

PRESANORD-9

SENSUAL SEASONAL FORECAST OUTLOOK OVER NORTH AFRICA

Valid FOR DECEMBER–JANUARY–FEBRUARY DJF 2015/2016

Marrakech, 26 NOVEMBER 2015

Consensual Seasonal forecast for DJF2015/2016 season over North Africa countries is based on known teleconnections of large and regional patterns as well as on dynamical and statistical models.

I- RECENT CLIMATE CONDITIONS

A strong El Niño continued during November as indicated by above-normal sea surface temperatures (SST) across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. These conditions are associated with enhanced convection over the central and eastern tropical Pacific and with suppressed convection over Indonesia. Most models indicate that a strong El Niño will continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, followed by weakening and a transition to ENSO-neutral during the late spring or early summer. El Niño has already produced significant global impacts and it is expected to affect positively temperature anomalies in most regions over North Africa.

SST patterns in the Tropical Northern Atlantic may offer some predictability for this winter, especially over Morocco, due to the anomalously warm water in the tropical region. The QBO is currently in the westerly phase that can drive positive NAO phase, a thing that is not favorable to enhanced rain over North Africa.

II- SEASONAL FORECAST OUTLOOK

Given SST anomalies, oceanic and atmospheric patterns, knowledge and understanding of seasonal climate variability and available long range forecasts products, the following outlook is provided for December-January-February (DJF) 2015/16 seasons across North Africa.

The following maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for 3 categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature and precipitation.

A- Precipitation:

- Zone I: Near normal to below normal precipitation is likely over most of Morocco (north and along coastal regions) and northwestern Algeria (figure 1).
- Zone II: Below normal precipitation is very likely over most of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt (figure 1).
- Zone III: Near normal to below normal precipitation is very likely over southeastern Libya and southern Egypt (figure 1).

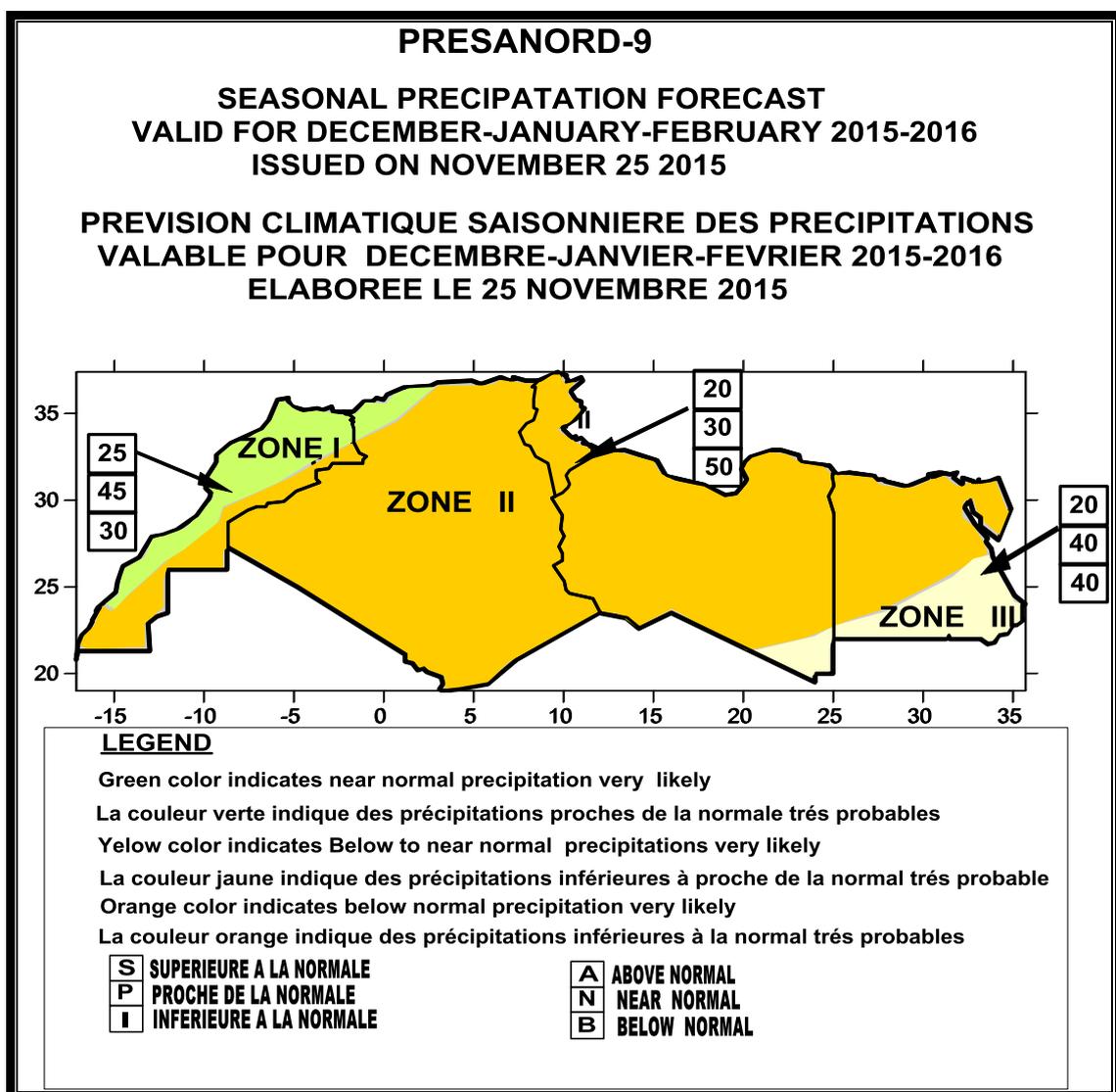


Figure 1: Seasonal forecast of precipitation for DJF 2015-2016

B- Temperature

- Zone I: Above normal temperature is very likely over Morocco, Tunisia, most of Algeria and western Libya (figure 2).
- Zone II: Near to above normal temperature is likely over southern Algeria, eastern and southern Libya and over Egypt (figure 2).

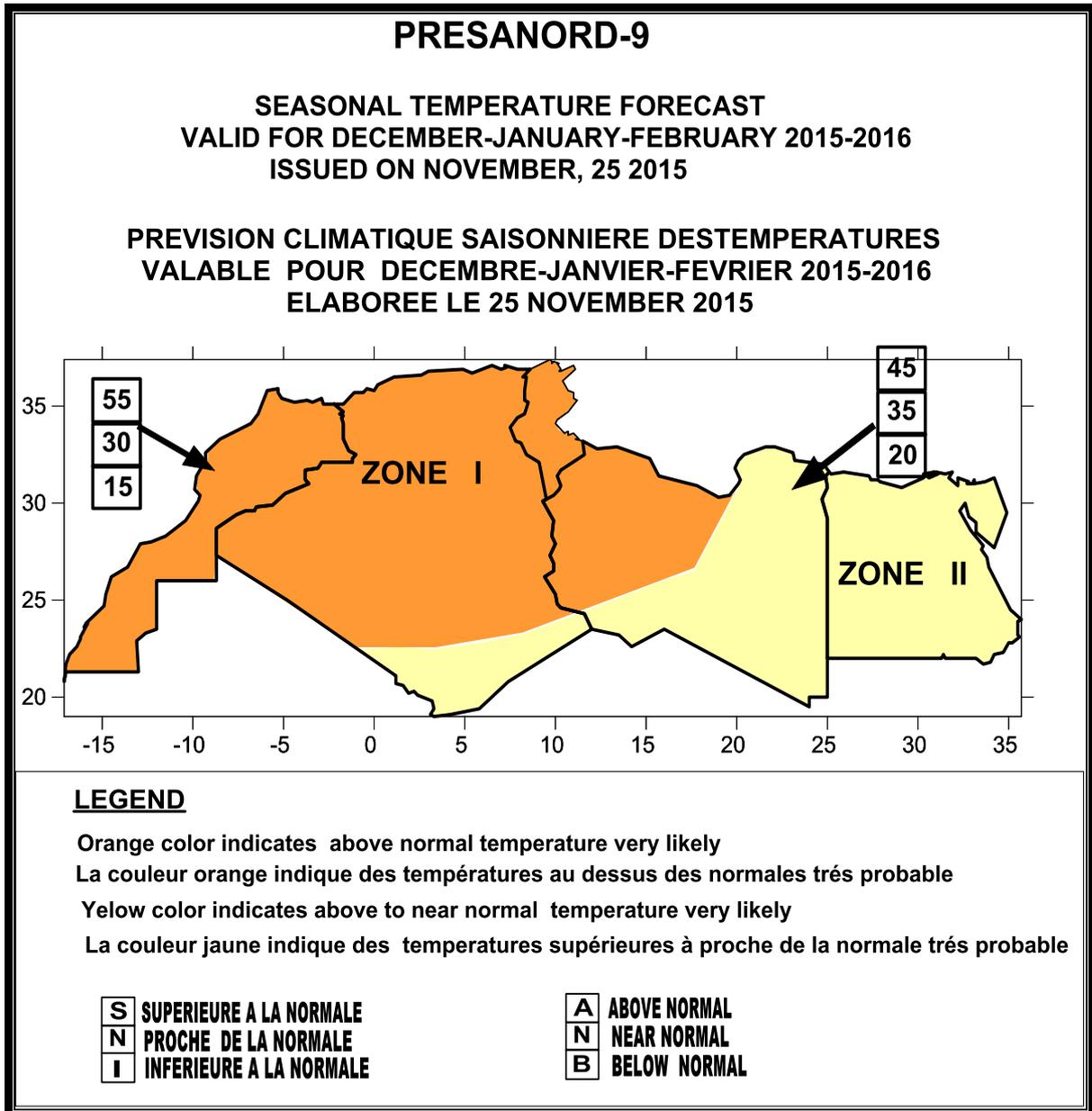


Figure 2: Seasonal forecast of temperature for DJF 2015-2016