STATEMENT FROM THE FIFTIETH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF50) FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2018 RAINFALL SEASON: HELD ON 27th -28th AUGUST 2018 AT THE SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA

Introduction

The Fiftieth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF50) was convened from 27-28 August 2018 by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) to formulate a consensus regional climate outlook for the October to December 2018 rainfall season over the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) Region. The GHA region comprises of the 11 countries Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Forum brought together climate information providers and users from key socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organisations, decision-makers, climate scientists, and civil society stakeholders among others. It reviewed the implications of the factors expected to influence the evolution of the regional climate during the October November December (OND) 2018 rainfall season including Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomalies over the tropical oceans.

Consensus Climate Outlook for October to December 2018

October to December (OND) constitutes an important rainfall season over the Eastern Africa Region. The Regional Consensus Climate Outlook for the OND 2018 season indicates increased likelihood of above to near normal rainfall over much of the Region. Increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall is indicated over parts of Tanzania, South Sudan and south-central Kenya. In the extreme south of Tanzania, the consensus forecast indicates near to below normal rainfall. There is also increased likelihood of warmer than normal mean temperatures over much of the Region. Increased likelihood for cooler than normal mean temperatures is indicated over the western parts of the Region. Ensemble forecasts indicate an earlier than normal start of the rains over central Kenya, and much of Tanzania. However, there is a high chance of earlier than normal withdrawal of the season from south-eastern Ethiopia, north-eastern Somalia, and northern Kenya. As a result, although above to near normal seasonal rainfall totals are indicated, a shorter than normal OND season is anticipated especially in the cluster connecting Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. A longer and wetter than normal rainy season is expected across much of the equatorial and southern sectors.

The outlook is relevant for seasonal time scales and relatively large areas. Local and month-to-month variations might occur as the October to December 2018 season progresses. It is likely that episodic rainfall events leading to flash floods might occur even in areas with increased likelihood of near to below normal rainfall. Also, dry spells may occur in areas with increased likelihood of above to near normal rainfall. WMO in collaboration with Global Climate Centres will continue to provide status of global climate including ENSO updates.ICPAC will also provide regular regional climate updates at 10-dayand monthly timescaleswhile the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will provide downscaled and detailed national and sub-national forecast updates.

Consensus Climate Outlook for October to December 2018: Graphical details

The consensus rainfall and temperature outlooks for the GHA region are given in Figures 1 and 2 below.

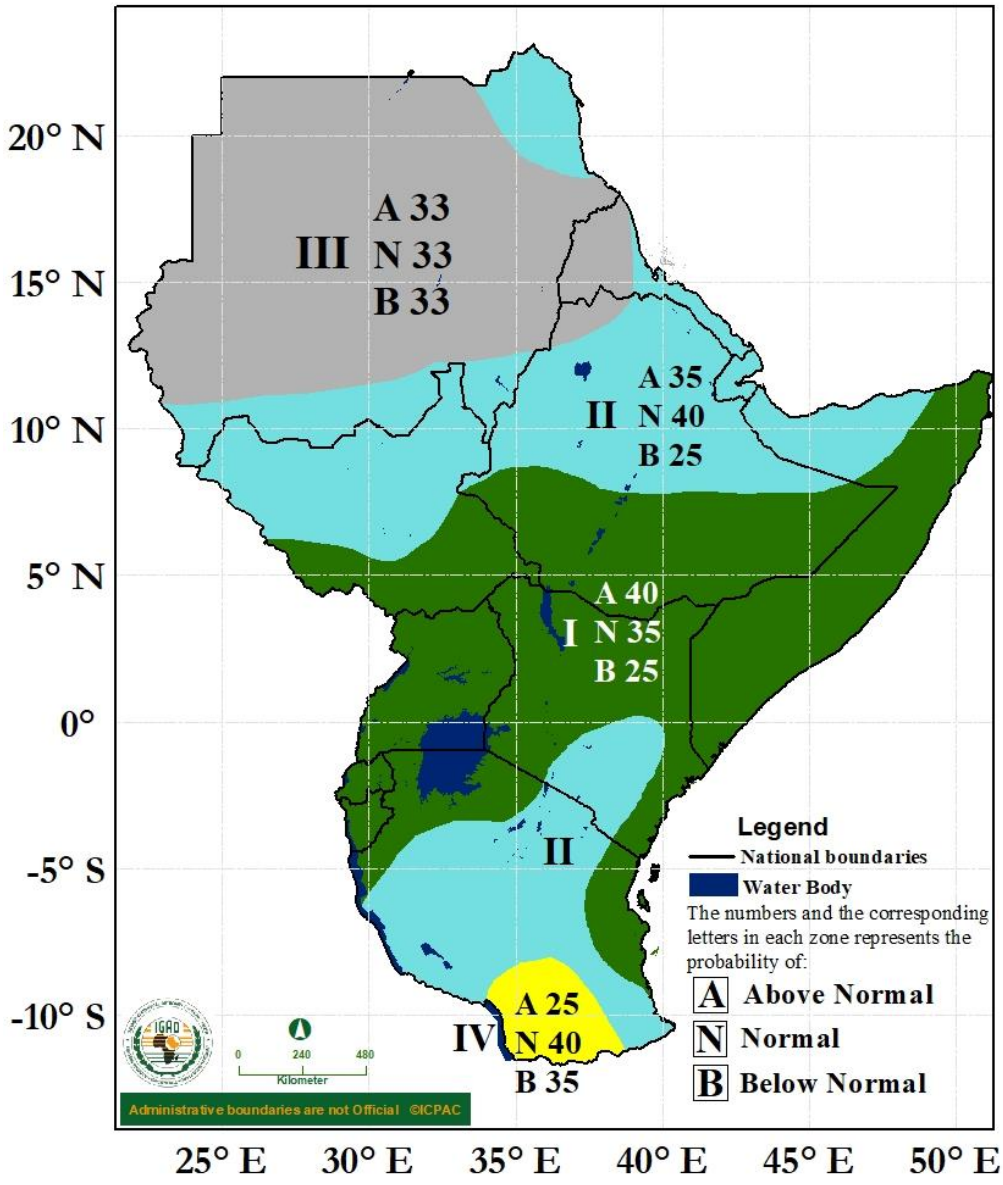

Figure 1: Greater Horn of Africa Consensus rainfall Outlook for the October to December 2018 rainfall season

Zone I: Increased likelihood of above to near normal rainfall
Zone II: Increased likelihood of near to above normal rainfall
Zone III: Usually dry
Zone IV: Increased likelihood of near to below normal rainfall

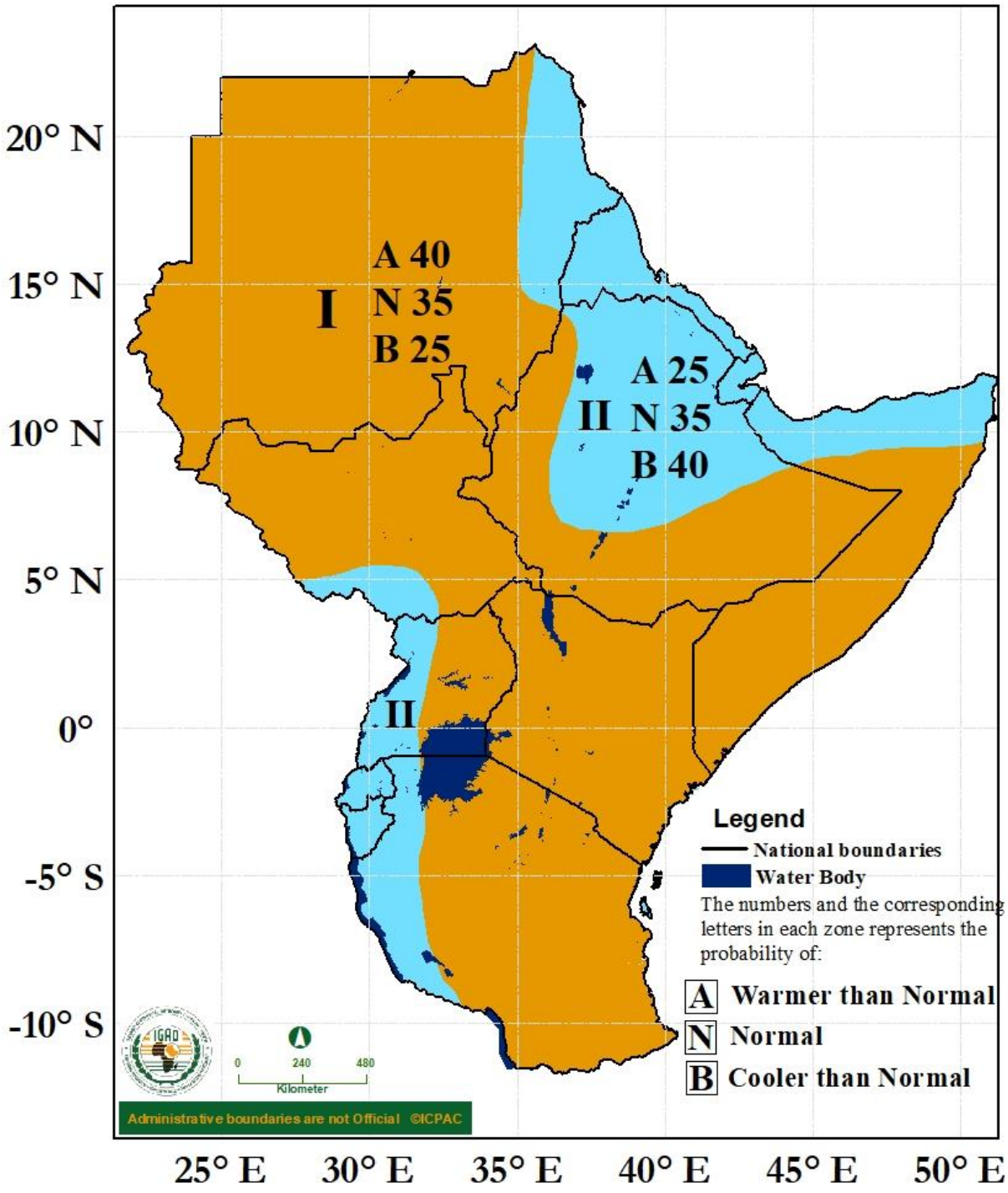

Figure 2: GHA Consensus Mean Surface Temperature Outlook for October to December 2018

Zone I: Increased likelihood of above (i.e. warmer) to near normal mean temperatures.
Zone II: Increased likelihood of below (i.e. cooler) to near normal mean temperatures.

Note:

The numbers for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall and mean temperature in each of the three categories, above-, near-, and below-normal. For example, in Zone II, Figure 1, there is a 35% probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; a 40% probability of rainfall occurring in the near-normal category; and a 25% probability of rainfall occurring in the below-normal category. In Zone I, Figure 2, there is a 40% probability of mean temperature occurring in the above-normal (i.e. warmer) category; a 35% probability of mean temperature occurring in the near-normal category; and a 25% probability of mean temperature occurring in the below-normal (i.e. cooler) category. The boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas.