

## AFRICAN REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTRE

### LONG RANGE FORECAST PRODUCT FOR AFRICA VALID FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY AND APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2016 SEASONS ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 29 , 2016

#### Highlights

- Below average precipitation and drought have raged since last year on the SADC region, the outlook for the remaining months of the current season indicated below average precipitation very likely over most of the eastern part of the region including Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, easternmost of Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and the center of Madagascar. The drought situation and related consequences will persist during the coming months.
- Over the southern half of the DRC, northern Angola, westernmost part of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, southwestern Uganda, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria, below average precipitation is very likely. However, given the low vulnerability in these areas, significant impacts are very unlikely from March to June 2016.
- Between March and June 2016, southern Cameroon, Guinea Equatorial Gabon, Congo, northernmost part of DRC, southeastern Tanzania, northeastern Mozambique, northern Madagascar and Comoros Island are expecting above average precipitation.
- Over southern sahel, above average precipitation associated with a normal to early start of the season are very likely during April to June 2016.
- Near to above average temperature is very likely over most of Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Mozambique, and South Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, western Libya, northern Burkina Faso, southern Angola, southeastern most of DRC, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland

## ***RECENT SST CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK***

- Moderate to strong El Niño has been observed in the ENSO region. This pattern is expected to persist during the coming months, followed by weakening and a transition to ENSO-neutral during the late spring or early summer 2016.
- The Tropical North Atlantic SSTs have been above average during the past few months. Most models outputs and expert assessments are favorable for a persistence of these conditions during the coming months.
- The equatorial Atlantic SSTs have been near to above average during the past few months. These conditions will evolve toward near to below average SSTs.
- The tropical south Atlantic SSTs have been above average during the past few months. This pattern is expected to persist during the coming few months.
- The Mediterranean Sea SSTs have been near to above average during past few months. Most models outputs and expert assessments are favorable for a persistence of conditions during the coming months.
- The equatorial and southern tropical Indian Ocean SSTs have been above average during the past few months. Most models and expert assessments are suggesting a persistence of this pattern during the coming three to four 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 on precipitation and temperature are provided for March-April-May (MAM) 2016 and April-May-June (AMJ) 2016 seasons across Africa (see figures below) :

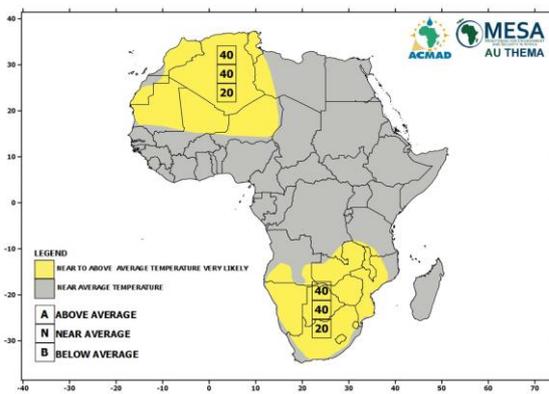
From March to June, 2016:.

- ✚ Above average precipitation is very likely over southern Cameroon, Guinea Equatorial, Gabon, most of Congo, southeastern Tanzania, northeastern Mozambique, northern Madagascar and Comoros Island.
- ✚ Below average precipitation is very likely over western and southern Guinea, southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, southwestern Nigeria, southern half of DRC, westernmost of Uganda and Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, northwestern Angola, southeastern Zambia, southern Malawi, most of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, westernmost of Botswana, western South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and most central of Madagascar
- ✚ Near to above average precipitation is likely over northeastern Algeria, northern Tunisia, southern Angola and northernmost of Namibia from March to May 2016.
- ✚ Near to below average precipitation from March to May 2016 is very likely over northern Morocco, Uganda and Kenya, southeastern South Sudan, southern Ethiopian and northwestern most of Somalia.
- ✚ During April to June near to above precipitation is very likely over southeastern Senegal and Guinea Equatorial, southeastern most of Cameroon. Southern Mali, southernmost of Niger and CAR, most of Burkina Faso, Gabon and Congo, northernmost of Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and DRC,

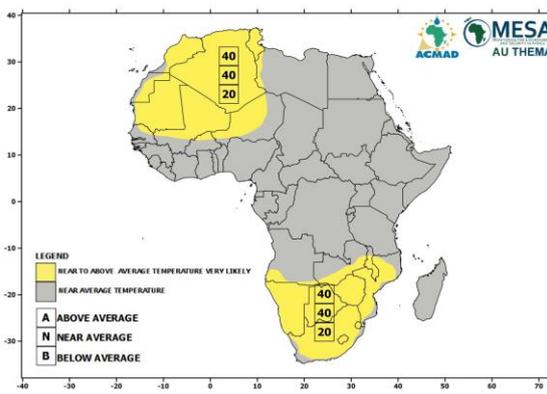
- ✚ Near to below average precipitation is very likely over central of Morocco, southeastern most of Nigeria, central of Cameroon, southernmost of Chad and northernmost CAR.
- ✚ Near to above average temperature is very likely over most of Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Mozambique, and South Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, western Libya, northern Burkina Faso, southern Angola, southeastern most of DRC, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland.

NB: Users are advised to seek more detailed climate information on the distribution of precipitation during the season, impacts and action options from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and ACMAD website ([www.acmad.net](http://www.acmad.net)/[www.acmad.org](http://www.acmad.org)).

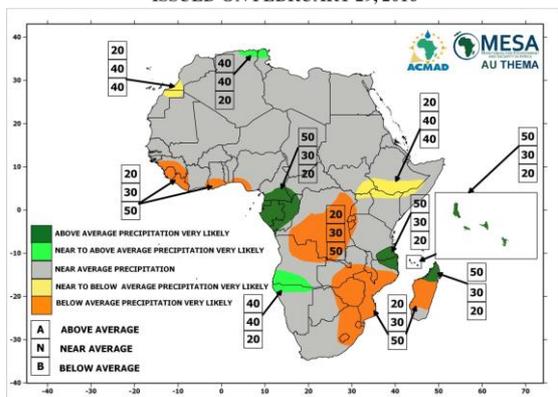
SEASONAL TEMPERATURE FORECAST  
FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2016  
ISSUED ON FEBRUARY, 29 2016



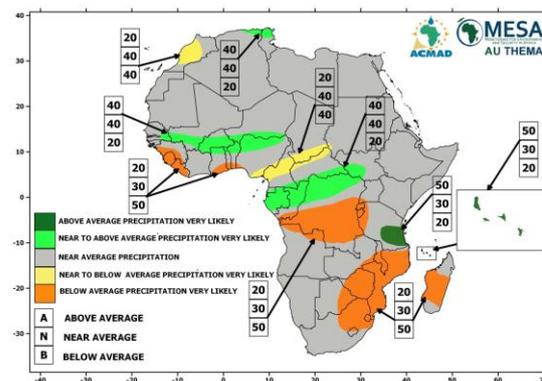
SEASONAL TEMPERATURE FORECAST  
FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2016  
ISSUED ON FEBRUARY, 29 2016



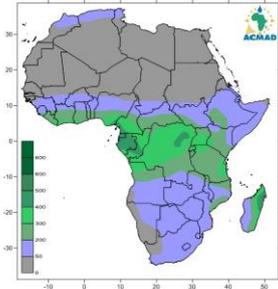
SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST  
MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2016  
ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 29, 2016



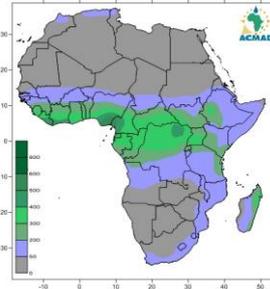
SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST  
APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2016  
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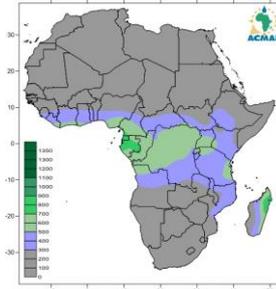
75% of MAM average



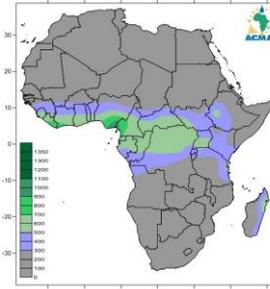
75% of AMJ average



125% of MAM average



125% of AMJ average



The African seasonal precipitation average based on reference period 1981-2010 for March-April-May (MAM) and April-May-June (AMJ), the threshold  $\leq 75\%$  depicts areas under significant deficits or drought.

Data source: NOAA/NCEP/CPC/CAMS-OPI

The African seasonal precipitation average based on reference period 1981-2010 for March-April-May (MAM) and April-May-June (AMJ), the threshold  $\geq 125\%$  depicts areas under significant excess precipitation.

Data source: NOAA/NCEP/CPC/CAMS-OPI

