Step 3 of the
MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (MedCOF-26)
Updated 1st June 2026

SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE SUMMER SEASON 2026 FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Climate experts from WMO RA VI RCC Network Node on long-range forecasting (Meteo France), WMO RA VI RCC Network Node on climate monitoring (Deutscher Wetterdienst, Germany), WMO Northern Africa RCC Network Node on long-range forecasting (Directorate of National Meteorology, Morocco), WMO Northern Africa RCC Network Node on climate monitoring (National Institute of Meteorology, Tunisia), South East Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC, Serbia), National Hydrometeorological Services and Research Institutes of MedCOF region provided their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of MedCOF-26 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The MedCOF-26 comprised of the following steps:

- Step 1: verification of the MedCOF-25 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 2026 summer season.

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

MedCOF- 26 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

FOR THE 2026 SUMMER SEASON[1]

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

Observed sea surface temperatures (SSTs) show neutral to transition to El Niño conditions, and a neutral phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole. This situation will most likely head to El Niño conditions during the summer period, and the IOD is predicted to transition to positive conditions. Over the North Atlantic, SSTs are colder than normal except for the western part of the basin with a forecasted state of a warm signal of temperatures over the western basin and weak warm SSTs in the tropical regions. In the atmosphere, models show trend to upward motion around the Pacific basin and South America and downward motion extending from Africa to the Indian Ocean as far as Oceania, consistent with a El Niño response. An upper-level cyclonic circulation anomaly is expected to extend from the Atlantic towards North Africa and part of the Mediterranean region.

With this general context, a warmer period is expected for the whole MedCOF domain with a more robust above normal signal in temperatures can be expected over most of the Mediterranean region, including many inland regions.

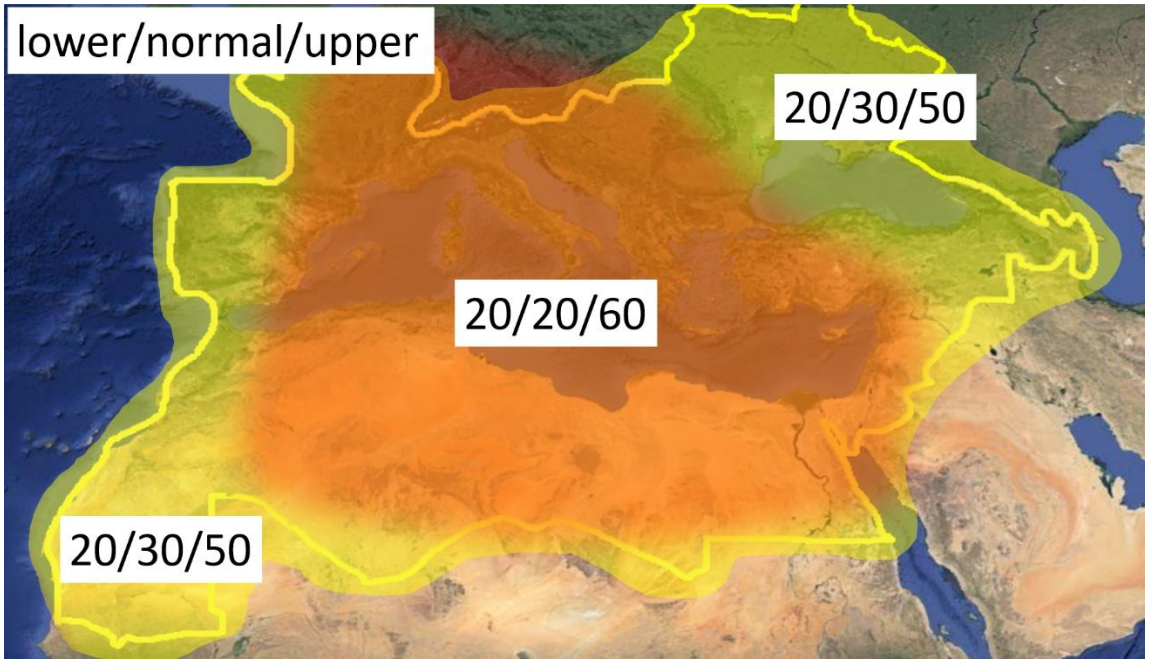

Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the 2026 summer temperature outlook. The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature, relative to the period 1991-2020. Due to current climate warming, trend anomalies are affected by the selected reference period.

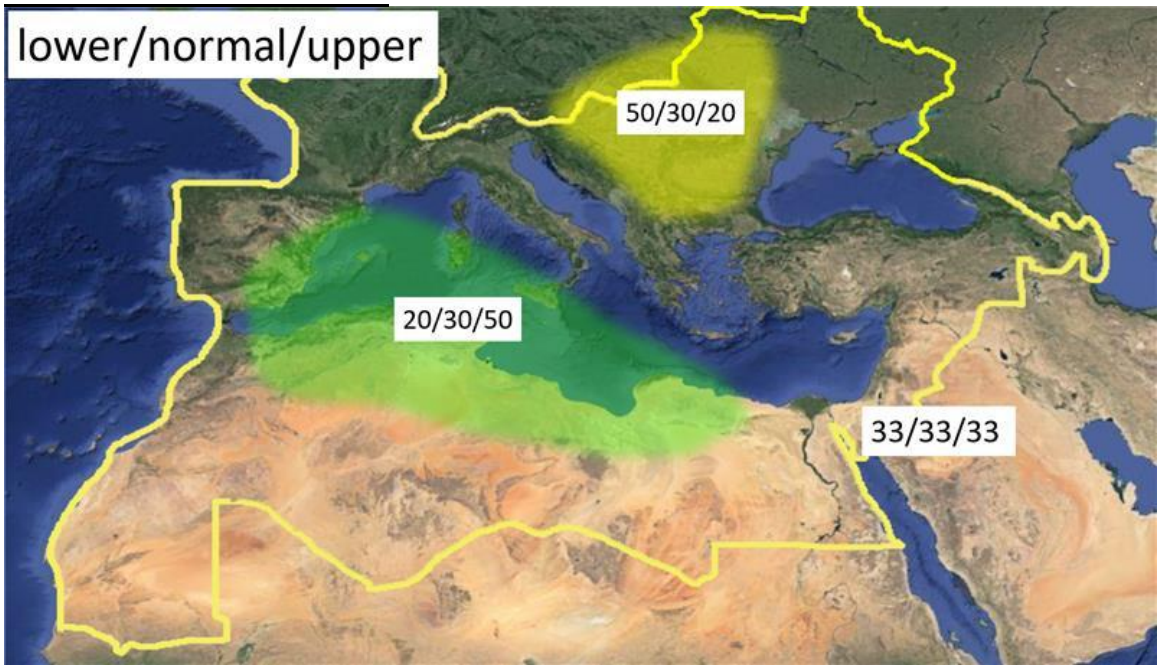

Figure 2. The same as Figure 1 but for precipitation.

Precipitation outlook shows dry signal over central-to-eastern Euro-Mediterranean and a wet signal spanning North Africa and central-to-western Mediterranean associated with localized precipitation from convective activity. Convective and flash floods episodes in the southern margins of North Africa cannot be ruled out.

Any extremes on convective and flash floods type depend on northward surges of the monsoon trough and synoptic forcings that are only resolved at the sub-seasonal (S2S; 2–4 weeks) and synoptic scales. They must therefore be anticipated through S2S monitoring and the national services' surveillance, not through the seasonal outlook.

Sub-seasonal variations, not predictable for a long time in advance, may dominate at times, so regular updates to the forecast are strongly recommended. In addition, local factors (for example, SSTs in the smaller basins of the region) may shape local variability at a regional level.

Note that it is necessary to express seasonal forecasts in terms of probability due to inherent uncertainty.

Also note that the sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forums (SEECOF and PRESANORD) can provide smaller scale details. Any further advice on the forecast signals, smaller scales, shorter-range updates and warnings will additionally be available throughout the summer from the National Meteorological Services, along with details on the methodology and skill of long-range predictions.