

Annex

Country: Israel

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Assessment of the seasonal forecast for the summer season

JJA 2014

1. SEECOF-11 Climate outlook for the 2014 summer season:

The MedCOF-2 temperature outlook assigned 40% chance for the “above normal” tercile, 40% for the “normal” tercile and 20% for the “below normal” terciles (fig. 1).

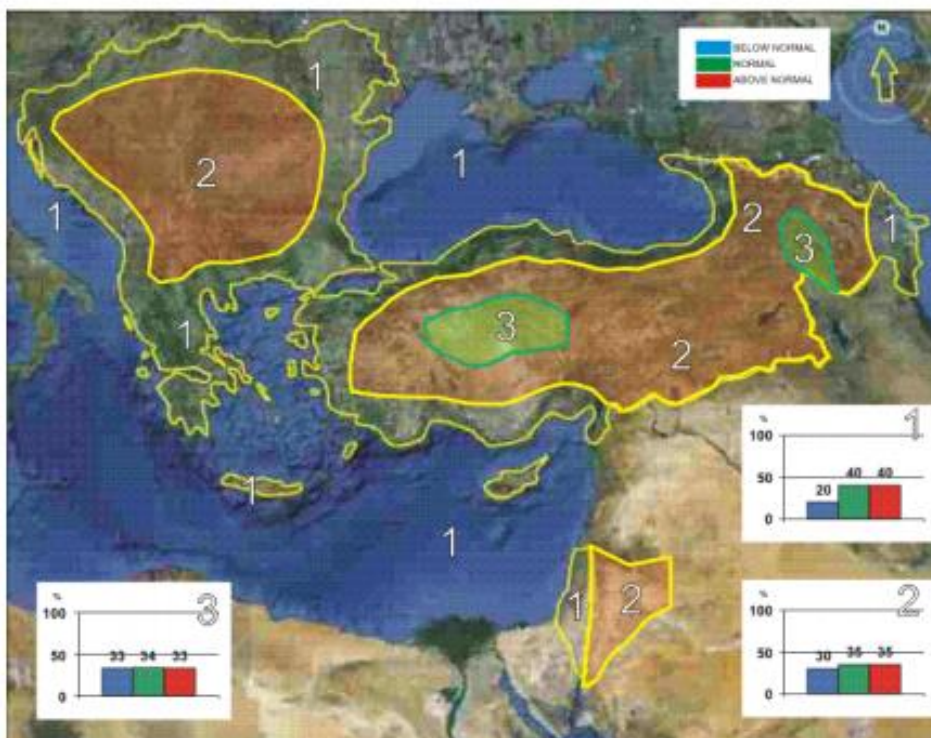


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the 2014 summer temperature outlook

2. Analysis of the 2014 summer season:

Temperature

The country average temperature was calculated by the average of five stations, which represent most of the country's climate regime. The stations used are: Eilat (southern Israel), Negba (southern coastal plain), Bet-Gimal (central low mountain ridge), Jerusalem (central mountain ridge) and Zefad (Northern mountain ridge). The choice was proved to be correct as these stations' average temperature for the last decade (2001-2010) turned out to be almost identical to the average temperature calculated from 39 stations spread all over the country.

It can be seen from figure 3 that the JJA 2014 average temperature resides in the "above normal" tercile.

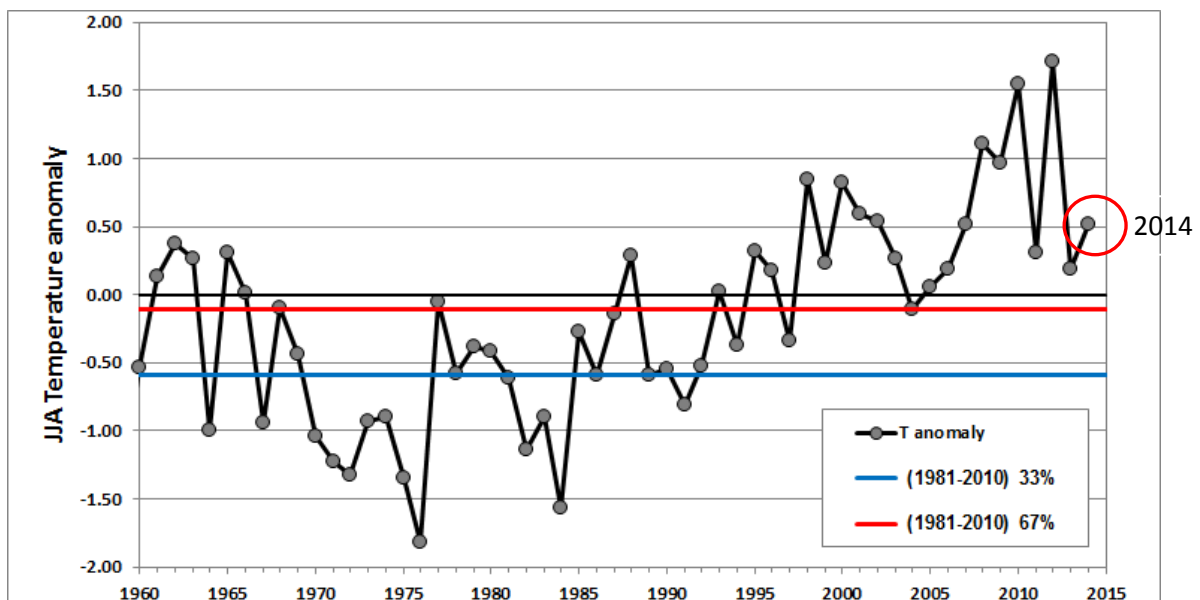


Fig. 3: JJA average temperature anomalies for Israel since 1960. The horizontal lines represent the upper and lower tercile thresholds for the 1981-2010 reference periods.

Precipitation

As there is no precipitation during JJA there is no need for seasonal forecast.

3. High Impacts Events:

JJA 2014 had no high impact events.

Verification of the SEECOF-11 climate outlook for the JJA 2014:

The table below is a verification summary of the climate outlook for the JJA 2014 to the reference period of 1981-2010. The RPSS indicates a positive skill for the summer forecast.

Country	Seasonal temperature (DJF)				Ranked Probability Skill Score*
	Observed	MedCOF-1 climate outlook for temperature			
Israel	above normal	A	N	B	0.28
		0.4	0.4	0.2	

*The Rank Probability Skill Score (RPSS) is essentially an extension of the Brier score to 3 event situation.

$$RPS = \sum_{m=1}^j \left[\left(\sum_{j=1}^m F_j \right) - \left(\sum_{j=1}^m O_j \right) \right]^2$$

Where F and O denotes the Forecast and Observed values, respectively for tercile forecasts $j=3$.

The skill score is defined by:

$$RPSS = 1 - \frac{RPS}{RPS_{clim}}$$

Where RPS_{clim} is obtained by assigning equal probability of 33.33% to all categories. The RPSS values vary from 1 for a perfect forecast (100% probability for the observed tercile) to -3.5 for an opposite forecast.

4. Users' perceptions of the SEECOF-11 outlook

We did not provide the summer climate outlook.