot in the north and Warm in the south
Note (3): Cold in the south, Normal in the north
Note (4): Very Dry in the southeast, Normal* elsewhere
Note (5): Very Wet in the south

Current Status – Southeastern Asia / Indonesia

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	December	January	February	December	January	February
Indonesia	Hot	Warm	Hot	Mixed (1)	Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Mixed (2)	Mixed (2)	Hot	Normal (3)	Mixed (4)	Normal
Timor-Leste	Normal	Hot	Warm	Wet	Normal	Normal

Notes:

The table gives an assessment of whether temperature and rainfall across each country have been above normal, normal or below normal over the past three months, using data from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center and the IRI Map Room: http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.

* Region usually experiences less than 10mm/month rainfall during the month (dry season).

Additional Information:

Note (1): Large regional variation but many areas Wet or Very Wet
Note (2): Hot in the west, Normal in the east
Note (3): Wet in parts of the west
Note (4): Very Wet in parts of the east, Normal elsewhere

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Outlooks

Outlooks: Notes for use

Outlooks for months 4 to 6:

As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range.

Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

Climatological odds:

A forecast is only provided in the outlooks where there is information in the model data about likely outcomes. Therefore, where the likelihoods for above-, near- and below- normal conditions are evenly balanced the phrase 'climatological odds' will be used. This means the outcome could fall anywhere within the possible climatological range. Near-normal conditions should not necessarily be assumed, and users should update with shorter-term forecasts when available.

Outlook: April to September – Central Asia

		Forecast summary		
		April	April to June	July to September
Afghanistan	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Climatological odds
Tajikistan	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Climatological odds
Kyrgyzstan	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Likely to be drier than normal	Climatological odds

Outlooks for months 4 to 6: As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range. Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

Outlook: April to September – Southern Asia (1)

		Forecast summary		
		April	April to June	July to September
Pakistan	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be wetter than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal	Likely to be drier than normal
India	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be wetter than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal in the north, otherwise Climatological odds	Likely to be drier than normal
Nepal	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be wetter than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal	Climatological odds

Outlooks for months 4 to 6: As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range. Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

Outlook: April to September – Southern Asia (2)

		Forecast summary		
		April	April to June	July to September
Bangladesh	*Temperature*	Likely to be near-normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be wetter than normal	Likely to be drier than normal in the far south, Climatological odds elsewhere	Climatological odds
Sri Lanka	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Climatological odds

Outlooks for months 4 to 6: As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range. Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

Outlook: April to September – SE Asian Peninsula

		Forecast summary		
		April	April to June	July to September
China	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Much more likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal in the southwest and northeast, Likely to be drier than normal in the southeast, Climatological odds elsewhere	Climatological odds
Myanmar	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Likely to be drier than normal in the west, Climatological odds elsewhere	Climatological odds
Vietnam	*Temperature*	Likely to be near-normal	Likely to be near-normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be near-normal	Climatological odds	Climatological odds

Outlooks for months 4 to 6: As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range. Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

Outlook: April to September – SE Asia / Indonesia

		Forecast summary		
		April	April to June	July to September
Indonesia	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal but Likely to be near-normal in the south	Climatological odds
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	**Much more likely to be drier than normal**	Likely to be drier than normal
Papua New Guinea	*Temperature*	**Much more likely to be warmer than normal**	Likely to be warmer than normal	Climatological odds
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal
Timor-Leste	*Temperature*	Likely to be near-normal	Likely to be near-normal	Climatological odds
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	**Much more likely to be drier than normal**	Likely to be drier than normal

Outlooks for months 4 to 6: As forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range **the 4-6-month outlook is less reliable than the 1-3 month outlook**. Outlook information will only be provided when the model data signals likely outcomes. Additionally, the longer range outlook utilises fewer models because not all seasonal models are available for the extended range. Information provided in this presentation should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards only and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

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Annex 1 – Supplemental Information

For further information

WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-LRFMME)
https://www.wmolc.org/

International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)
http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/

NOAA El Niño technical info
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/enso/

Met Office
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/international-development

Climate Outlook Fora (WMO Factsheet), including:

The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) https://rcc.imdpune.gov.in/sascof.php

Technical notes

The WMO lead centre for long-range forecast multi-model ensemble (LC-LRFMME) produce a probabilistic multi-model mean forecast product in which the multi-model mean is based on uncalibrated model output with a model weighting system that accounts for errors in both the forecast probability and ensemble mean. The method used by LC-LRFMME separately computes a probabilistic forecast and calculates tercile probabilities with respect to climatology for each individual model, before creating the weighted multi-model mean. In seasonal prediction, shifts in the tercile probabilities are always closely associated with the shifts in the probability of extremes, and we can use the probability of terciles to provide information on the likelihood of above- or below- normal conditions. The thresholds used in the forecast summaries are defined below.

Seasonal forecasts rely on the aspects of the global weather and climate system that are more predictable, such as tropical sea-surface temperatures or the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). However, whilst such forecasts may be able to show what is more or less likely to occur, they acknowledge that other outcomes are possible.

In addition, forecast uncertainty generally increases with longer range so the 6-month outlook is less reliable. It is also based on less information, because not all models are available to this range. Therefore the information presented here should be used to raise early awareness of potential hazards, and should be updated with the 3-month outlook when available.

In the report and tables precipitation is referred to as rainfall but in fact encompasses any form of water, liquid or solid, falling from the sky. Temperatures are the (2 metre) near-surface temperature.

Description	Definition
Much more likely to be below normal	When probability of lower tercile > 70%
More likely to be below normal	When probability of lower tercile is 40-70%
Likely to be near-normal	When probability of middle tercile is 40-70%
Much more likely to be near-normal	When probability of middle tercile > 70%
Likely to be above normal	When probability of upper tercile is 40-70%
Much more likely to be above normal	When probability of upper tercile > 70%
Climatological odds	When probabilities for all categories are roughly 33%

Global Producing Centres (GPC) forecasts used by WMO LC-LRFMME:

- GPC CPTEC (INPE),
- GPC ECMWF,
- GPC Exeter (Met Office),
- GPC Melbourne (BOM),
- GPC Montreal (CMC),
- GPC Moscow (Hydromet Centre of Russia),
- GPC Offenbach (DWD),
- GPC Pretoria (SAWS),
- GPC Seoul (KMA),
- GPC Tokyo (JMA),
- GPC Toulouse (Meteo France),
- GPC Washington (NCEP)

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