Step 3 of the
MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (MedCOF-8)
Last updated 22nd May 2017

SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE SUMMER SEASON 2017 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-8 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The MedCOF-8 comprised of the following steps:

- Step 1: verification of the MedCOF-7 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 2017 summer season.

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

WMO Northern Africa RCC Network

WMO RA VI RCC Network

AEMet Agencia Estatal de Meteorología

MedCOF- 8 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

FOR THE 2017 SUMMER SEASON[1]

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

The tropical Pacific remains in an ENSO-neutral state, with above-average SSTs present in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and near-average SSTs across the central and east-central part of the basin. The trend of ENSO based on prediction models indicates increasing chances of El Niño into the summer and fall of 2017. Over the Atlantic Ocean the long lasting North Atlantic cold blob extending from Labrador to Newfoundland and south of Iceland maintains its strong anomaly. Over the Mediterranean sea SST is uniformly warmer than normal. The very weak large scale signal and the low consistency among models make this seasonal forecast particularly uncertain.

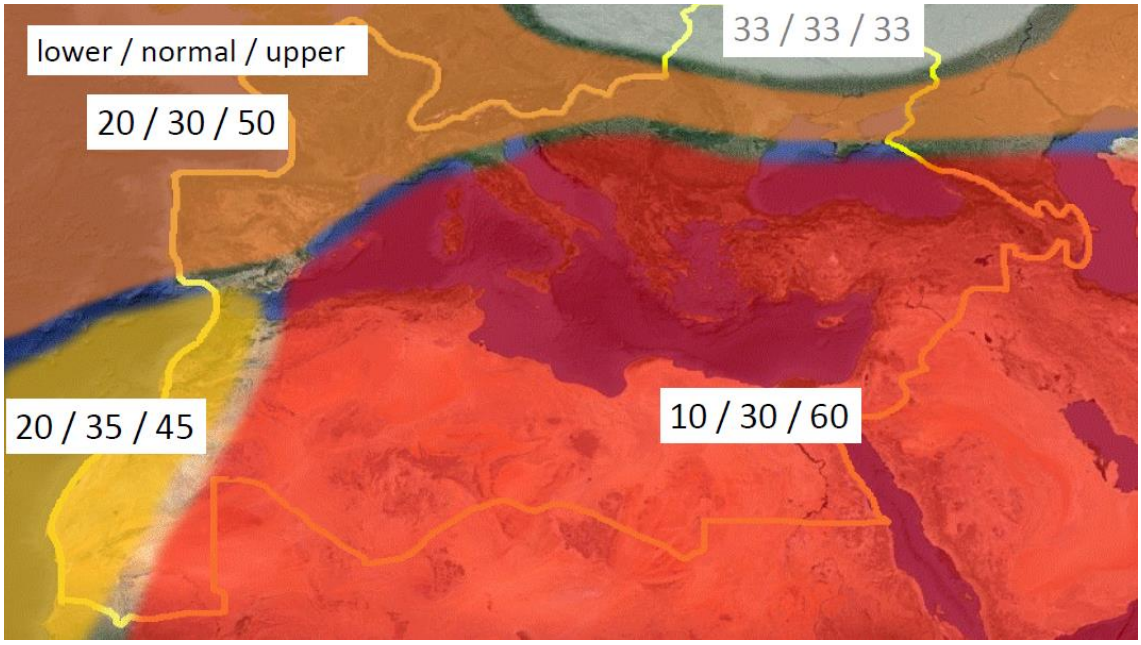

Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the 2017 summer temperature outlook. The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature, relative to the period 1981-2010. Due to the climate warming trend anomalies are affected by the selected reference period.

Temperatures will probably be warmer than normal over most of the MedCOF domain (see figure 1) being the warm tercile more probable over most of the South Eatern part

[1]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.

of the domain. The generalized warm signal is probably due to the background climate warming trend.

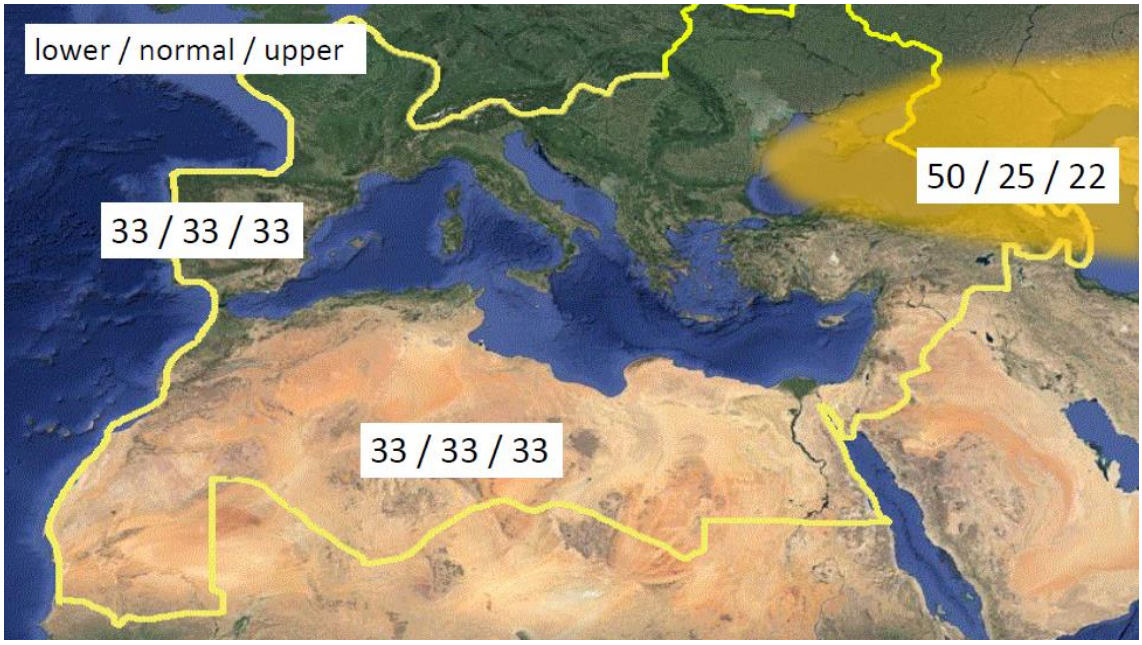

Figure 2. The same as figure 1 but for precipitation.

Although precipitation uncertainties are larger than for temperature, over the Eastern part of the domain a strong and persistent drier-than-normal summer is favoured (mainly coming from the ECMWF model). For the rest of the region no large-scale precipitation signal is present in the forecasts (see figure 2).

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, 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. 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.