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AFRICA: Monthly Climate Outlook
May to February

Issued: August 2025

Overview

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Outlooks

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Overview

Africa Current Status and Outlook – Temperature

Africa Current Status and Outlook – Rainfall

Global Outlook – Temperature

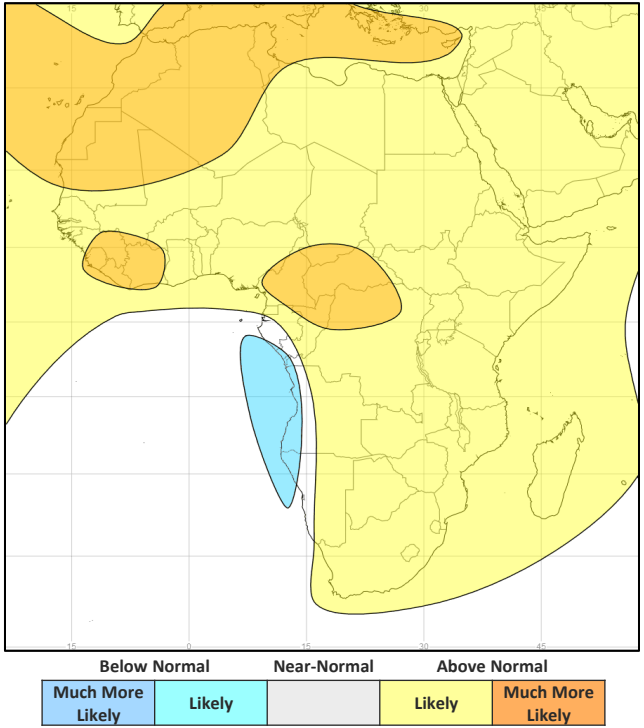
Global Outlook – Rainfall

Africa Current Status and Outlook - Temperature

Current Status: Many areas were warm or hot over the last three months though there were some exceptions. Parts of the Sahel experienced near normal temperatures at times. In addition, Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia were cold during May and June while eastern Mauritania observed below normal temperatures in July. Temperatures in Madagascar were below normal in June and July.

Outlook: Consistent with a warming climate, warmer than normal conditions are likely or very likely across much of the continent.

3-Month Outlook September to November - Temperature



Africa Current Status and Outlook - Rainfall

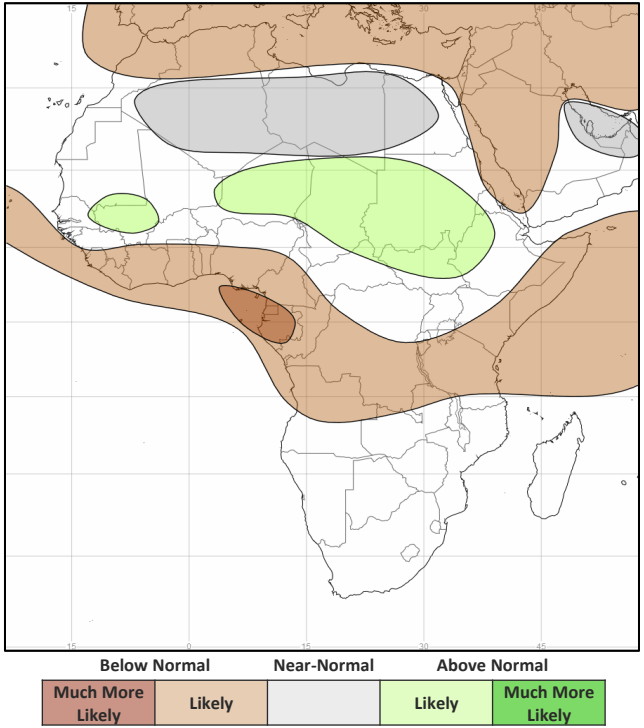
Current Status: During May, rainfall was near normal across East Africa, except for Uganda and around Lake Victoria, where conditions were very wet. Nigeria was very dry in May. In June and July, parts of the Sahel, including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso were wet or very wet. Kenya, Uganda and Cameroon were also wet or very wet in July. Ghana was very dry in July.

Outlook: In East Africa, the 'Short Rains' season will take place for many parts during this period (the season nominally runs from October to December). Here, drier than normal conditions are likely across Somalia, Tanzania and much of Kenya as well as eastern Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, the West African Monsoon will retreat southwards during this period. Consistent with the season so far, above normal rainfall is likely across parts of the Sahel before rainfall clears to the south. This includes southwest Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan and western Ethiopia. Below normal rainfall is likely further south across much of West Africa as well as for DRC.

Rainfall across southern Africa doesn't tend to increase climatologically until late in this period with the likelihoods of above or below normal rainfall balanced.

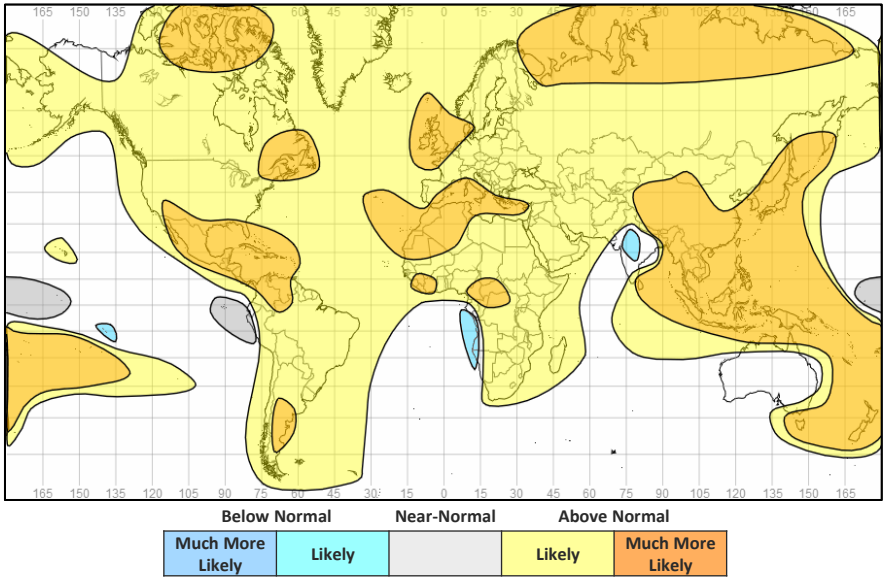
3-Month Outlook September to November - Rainfall



Global Outlook - Temperature

Outlook: Consistent with our warming climate, there is an increase in the likelihood of warmer than normal conditions for most regions. The main exception over central parts of India where below normal temperatures are likely.

3-Month Outlook September to November - Temperature



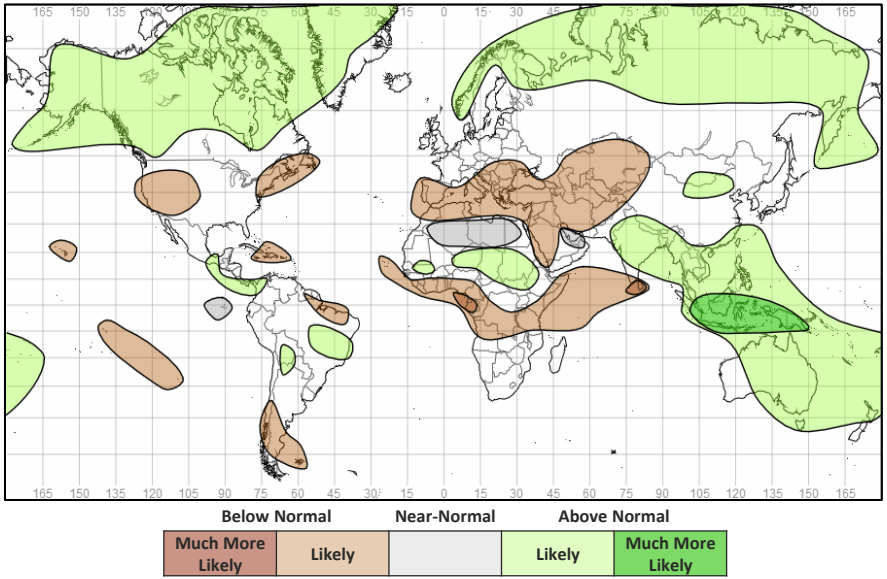
Global Outlook - Rainfall

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) – Current oceanic and atmospheric indicators are consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions. ENSO-neutral remains most likely early in this period. However, through autumn the likelihood of La Niña developing increases. By late autumn (October-November-December period), NOAA Climate Prediction Centre gives a 50-60 % chance of a short-lived La Niña event while the likelihood of ENSO remaining neutral is around 40 %. In contrast, output from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology strongly favours (> 90% chance) ENSO-neutral for the remainder of 2025.

Should La Niña develop, broadly speaking, there would be an increase in the likelihood of wetter than normal conditions in many tropical land regions of the world. 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 Diploe (IOD) – The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. However, sea surface temperatures across the basin are consistent with a developing negative event – warming in the east of the basin and cooling in the west. It appears very likely (> 90% chance) that this pattern will persist over the coming weeks with a negative IOD event likely to be declared. This brings an increase in the likelihood of drier than normal conditions across East Africa, with a poor performance of the Short Rains. Conversely, the likelihood of wetter than normal increases across Indonesia.

3-Month Outlook September to November - Rainfall



Current Status

Current Status maps

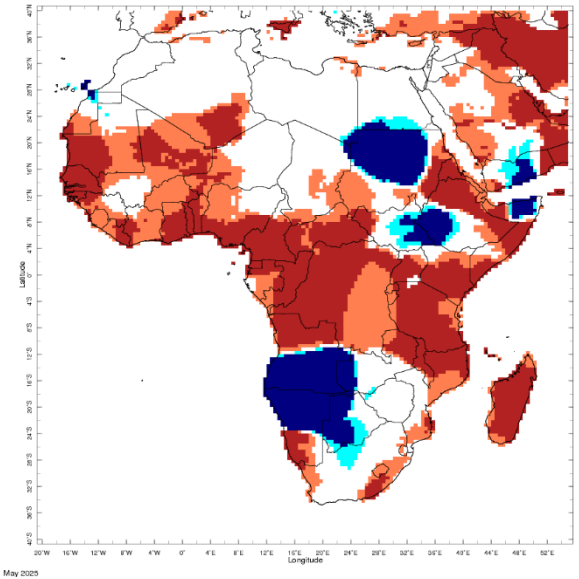
Western Africa

Central Africa

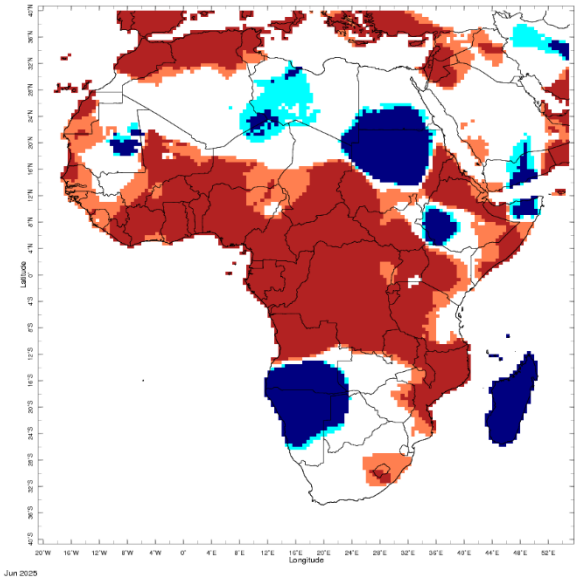
Eastern Africa

Southern Africa

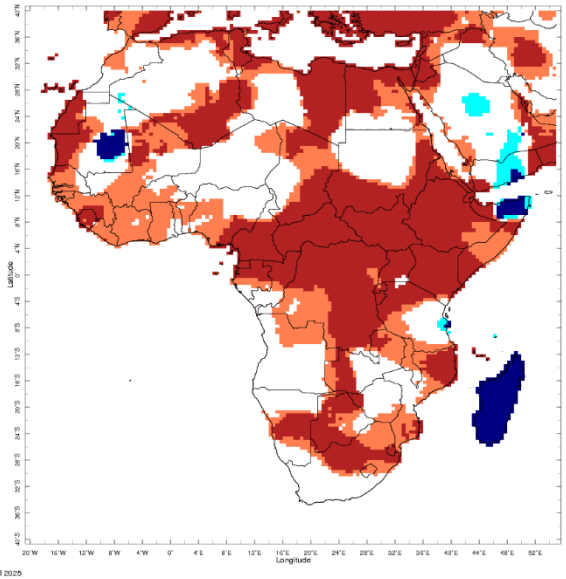
Current Status – Temperature percentiles



May



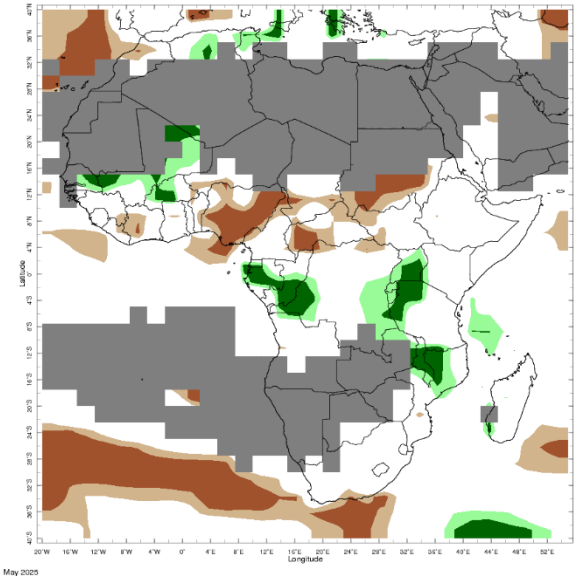
June



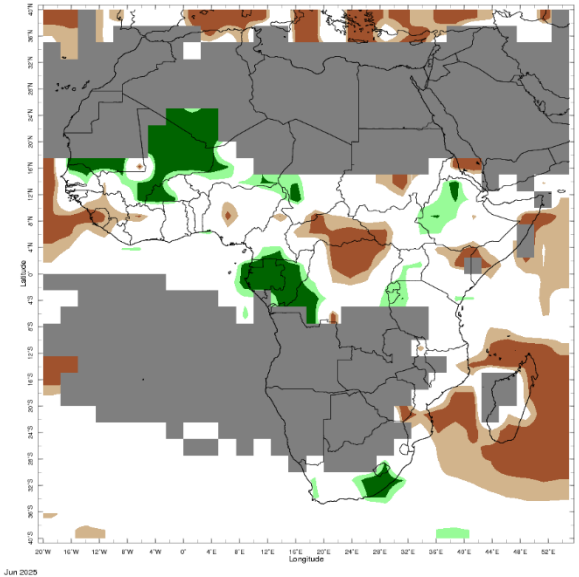
July

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.

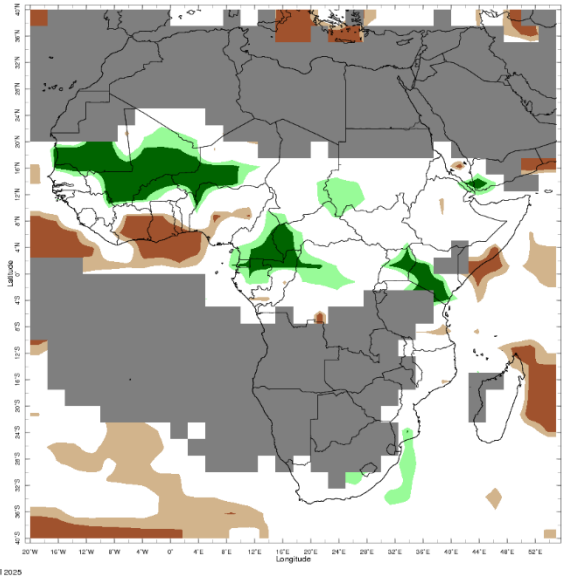
Current Status – Precipitation percentiles



May



June



July

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 – Western Africa (1)

	Current Status: Temperature		
	May	June	July
Mauritania	Hot	Normal	Mixed (1)
Sierra Leone	Hot	Hot	Hot
Liberia	Hot	Hot	Warm
Mali	Hot	Hot	Warm

Current Status: Rainfall		
May	June	July
Normal*	Very Wet	Very Wet
Normal	Very Dry	Normal
Normal	Dry	Normal
Wet	Very Wet	Very 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:

(1) Note: Hot in the west, cold in the east

Current Status – Western Africa (2)

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Ghana	Hot	Hot	Warm	Normal	Normal	Very Dry
Nigeria	Hot	Hot	Warm	Very Dry	Normal	Normal
Cameroon	Hot	Hot	Hot	Normal	Normal	Wet
Burkina Faso	Hot	Hot	Warm	Wet	Wet	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:

N/A

Current Status – Central Africa

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Niger	Mixed (1)	Hot (3)	Normal	Normal*	Wet	Wet
Chad	Warm	Hot (3)	Hot	Normal*	Normal	Normal
DRC	Hot	Hot	Hot	Mixed (2)	Mixed (4)	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:

(1) Note: Normal, but hot in the southwest
(2) Note: Mainly normal, but wet or very wet in the southwest and east (May)
(3) Note: Normal in the north
(4) Note: Very Wet in the southwest, very dry in the north, normal elsewhere

Current Status – Eastern Africa (1)

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Sudan	Mixed (1)	Mixed (2)	Mixed (4)	Very Dry	Dry	Normal
South Sudan	Normal	Hot	Hot	Normal	Normal (3)	Normal
Uganda	Hot	Hot	Hot	Very Wet	Normal	Very Wet
Rwanda	Hot	Hot	Hot	Wet	Wet	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:

(1) Note: Mainly normal, but cool or cold in parts of the north and hot in the east
(2) Note: Hot in the south and east, cold elsewhere
(3) Note: Very dry in the southwest
(4) Note: Hot in the south and east, else normal

Current Status – Eastern Africa (2)

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Tanzania	Hot	Hot	Mixed (6)	Normal (4)	Normal (4)	Normal
Eritrea	Hot	Hot	Hot	Normal	Normal	Normal
Ethiopia	Mixed (1)	Mixed (5)	Hot	Normal	Normal (5)	Normal
Kenya	Hot	Hot	Hot	Normal	Mixed (2)	Wet
Somalia	Hot (3)	Hot (3)	Hot (3)	Normal	Mixed (2)	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:

(1) **Note**: Hot in the north, normal or cool in the south
(2) **Note:** dry or very dry in the north and east, else normal
(3) **Note:** Cold in the north.
(4) **Note:** Wet around Lake Victoria
(5) **Note:** Wet in the west
(6) **Note:** Hot in the northwest, else normal

Current Status – Southern Africa

	Current Status: Temperature			Current Status: Rainfall		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
South Africa	Mixed (2)	Mixed (2)	Mixed (5)	Normal	Normal (4)	Normal
Zambia	Mixed (3)	Mixed (3)	Warm	Normal*	Normal*	Normal*
Zimbabwe	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal*	Normal*	Normal*
Mozambique	Hot	Hot	Warm	Normal (1)	Normal (1)	Normal
Malawi	Hot	Hot	Warm	Very Wet	Normal	Normal
Madagascar	Hot	Cold	Cold	Normal	Very Dry	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:

(1) **Note:** Very wet in the north (May) and dry in the south (June)
(2) **Note:** Normal, but warm or hot in the southwest and east (May & June)
(3) **Note**: Hot in the north, cold or normal in the south
(4) **Note:** Very wet in the southeast
(5) **Note:** Warm or hot in the north, normal in the south

Outlooks

Notes for use

Western Africa

Central Africa

Eastern Africa

Southern Africa

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: September to February – Western Africa (1)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Mauritania	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Much more likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Climatological odds
Sierra Leone	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Much more likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal
Liberia	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Much more likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal
Mali	*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 southwest, elsewhere Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal southwest, elsewhere 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: September to February – Western Africa (2)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Ghana	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal
Nigeria	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal south, Climatological odds north	Likely to be drier than normal south, Climatological odds north	Likely to be wetter than normal
Cameroon	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	**Much more likely to be warmer than normal**	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be wetter than normal
Burkina Faso	*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	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: September to February – Central Africa

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Niger	*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
Chad	*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
Democratic Republic of Congo	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Much more likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal west, Climatological odds east	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: September to February – Eastern Africa (1)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Sudan	*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
South Sudan	*Temperature*	Likely to be colder than normal far east, elsewhere 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 wetter than normal	Climatological odds
Uganda	*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	Climatological odds	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.

Outlook: September to February – Eastern Africa (2)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Tanzania	*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
Rwanda	*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	Likely to be drier than normal
Eritrea	*Temperature*	Likely to be colder than normal northwest, elsewhere 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	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: September to February – Eastern Africa (3)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Ethiopia	*Temperature*	Likely to be colder than normal southwest, elsewhere 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 west, Likely to be drier than normal east	Likely to be near-normal
Kenya	*Temperature*	Likely to be colder than normal northwest, elsewhere 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 drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal
Somalia	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Likely to be near-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.

Outlook: September to February – Southern Africa (1)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
South Africa	*Temperature*	Climatological odds	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal
Zambia	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be near-normal	Likely to be drier than normal	Climatological odds
Zimbabwe	*Temperature*	Climatological odds	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be near-normal
	Rainfall	Likely to be near-normal	Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal
Mozambique	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal south, Climatological odds north

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: September to February – Southern Africa (1)

		Forecast summary		
		September	September to November	December to February
Malawi	*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
Madagascar	*Temperature*	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal	Likely to be warmer than normal
	Rainfall	Climatological odds	Climatological odds	Likely to be wetter than normal south, Climatological odds north

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.

Annex 1 – Supplemental Information

For further information

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

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:

Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF): GHACOF 71 Statement (August 2025)

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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