

# STATEMENT FROM THE FIFTEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-15)

Held Virtually On 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

## SUMMARY

The rainy season for the period February to May 2024 is expected to be generally wet in East Africa, West of Central Africa and South-Eastern parts of Southern Africa, far north Madagascar and the Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Réunion.

The season will be marked by persistent rainfall deficits in northern Morocco, and the central parts of the SADC region.

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The fifteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the African Continent (ACCOF-15) was held on-line on February 9, 2024 to present consensual outlooks for the rainfall season for the period from February to May 2024 across the African continent. Climate experts from ACMAD, AGRHYMET, ICPAC, CIO, and RCC of North Africa, as well as experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Africa contributed to these outlooks. Other contributions were acquired from the products of the Global Production Centers (GPC), namely the European Medium Range Products Center Weather Forecasting (ECMWF), and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Beijing Climate Center (BCC), Météo-France, Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), UK Met-Office, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and the World Meteorological Organization Lead Center (WMOLC). The outlook covers the rainy season from February to May 2024. The outlook is presented in two quarterly periods superimposed as follows: February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM)

## METHODOLOGY

Based on statistical analyses, climate prediction systems, and the interpretation of climate experts as well as scientists, determined the probabilities of above-normal, normal, and below-normal precipitation for each area (Figures 1 to 4) for overlapping quarterly periods, namely February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM). Based on a period of 30 years (i.e. the 1981-2010 normal), the observed precipitation which is categorized in the part above normal is defined as precipitation falling in the highest third wet from recorded precipitation. Observed precipitation amounts falling in the below normal category are defined as being in the driest zone. The third of the precipitation amounts and the normal are the middle third, centered on the climatological normal.

## CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY 2024

Climate experts in their interventions took into account the climatic factors of current 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 phase. This phase is tending towards a positive neutral phase during the period May to June 2024. There is also an increased probability of a decreasing positive to neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a negative subtropical dipole Indian Ocean (SIOD) during the period from February to April 2024. Over the Atlantic, from the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) basin to the South Tropical Atlantic (TSA), a warm condition prevailed and during both seasons this situation will persist. At the end of the analyses, the following trends emerge for the key parameters of the rainy season from February to May 2024:

- Amounts of rain generally lower than average totals are expected over the large western part of North Africa, in particular, the north and center of Morocco, the north-west of Algeria, most of Southern Africa, over eastern and southern Angola, south-eastern DRC, most of Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, northern Namibia, north-west Mozambique and central and southern Madagascar.
- The south of Ivory Coast, Ghana, the extreme south of Togo, Benin, south-west Nigeria, in Central Africa the extreme south of the Central African Republic, the north-west and south-west western DRC, southern Gabon, Congo, north-west Angola, most eastern South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, far north Madagascar and the Seychelles Islands, Comoros, Reunion and Mauritius could record cumulative rainfall above the seasonal average for the season from April to May 2024.
- During the same season from February to May 2024, the rest of the part of the Continent could have climatological conditions close to the seasonal average.

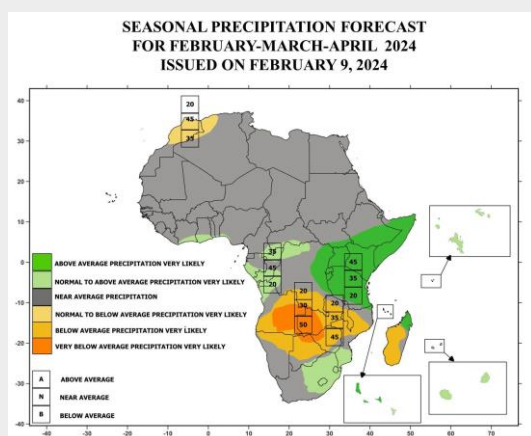


Figure 1: Rainfall forecast for February-March-April 2024

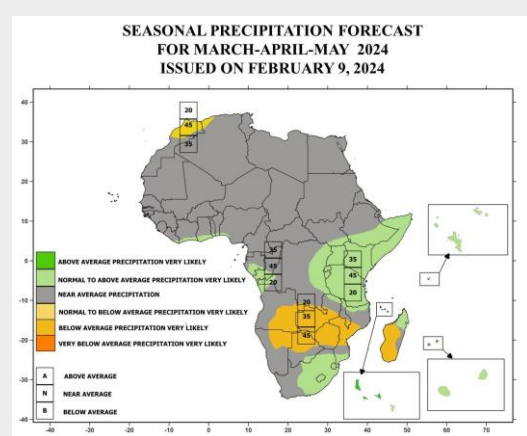


Figure 2: Rainfall forecast for March-April-May 2024

## LEGEND OF THE FIGURE

The coloured areas in the figures above indicate the precipitation probabilities in each plotted area. Precipitation probabilities are represented by six categories, above normal, normal to above, near normal, normal to below, below normal and well below normal. The first colour (Green) indicates the probability of precipitation occurring in the above normal category, the second colour (Light Green) corresponds to normal to above normal precipitation, while the third colour (Gray) represents The near normal precipitation (Climatology), fourth colour (yellow) represents the probability of normal to below normal precipitation, the last colour (dark yellow) corresponds to below normal precipitation and the last colour (orange) represents precipitation much lower than normal.