

Consolidated Seasonal Rainfall Guidance for Africa Nov 2012 initial conditions

Dec-Feb 2012-13

There is a slight increased chance for above average rainfall along the Gulf of Guinea coast between Cote d'Ivoire and Benin. There is also a slight increase for above average rainfall over northern Angola. There is a slight increased chance for below average rainfall over eastern southern Africa.

Jan-Mar 2013

There is a slight increased chance for above average rainfall along portions of the Gulf of Guinea coast.

Feb-Apr 2013

A slight increased chance for above average rainfall along the Gulf of Guinea coast is expected to persist.

Note: The consolidated outlook is subjectively derived from CCA forecasts, the NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS) outlooks, and current state of the global climate system and outlooks. Equal Chance (EC) is indicated where there is no signal in either the CFS or the CCA. EC is also indicated where there is disagreement between the CCA and the CFS.

State of the Global Ocean

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) official ENSO Alert System calls for ENSO neutral through the northern hemisphere winter of 2012-13. In November, equatorial sea surface temperatures (SST) anomalies were slightly positive across all of the tropical Pacific Ocean except for the far eastern portion. Strong positive SST anomalies persisted over the northwestern Pacific.

Upper-level and lower-level zonal winds were near average, and precipitation was slightly suppressed over the eastern and central tropical Pacific. Thus, both the atmosphere and ocean indicated ENSO-neutral conditions.

Over the past month, SST was slightly elevated over much of the Indian Ocean. This represented a significant increase in the south central sector of the Indian Ocean. However, a cooling tendency was observed along the Mozambique Channel.

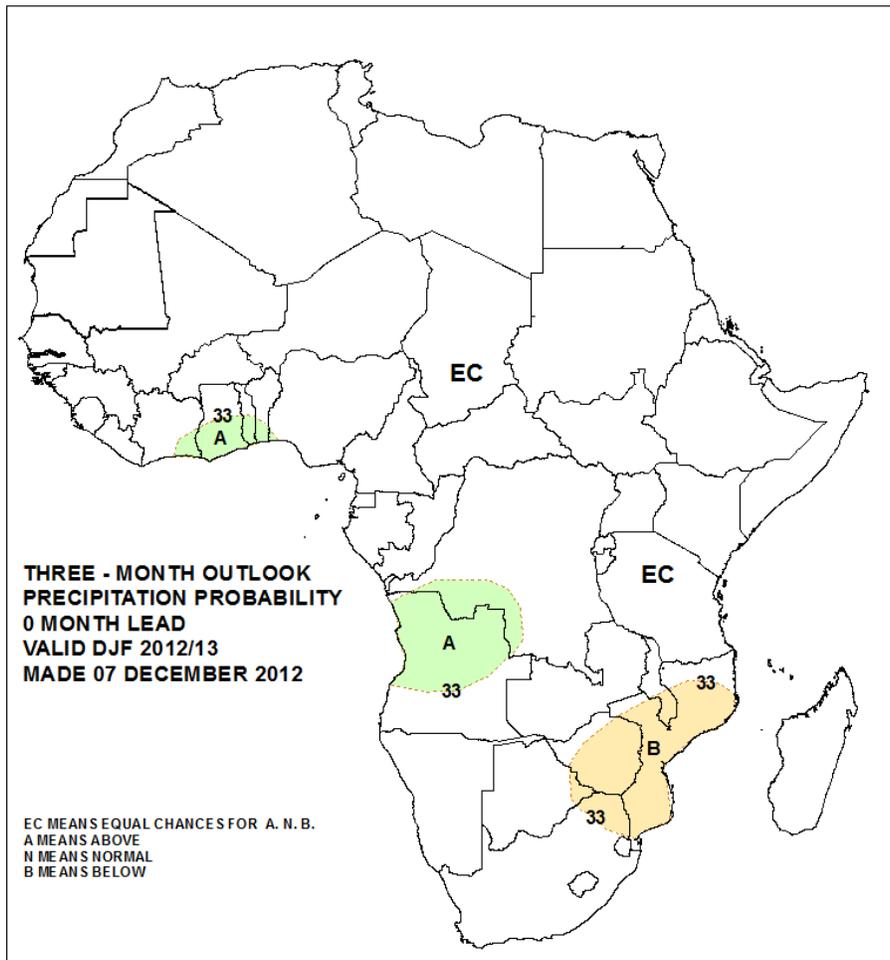
SST was elevated over the tropical northern Atlantic. SST has also significantly increased locally along coastal Angola. However, SST was below average over tropical south Atlantic.

Model Guidance

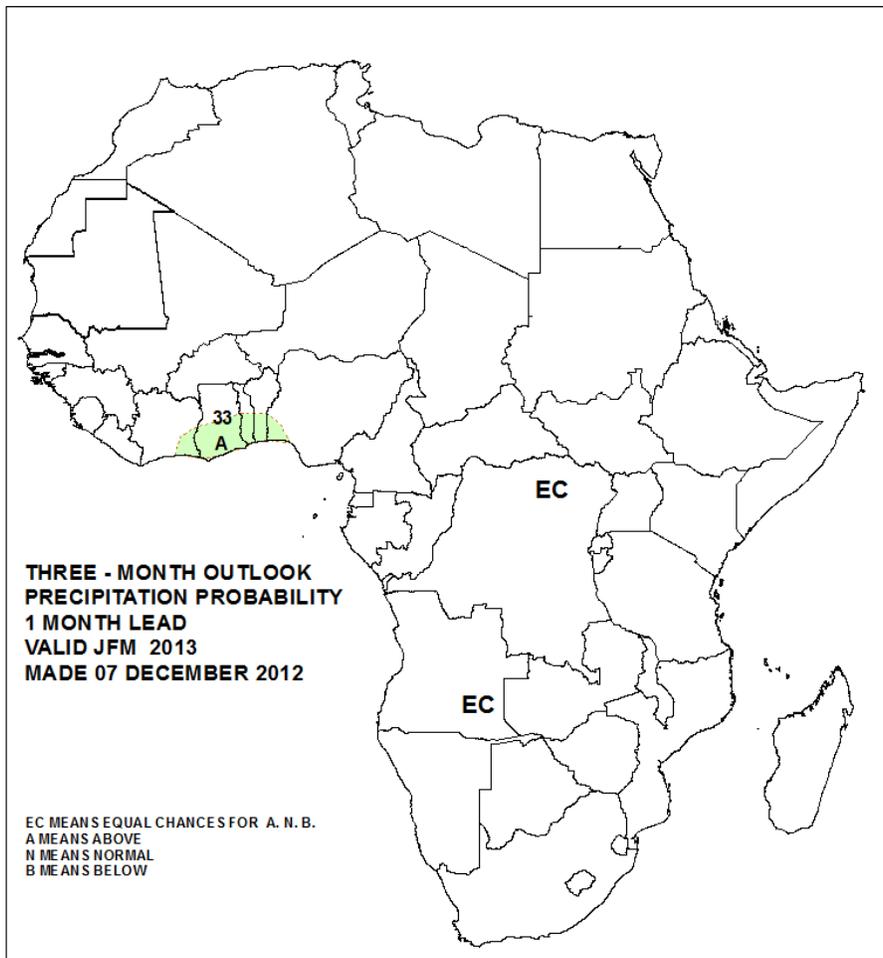
SST model predictions from the National Multimodel Ensemble (NMME)* and the International Multimodel Ensemble (IMME)# favor ENSO neutral conditions, while above normal conditions will persist in the central equatorial Pacific. Both ensemble forecasts predict slightly higher than normal SST in the central Indian Ocean. However, average conditions are expected along coastal East Africa. The models also predict slightly elevated SSTs along the Atlantic coast of West Africa for Jan-Mar 2013, but these anomalies dissipate quickly as the lead time increases. NMME and IMME precipitation forecasts are weak and inconsistent.

*NMME includes two versions of the NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS), two versions of the Canadian climate model (CMC), NOAA's GFDL, NASA, and NCAR.

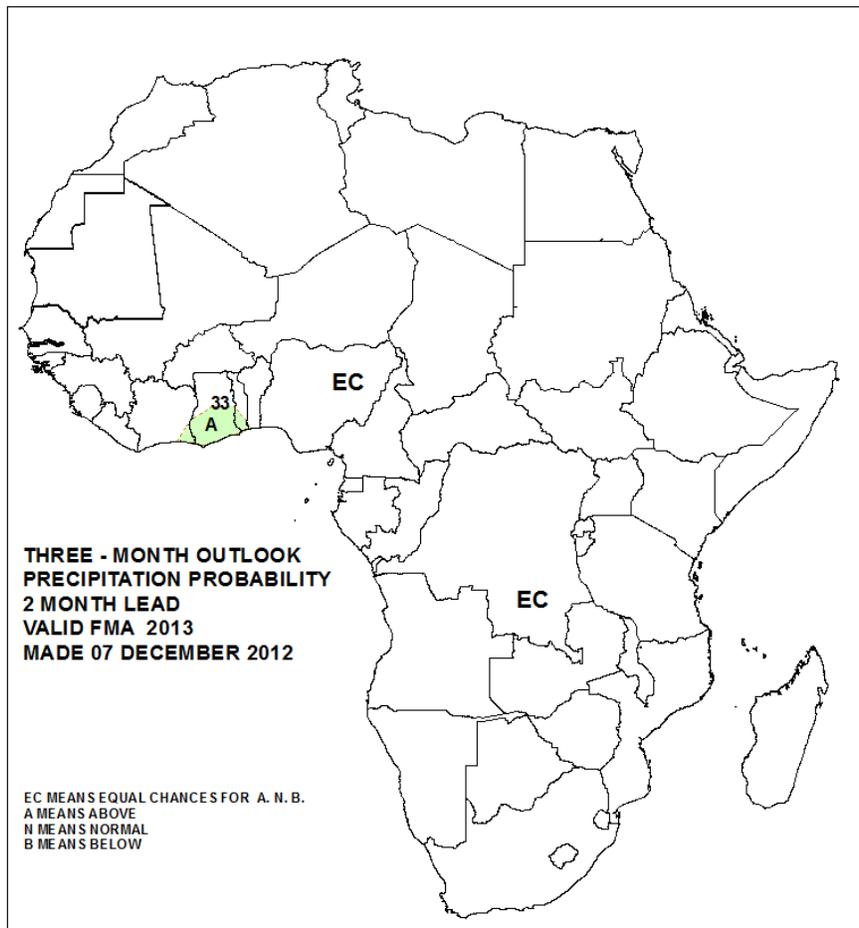
#IMME includes the two versions of the NCEP CFS, ECMWF, UK Met Office, and Meteo France.



**Consolidated Seasonal Rainfall Guidance for Africa for Dec-Feb 2012-13
Zero Month Lead**



**Consolidated Seasonal Rainfall Guidance for Africa for Jan-Mar 2013
One Month Lead**



**Consolidated Seasonal Rainfall Guidance for Africa for Feb-Apr 2013
Two Months Lead**