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**Step 3 of the  
MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (MedCOF-15)  
Updated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**

**SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2020/21 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-15 by developing the relevant documents and providing scientific guidance and recommendations.

The MedCOF-15 comprised of the following steps:

- Step 1: verification of the MedCOF-14 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 2020/21 winter season.

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

## MedCOF- 15 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE 2020/21 WINTER SEASON<sup>1</sup>

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

A moderate La Niña event is taking place with expected peak towards the end of the year and starting to decrease from February on. The polar vortex seems to show some slight reinforcement.

Models shows the typical atmospheric response to La Niña event over the tropics and also over North America, with less agreement in the response over North Atlantic. Many models show strong negative PNA, and positive phases of NAO, EA and SCAN modes of variability. A higher probability of blocking events is expected over Europe with some differences among models in their location.

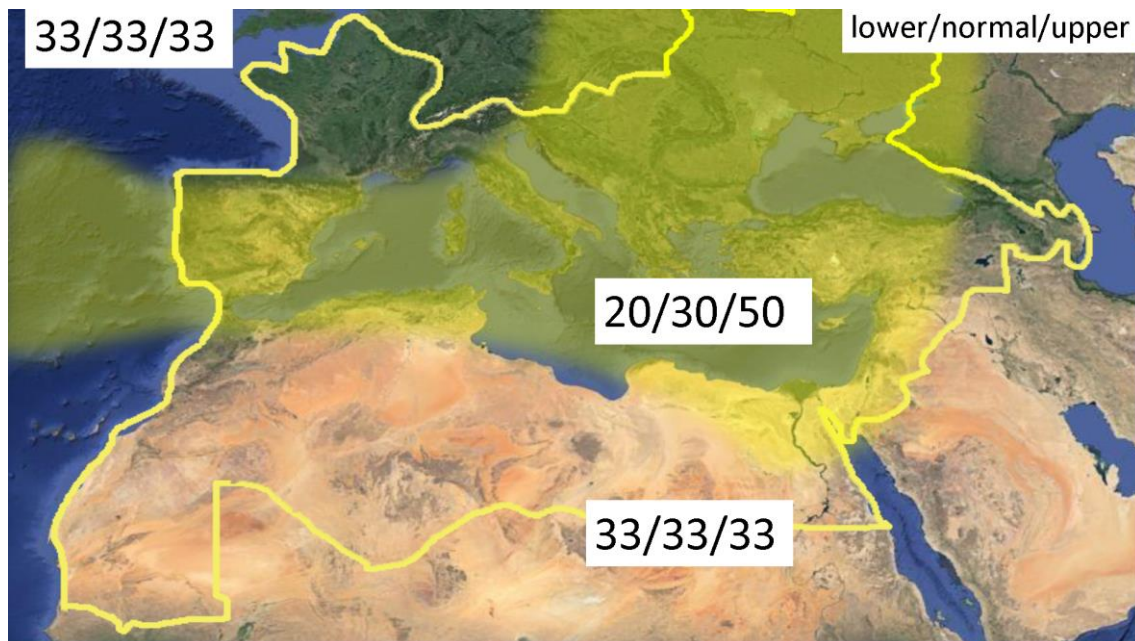


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of the 2020/21 winter temperature outlook. The maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for tercile categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature, relative

<sup>1</sup>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.

to the period 1981-2010. Due to the climate warming trend anomalies are affected by the selected reference period.

Within this general context, temperature should be warmer than normal over most of the eastern part of the domain. The western part does not show a privileged scenario with perhaps the exception of western Iberia where also a warmer than normal signal could prevail.

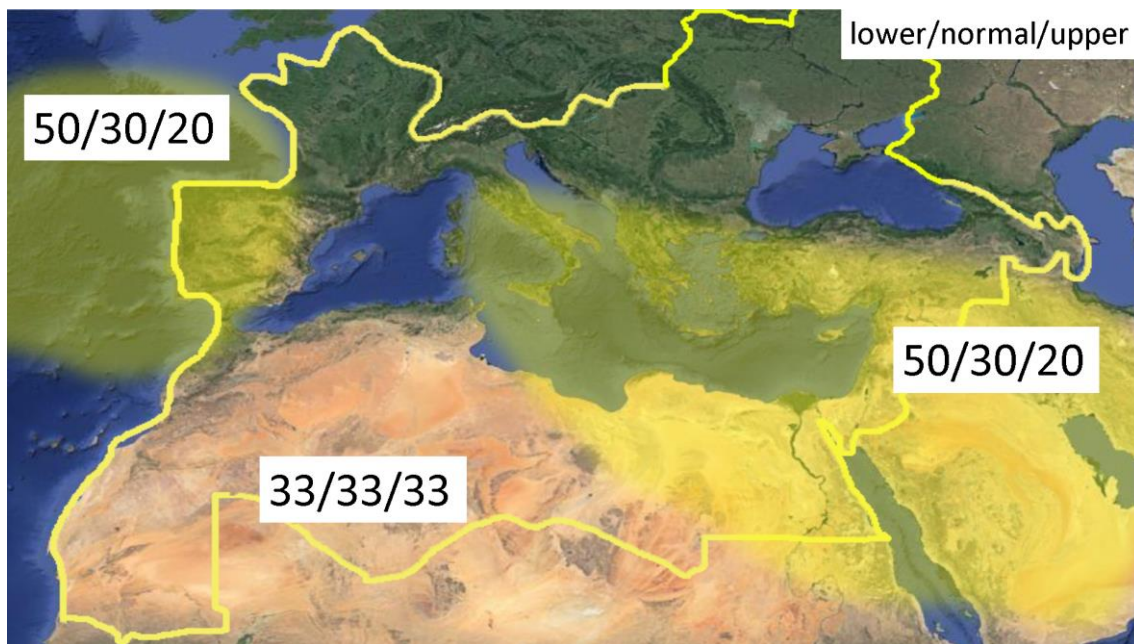


Figure 2. The same as figure 1 but for precipitation.

Precipitation forecasts shows drier than normal conditions over the southeastern and most western European part of the domain. For the rest of the region no large-scale precipitation signal is present in the forecasts (see figure 2). The climatological forecast (33, 33, 33) over the Southern part of the domain also implies the fact that no meaningful forecast can be provided for these seasonally dry areas.

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. Notice that the sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forums (SEECOF



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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 winter from the National Meteorological Services, along with details on the methodology and skill of long-range predictions.