

**STATEMENT FROM THE THIRTY FOURTH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE
OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF 34): 29-30 MAY 2013,
HILTON HOTEL, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

Summary

June to August constitutes an important rainfall season over the northern sector and the western parts of the equatorial sector of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region. The regional consensus climate outlook for the June to August 2013 rainfall season indicates increased likelihood of below normal to near normal rainfall and climatology over much of the GHA region. Increased likelihood of near to above normal rainfall is indicated over central parts of the northern sector as well as the coastal and extreme western parts of the equatorial sector.

The processes and mechanisms which are expected to influence the evolution of regional climate during June to August 2013 season include global Sea Surface Temperatures, especially over the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. These processes will be modulated by regional and local scale features including large inland lakes and the complex topographical patterns.

The regional climate outlook is relevant for seasonal timescale and covers relatively large areas with local and month-to-month rainfall variations. The IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other Climate Centres will issue regional climate updates regularly during the June to August 2013 season, while the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will downscale regional climate outlook and provide detailed forecasts and updates at National levels. All climate information users are strongly advised to contact their respective National Meteorological Services for national and local details during the season.

The Climate Outlook Forum

The Thirty Fourth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF34) was convened from 29th to 30th May 2013 at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and partners to formulate a consensus regional climate outlook for the June to August 2013 rainfall season over the GHA region. The GHA region comprises Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The theme of the forum was “*Building Resilience to Climate Related Disasters and climate change adaptation in the Greater Horn of Africa*”. The forum reviewed the evolving status of the global and regional mechanisms with influence on regional climate during June to August 2013 rainfall season in the GHA.

Useful forecast guidance inputs were also drawn from a wide range of sources including the World Meteorological Organisation’s Global Producing Centres (WMO GPCs) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. These inputs were combined into a regional consensus forecast using deterministic and probabilistic modelling alongside expert analysis and interpretation to obtain the regional rainfall forecast for the June to August 2013 season.

Users of climate information who participated in the forum were drawn from health, disaster management, gender, civil society, agriculture and food security, water resources and media sectors as

well as non-governmental organisations and development partners. They provided sector specific assessment of the skill and usefulness of the previous regional consensus climate outlook for the March to May 2013 rainfall season and formulated mitigation strategies for specific sectors based on the consensus regional climate outlook for the June to August 2013 rainfall season.

Methodology

GHACOF 34 examined the prevailing and expected oceanic-atmospheric processes as well as evolving large scale and regional scale circulation mechanisms with most implications over the GHA during June to August 2013 and the likely implications of regional and local scale features on distribution of rainfall during the season. Key among these processes was the sea surface temperature anomalies over the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Implications of these processes on regional rainfall were modelled using statistical-probabilistic techniques through pre-COF 34 capacity building workshop that was hosted by ICPAC from 20 to 27 May 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The pre-COF 34 capacity building workshop also downscaled the global forecasts from the Twelve World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Producing Centres (GPCs) to generate regional rainfall forecast products that were used to develop the regional consensus climate outlook for the June to August 2013 rainfall season.

Rainfall Outlook for June to August 2013

The rainfall outlook for various zones within the GHA region is given in figure 1 below.

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| Zone I and Zone V: | Climatology |
| Zone II, Zone VI and Zone VIII: | Increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall |
| Zone III, Zone IV and Zone VII: | Increased likelihood of below normal to near normal rainfall |

Note:

The numbers for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories, above-, near-, and below-normal. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; the middle number is for near-normal and the bottom number for below-normal category. For example, in zone II, there is 35% probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; 45% probability of rainfall occurring in the near-normal category; and 20% probability of rainfall occurring in the below-normal category. It is emphasised that boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas.

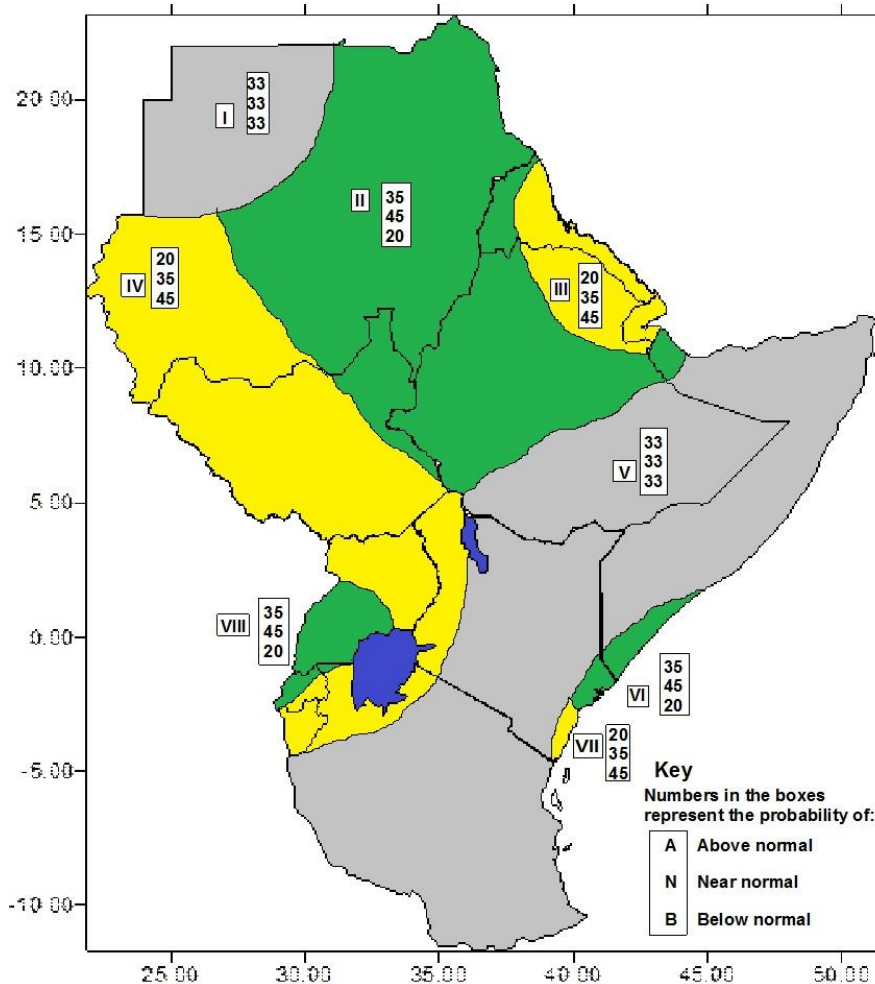


Figure 1: Greater Horn of Africa Consensus Climate Outlook for the June to August 2013 rainfall season

Contributors

The Thirty Fourth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 34) was organised jointly by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of ICPAC member countries within the framework of Institutional Support to African Climate Institutions Project (ISACIP) funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). It was hosted by the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia.

Contributors to the GHACOF 34 regional consensus climate outlook included representatives of the Meteorological Services from GHA countries (Insitut Geographique du Burundi; Meteorologie Nationale de Djibouti; National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia; Kenya Meteorological Department; Rwanda Meteorological Services; South Sudan Meteorological Services; Sudan Meteorological Authority; Tanzania Meteorological Agency and Uganda Meteorological Agency) and climate scientists as well as other experts from national, regional and international institutions and organizations: IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); United Kingdom Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC); WMO Global Producing Centres (GPCs); University of Nairobi and USAID PREPARED.