



ICPAC

IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre

STATEMENT FROM THE FIFTY SECOND GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF52): 27-28 MAY 2019, RADISSON BLU HOTEL, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Consensus Climate Outlook for June to September 2019

The regional consensus climate outlook for the June to September 2019 rainfall season indicates increased likelihood of drier than normal rainfall over much of Ethiopia, southwestern Eritrea, South Sudan, parts of western Sudan as well as some region on the Sudan/Ethiopia border, northern and far-western Uganda, western Rwanda as well as coastal areas of Kenya and Somalia. There is an increased likelihood of above normal rainfall over Djibouti and surrounding lowlands of Ethiopia and Eritrea, most parts of Sudan, parts of southwestern Ethiopia, western Kenya and the Lake Victoria region of Uganda and Tanzania. The remaining regions of the north and equatorial-west are transition zones where the three categories (above, normal, below) are predicted equally likely, while the June to September period is a dry season for large parts of the south, east and far north of the GHA. The forecast also indicates a delay in the start of the rains by 1-3 weeks over the northern Rift Valley, the western equatorial sector, the coastal regions of Kenya and northern Somalia, and in Sudan. There is also indication of a likelihood of early cessation over eastern Ethiopia, northern Uganda, and the cluster bordering Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya. These areas are also likely to experience long dry spells during the season. On the other hand, temperature forecast indicates increased likelihood of warmer than normal surface temperatures over much of the northern, eastern and south-eastern GHA as well as a region over north-western South Sudan, while cooler to near normal temperatures are indicated across central parts of GHA. The highlands of the equatorial sector are expected to experience cool and cloudy conditions during June to September 2019 period.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the major global climate centres have noted that Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the equatorial Pacific Ocean have been close to weak El Niño levels during the past several months. Global models further indicate that the positive SST anomalies currently present in the tropical Pacific are expected to remain warmer than normal through the forecast period. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which has significant influence on regional climate, especially during the long (MAM) and short (OND) rains, is also expected to strengthen into its positive phase through June-September 2019. The influence of these ocean processes will interact with regional atmospheric circulation patterns, and will also be modulated by topography and large inland water bodies. Updates on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition will be provided regularly by WMO and the major climate centres.

Rainfall Outlook for June to September 2019

The rainfall outlook for various zones within the GHA region is given in Figure 1 below.

Zone I: Increased likelihood for above normal (i.e., wetter) rainfall

Zone II: A transition zone with equal probability for all three categories.

Zone III: Increased likelihood of below normal (i.e., drier) rainfall

Zone IV: Usually dry during June to September

Temperature Outlook for June to September 2019

The temperature outlook for various zones within the GHA region is given in Figure 2 below.

Zone I: Increased likelihood for above normal (i.e., warmer) mean temperature

Zone II: Increased likelihood for near normal mean temperature

Zone III: Increased likelihood for below normal (i.e., cooler) mean temperature

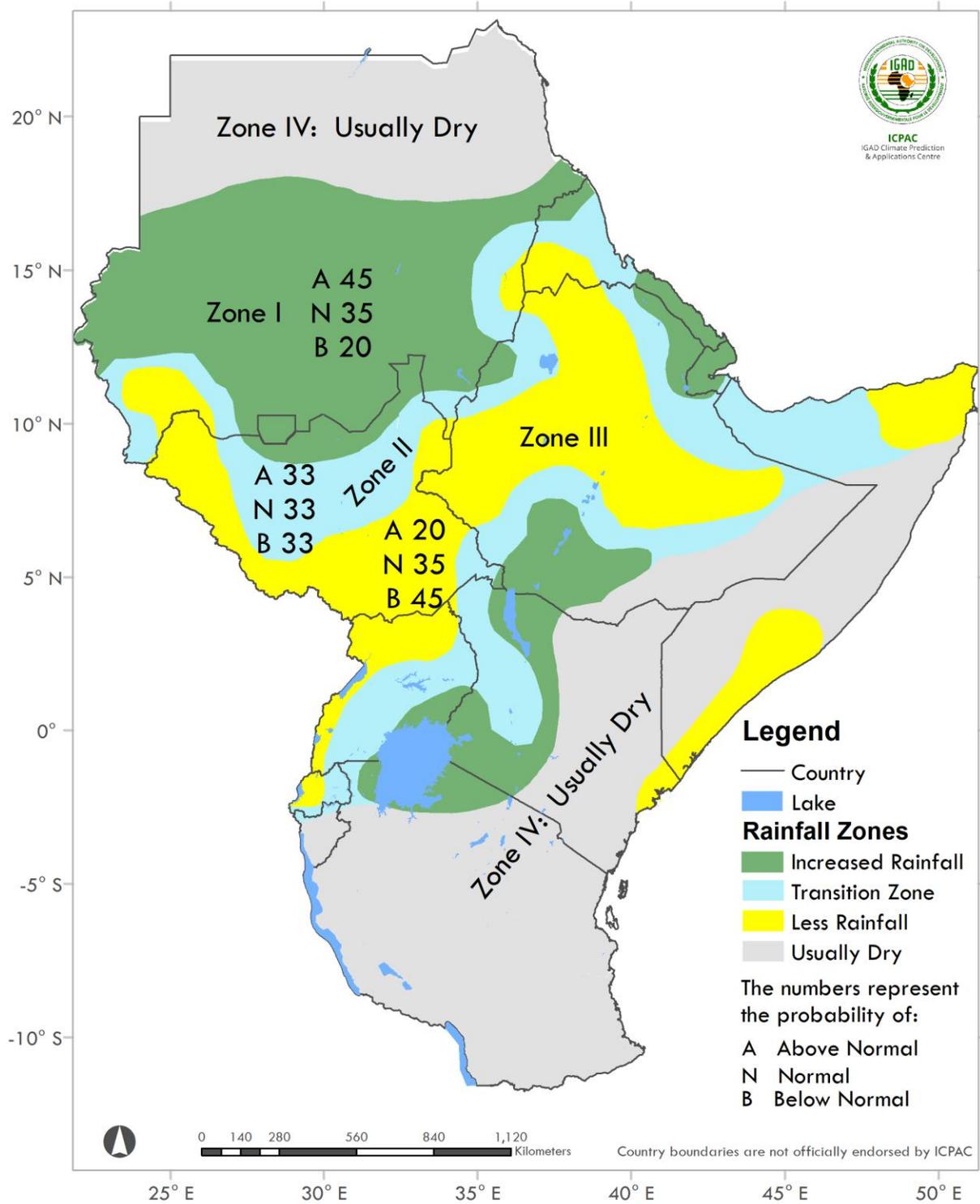


Figure 1: Greater Horn of Africa Consensus Rainfall Climate Outlook for the June to September 2019 rainfall season

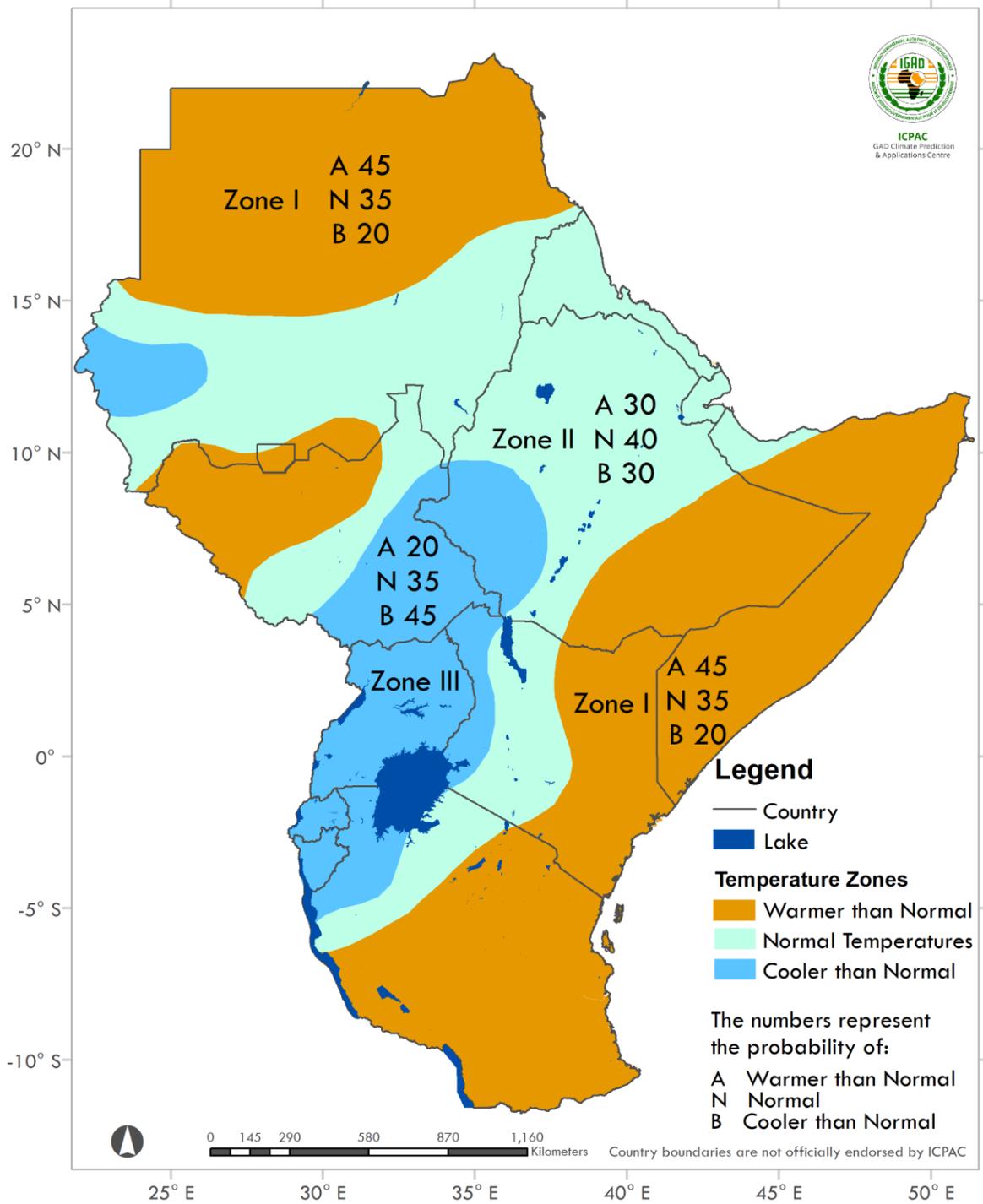


Figure 2: Greater Horn of Africa Consensus Temperature Climate Outlook for the June to September 2019 rainfall season