



REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

PRESAGG-02

Cotonou, Benin 9th- 13th March, 2015



THEME: "A climate service to build resilience and reduce disaster risk in Africa"

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK BULLETIN
VALID FOR MARCH –APRIL-MAY AND APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2014
OVER THE GULF OF GUINEA COUNTRIES OF AFRICA,
(COTONOU, 11th March 2015)

Produced by

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for development (ACMAD) in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of the Gulf of Guinea countries with support of WMO designated Global Producing Centers for Long Range Forecasts and the International Research Institute for Climate & Society at Columbia University in New-York USA.

This is a product of the Institutional Support to African Climate Institution Project (ISACIP) funded by the African Development Bank group.

A- RECENT CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

- Near average Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over most of the Equatorial Pacific (ENSO region) from December 2014 to February 2015. Models outputs and experts assessments support an El Nino of weak intensity during the coming few months.
- Near average SSTs were observed over the Tropical North Atlantic in January to February 2015. Most models outputs and expert judgment are favorable for neutral to cool conditions during the coming few months.
- Average to below Sea Surface Temperatures characterize the mid latitude Atlantic Ocean in December 2014 to February 2015. This pattern is expected to persist during the coming few months.
- The tropical south Atlantic waters have been above average to near average in December 2014 and February 2015. Models outputs and expert judgment are favorable for a persistence of this pattern during the coming few months.
- Seas surface temperatures of the western equatorial Indian Ocean and the tropical southern Indian Ocean have been above average from December 2014 to February 2015. Models outputs and experts assessments support persistence of above average Sea Surface Temperatures lower intensity during the coming months.
- The Seas surface temperatures of the Mediterranean Sea have been near to above average from January to February 2015. Models outputs and expert judgment are favorable for near to above average Sea Surface Temperatures during the coming few months.

Given these SST anomalies, sub-surface temperature patterns and trends, knowledge and understanding of seasonal climate variability in Africa, and available long range forecasts products from Global Producing Centers for Long Range Forecasts, the following outlooks are provided for March-April-May 2015 (MAM) and April-May-June 2015 (AMJ) seasons across Africa (see figures below):

- **Below to near average precipitation is very likely over** coastal parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia from March to May 2015 (figure 1 zone I).
- **Near to below average precipitation is likely** of Southern Liberia, Ghana, Ivory Coast and extreme South-west Togo, in March to May 2015 (figure 1 zone II).
- **Near to slightly above average precipitation is very likely** over South-western part of Benin, along coastal parts of Nigeria and South-western Cameroun from March to May 2015 (figure 1 zone III).
- **Below to near average precipitation is very likely** over most of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Eastern Liberia from April to June 2015 (figure 2 zone I)
- **Below to near average precipitation is likely** along the coast of Liberia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin and Nigeria from April to June 2015 (figure 2 zone II).

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2015
ISSUED ON MARCH 11 2015
PREVISION CLIMATIQUE SAISONNIERE DES PRECIPITATIONS
DE MARS-AVRIL-MAI 2015, ELABOREE LE 11 MARS 2015

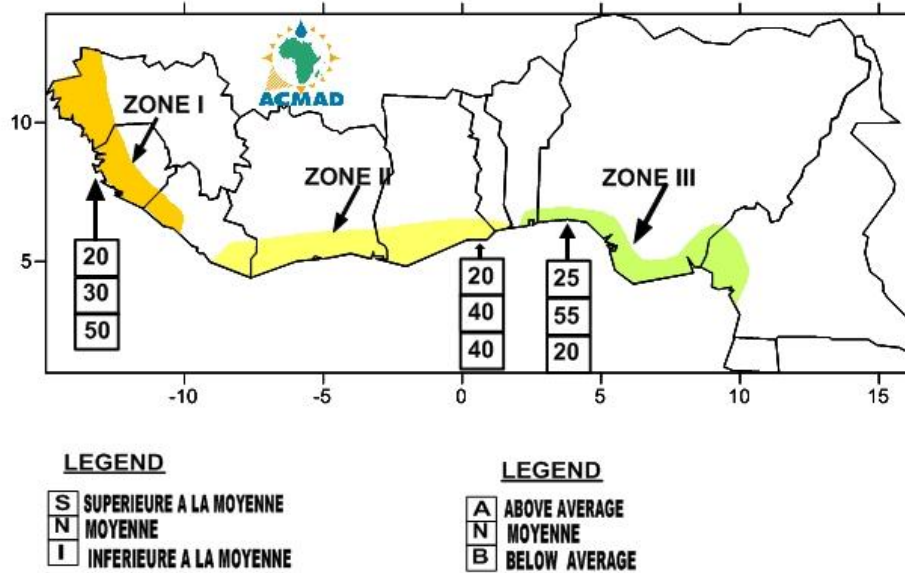


Figure 1: Seasonal forecast of precipitation for March-April May 2015

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2015
ISSUED ON MARCH 11 2015
PREVISION CLIMATIQUE SAISONNIERE DES PRECIPITATION
DE AVRIL-MA-JUINI 2015, ELABOREE LE 11 MARS 2015

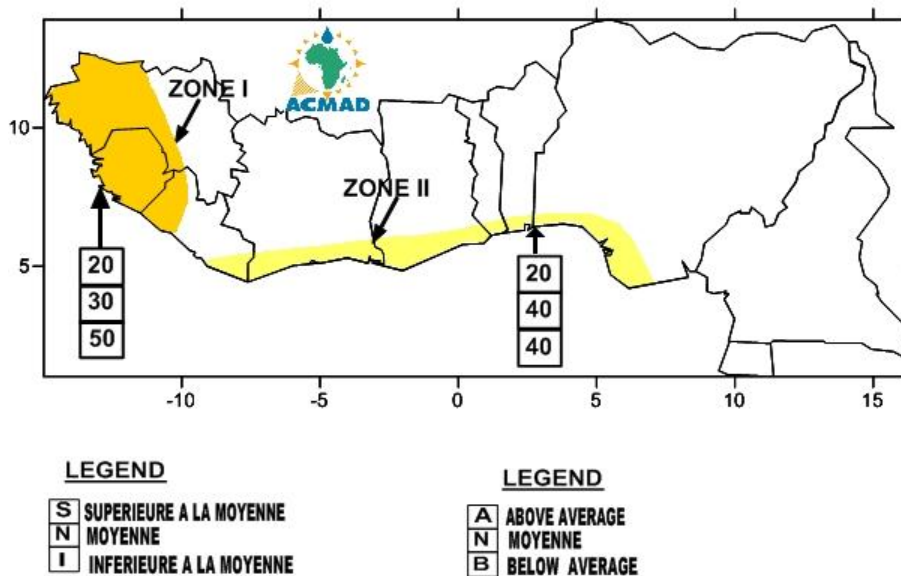


Figure 2: Seasonal forecast of Precipitation for April-May-June 2015

This outlook is produced at the regional scale. Thus, its interpretation should be for regional use. For local and/or country adaptation and applications needs, it is highly recommended to consult the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of North African countries for local details.

**B- SOME ADVICES AND ACTIONS OPTIONS FOR SECTORS DURING MARCH-APRIL-
MAY-JUN 2015**

ZONE I : BELOW TO NEAR AVERAGE PRECIPITATION VERY LIKELY

- Beginning early to mean and end mid seasonal dates

Using short and varieties resistant to drought cycle
Begin agricultural activities earlier than usual
Interacting with the technicians of agricultural services for advice on the varieties to use
Use water conservation techniques in soil
Plan the use of supplemental irrigation

- Late start to early mean and mid-end seasonal dates

Limit the use of varieties that require a lot of water
Using varieties resistant to drought
More investment in aquaculture
Exploiting the shallows
Plan the use of supplemental irrigation

ZONE II: NEAR TO BELOW AVERAGE PRECIPITATION VERY LIKELY

Use drought-resistant varieties
Not to hurry for seedlings to avoid loss of sowing
Look technicians' agricultural extension services
Properly Managing water resources for better use
Prevent additional inputs of fertilizer during the growing season of plants
Take steps to minimize any damage as a result of heavy rains
Promote and invest more in the exploitation of salt mine

ZONE III: NEAR TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION VERY LIKELY

Look technicians' agricultural extension services
Properly Managing water resources for better use
Prevent additional inputs of fertilizer during the growing season of plants
Take steps to minimize any damage as a result of heavy rains
Control and survey risk of floods

Users are strongly advised to contact their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as ACMAD website (www.acmad.org) for further expert advices and assistance.