



**Third Session of the
MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (MedCOF-3)
(17-18) November, 2014**

**SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2013/2014 FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

Climate experts from WMO RA VI RCC Network Nodes on long-range forecasting (Meteo France, France), WMO RA VI RCC Network Node on climate monitoring (Deutscher Wetterdienst, Germany), WMO Nord Africa developing RCC Network Nodes on long-range forecasting (Directorate of National Meteorology, Morocco), WMO Nord Africa developing RCC Network Node on climate monitoring (National Institute of Meteorology, Tunisia), WMO African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change, UK Met Office, Institute of Biometeorology (Italy), South East Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC, Serbia) and National Hydrometeorological Services of MedCOF region provided their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of MedCOF-3 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The MedCOF-3 comprised of the following Steps:

- Step 1: verification of the MedCOF-2 seasonal forecast
- Step 2: assessment of the current state of the climate including large-scale climate patterns worldwide and assessments of its likely evolution in the course of the next months;
- Step 3: building the consensus forecast for 2014/2015 winter season.

All relevant documentation is posted and updated in MedCOF web site:
<http://www.medcof.aemet.es> .



MedCOF- 3 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE 2014/15 WINTER SEASON

This prediction is based on output from dynamical models, statistical models and known teleconnections of large-scale climate features.

Throughout the summer conditions in the equatorial Pacific have been ENSO neutral; recently SSTs in the region have increased close to El Niño thresholds and the atmosphere has shown weak response reflected in the values of the SOI index, though not all indicators are typical of an El Niño event, especially in the western part of the basin. Forecast models suggest current conditions will either persist or strengthen over the next three months. SST patterns in the North Atlantic may offer some predictability for this winter, especially due to the anomalously warm water in the tropical region. The QBO is currently and will remain in its negative phase during the next few months.

Since the large scale drivers are currently relatively weak, and their typical individual influences are in opposition, predictability for the whole season is low at present. Sub-seasonal variations, not predictable a long time in advance, may dominate at times, so regular updates to the forecast are strongly recommended. In addition, regional factors (for example SSTs in the smaller basins of the region) may shape local variability to a higher degree than usual.

The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature and precipitation, relative to the period 1981-2010. Due to the climate warming trend anomalies are affected by the selected reference period.

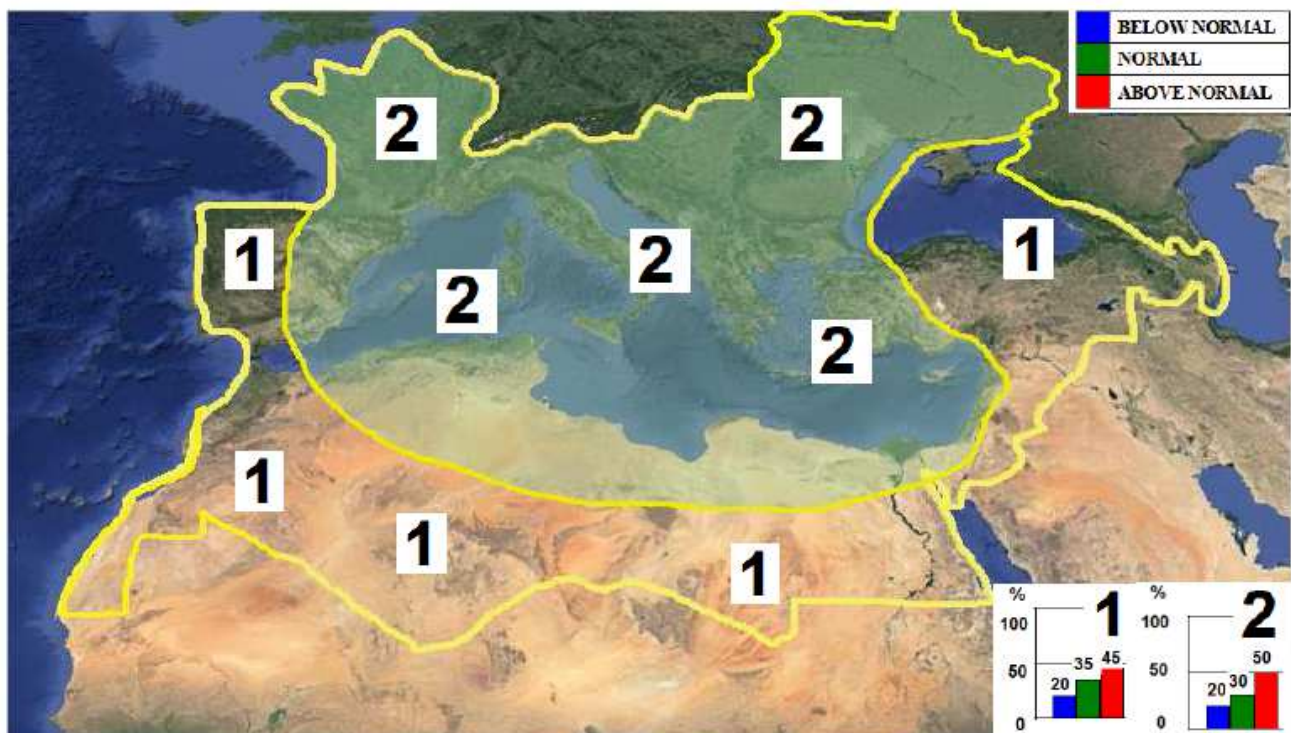


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the 2014/15 winter temperature outlook



Although for most of the MedCOF domain the uncertainty for the temperature prediction is high, there is a tendency for the upper tercile over most of the domain being this preference more marked over the Mediterranean Sea and the Northern part of the domain (region 2).

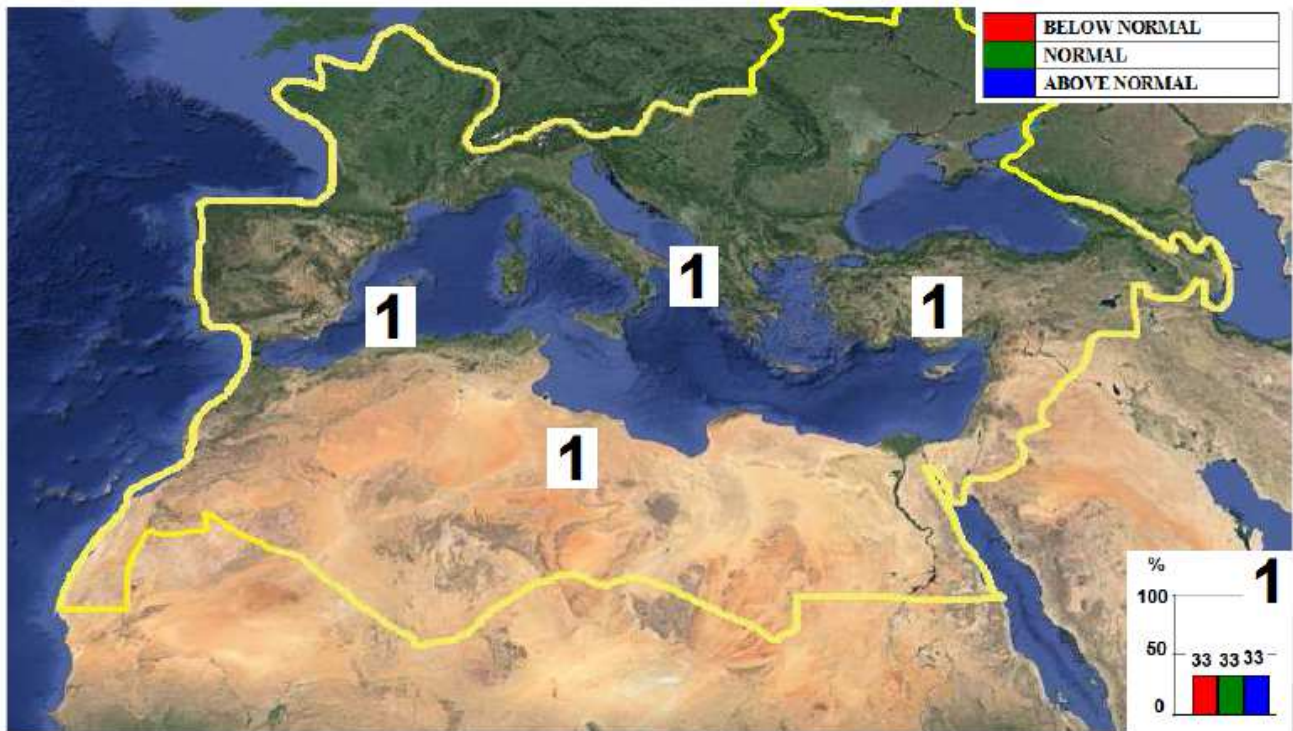


Figure 2. Graphical presentation of the 2014/15 winter precipitation outlook

Precipitation in the whole MedCOF domain shows no preference for any climate defined categories.

Note that it is necessary to express seasonal forecasts in terms of probability due to inherent uncertainty. Any further advice on the forecast signals, smaller scales, shorter-range updates and warnings will be available throughout the winter from the National Meteorological Services, along with details on the methodology and skill of long-range predictions.

** The graphical representation of climate outlook in this statement is only for guidance purposes, and does not imply any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*



APPENDIX A: Contributors to MedCOF-3

- The Hydrometeorological Institute, Albania
- Armstatehydromet, Armenia
- Hydrometeorological Department, Azerbaijan
- Hydrometeorological Institute of Meteorology of RS, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- National Institute of meteorology and Hydrology, Bulgaria
- Meteorological and Hydrological service of Croatia, Croatia
- Egyptian Meteorological Authority, Egypt
- MétéoFrance, France
- The National Environmental Agency of Georgia, Georgia
- Deutscher Wetterdienst, Germany
- Italian Air Force Met Service, Italy
- Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy
- Jordan Meteorology Department, Jordan
- Libyan National Meteorological Service, Libya
- Hydrometeorological Service of The FYR of Macedonia
- State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova
- Institute of hydrometeorology and Seismology, Montenegro
- Direction de la Météorologie Nationale, Morocco
- National Meteorological Administration, Romania
- SEEVCCC/ RHMS of Serbia
- Agencia Estatal de Meteorología, Spain
- National Institute of Meteorology, Tunisia
- Turkish State Meteorological Service, Turkey
- General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, Turkey
- Met Office, United Kingdom
- League of Arab States
- African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD)
- European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)