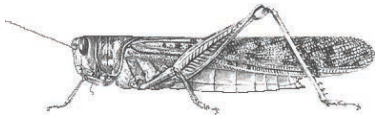
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



21 February 2026

Seasonal precipitation predictions in the Desert Locust winter, spring and summer breeding areas (March–August 2026)

Climate models continue to indicate a positive Indian Ocean Dipole and a rapid transition to El Niño in the Pacific over the coming months. These conditions are expected to increase rainfall across the Central and Eastern Regions during the spring. Tropical cyclones may develop over the Arabian Peninsula and will need to be closely monitored. Spring breeding in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, and Pakistan is likely to begin on a small scale in March but may continue throughout the season. In the Western Region, models now forecast dry to normal conditions this spring across northwestern Africa. However, since gregarious breeding has resumed in Morocco, localized breedings are expected to persist through the end of winter and into spring, potentially extending into Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia.

PRECIPITATION ANOMALY	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Algeria (central/south)						
Chad						
Djibouti						
Egypt (SE Red Sea–winter, Nile–summer)						
Eritrea (western–summer, coastal–winter)						
Ethiopia (Somali–spring, Afar–summer)						
India (Rajasthan, Gujarat)						
Iran (south–spring)						
Libya (south-summer, west–spring)						
Mali (northeast)						
Mauritania (south–summer, NW–autumn)						
Morocco (W Sahara–autumn, Atlas–spring)						
Niger (Tamesna, Air, Ténéré)						
Oman (spring)						
Pakistan (southwest–spring, east–summer)						
Saudi Arabia (Red Sea, interior–spring)						
Somalia (N coast–winter, N interior–spring)						
Sudan (interior–summer, coastal–winter)						
Tunisia (south spring)						
Yemen (interior–summer, coastal–winter)						

Dry | Slightly drier | Normal | Slightly wetter | Wet

Desert Locust and precipitation predictions

Western Region
According to subseasonal models, dry conditions are expected to prevail across the Region in late February and the first week of March. Some very light above-normal rainfall could occur in northern Mauritania, Western Sahara, eastern Morocco, and western and central Algeria during the second week of March, continuing until the end of March across these same areas as well as Libya. However, rainfall amounts should remain low in the spring breeding areas.

Seasonal models indicate dry conditions over much of the Region in March. These dry conditions may persist into April and May, with possibly normal to above-normal rainfall in some areas of Algeria and normal rainfall in Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya in May. Forecasts for June suggest a potentially early start to the rainy season in the Sahel, particularly in Chad and Niger, and possibly in southern Libya and Algeria. This wet signal extends into July and August for the summer breeding areas of Chad, Niger, Mali, southern Algeria, and northern Mauritania, although this will need further confirmation.

As a new generation of gregarious breeding has begun in the western part of the Region, winter breeding may continue in localized areas. If dry conditions persist in late February and March as anticipated, this winter breeding will likely be concentrated mainly in Morocco and possibly western Algeria. In contrast to previous monthly forecasts, spring breeding may become limited to certain areas of Morocco and Algeria where normal rainfall is expected in March and April. However, if adult groups follow typical movement patterns, spring breeding could also occur in Tunisia and Libya where normal rainfall is anticipated. Summer breeding may begin early if current forecasts are confirmed.

Central Region
According to subseasonal models, dry conditions are expected to prevail until the end of February. Above-normal rainfall could occur during the first week of March in southern and interior Saudi Arabia. This wet signal is expected to continue throughout March, extending across the entire Region during the third dekad—first affecting Oman and Yemen, and later Ethiopia, and Somalia and to a lesser extent the interior of Egypt and Sudan.

Seasonal models for the next six months indicate that near- to above-normal rainfall may occur in March in southern Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia. The wet signal intensifies in April, with above-normal rainfall expected across the whole Region. This above-normal trend may continue into May for Oman, Egypt, and Sudan. June is also likely to remain wet in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, northern Oman, and the western part of Egypt. However, summer breeding areas are not currently forecast to receive above-normal rainfall in July and August.

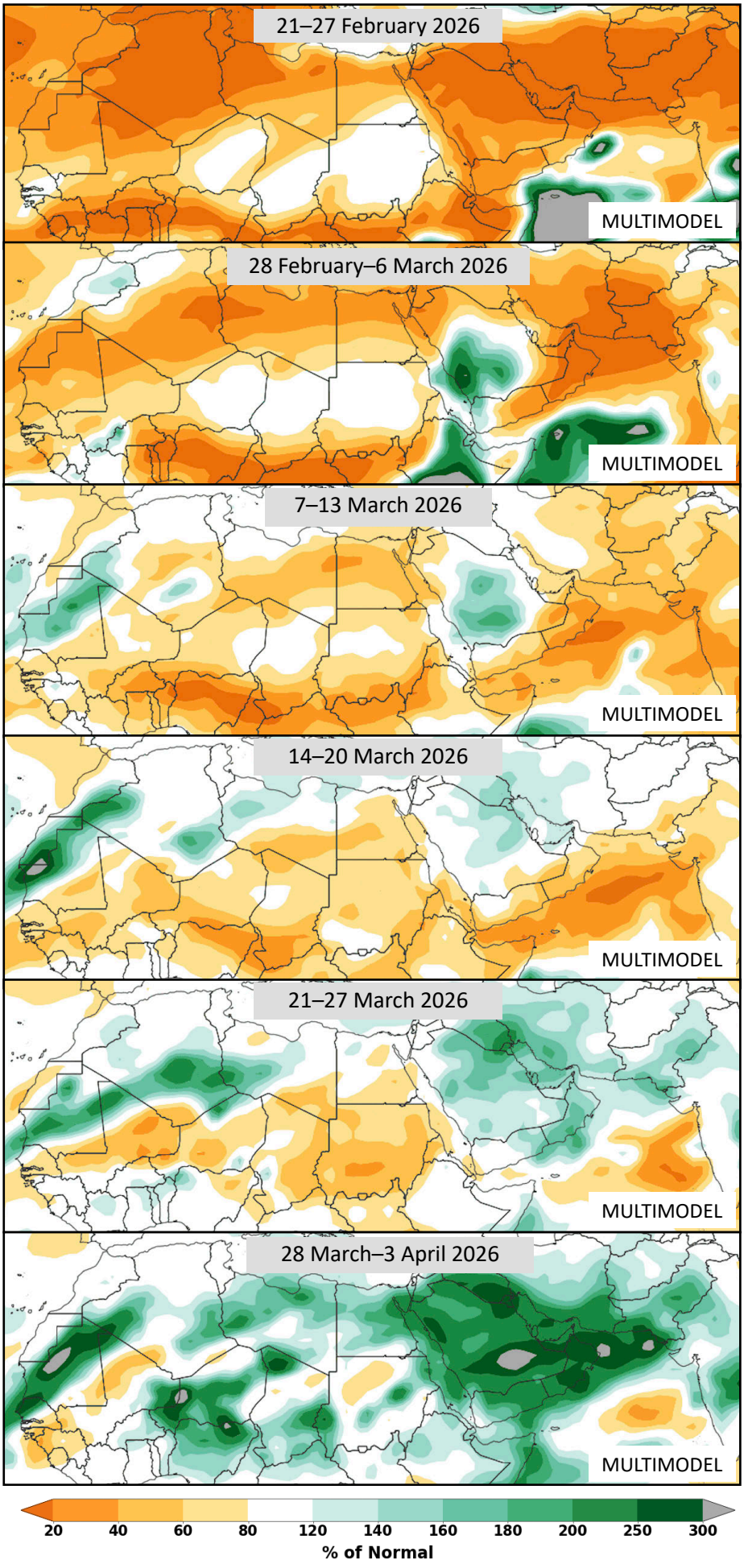
In March and April, spring breeding activity could begin in the interior of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, and Oman, although it is expected to remain small-scale. The rainfall forecast for May and June in the inland regions of Sudan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—and to a lesser extent in Yemen, Somalia, and Oman—could continue to create favorable conditions for spring breeding. However, for now, normal to below-normal summer breeding conditions are forecast for the Region.

Eastern Region
According to subseasonal models, dry conditions are expected to prevail across the Region until mid-March. Above-normal rainfall may resume in Iran during the third week of March and extend into western Pakistan in late March and early April.

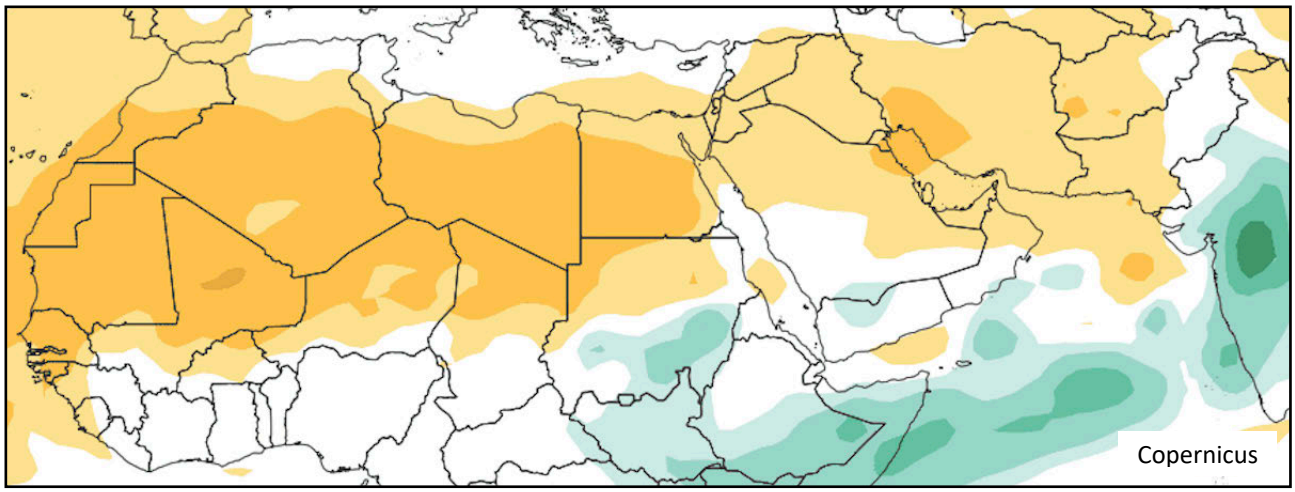
Seasonal models for the next six months indicate below-normal precipitation in March in southeastern Iran and western Pakistan. Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is expected between April and June in these spring breeding areas. From June to August, generally drier-than-normal conditions are forecast to prevail across the summer breeding areas along the India–Pakistan border.

Small-scale breeding may begin in Iran and Pakistan in March and continue through the spring.

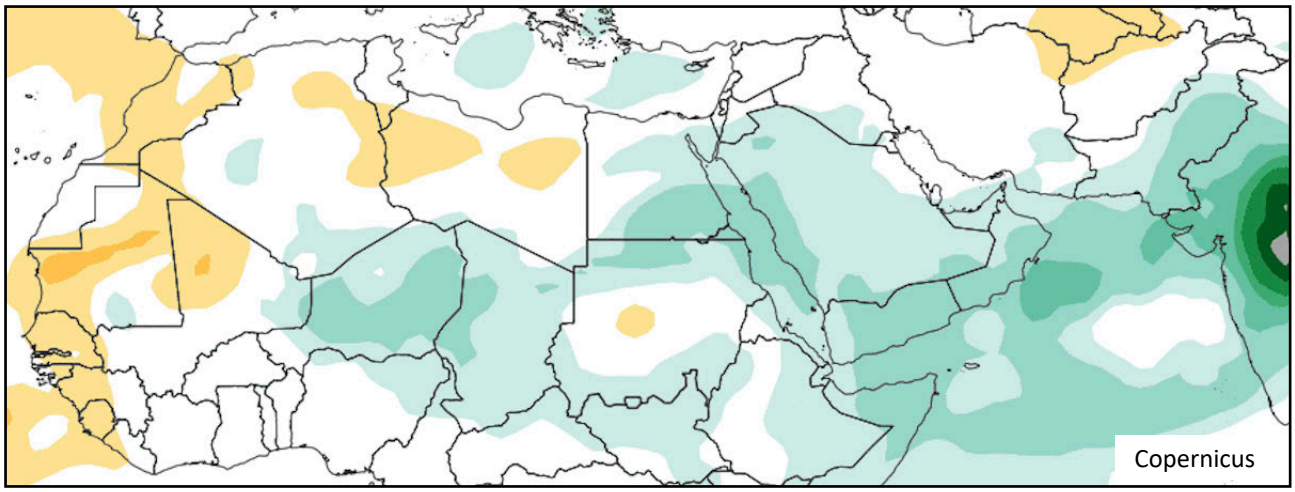
Subseasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (the next six weeks)



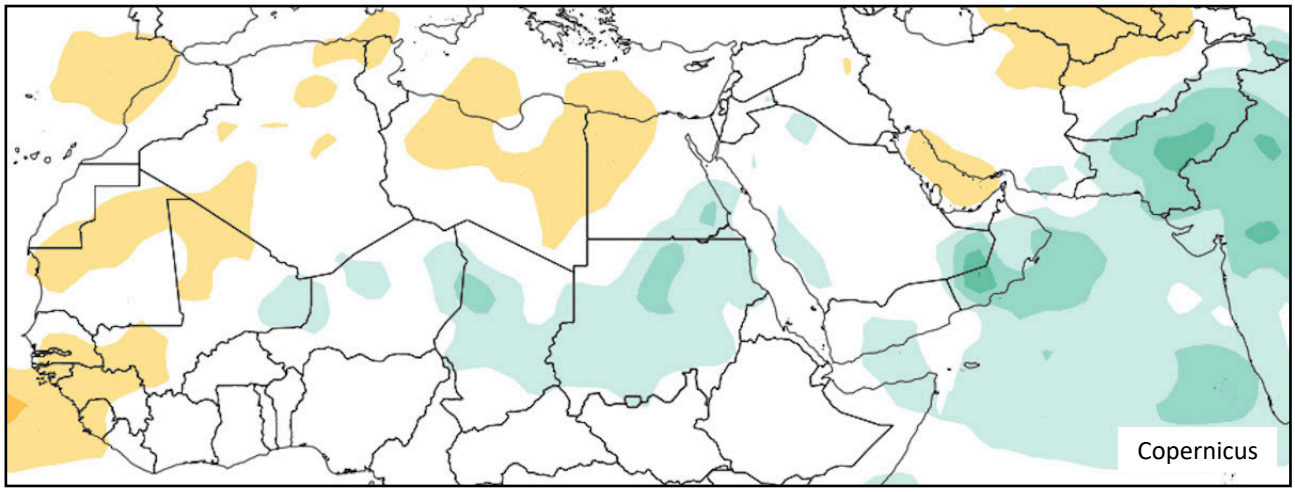
Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (March – August 2026)



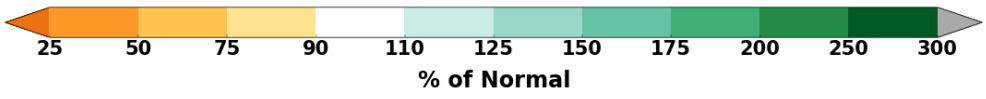
March 2026



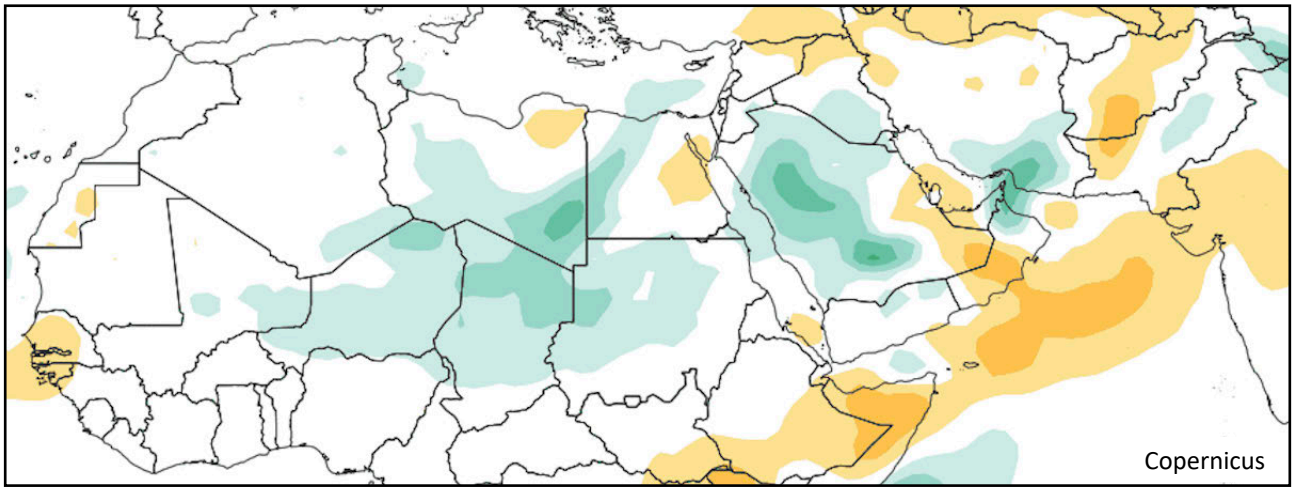
April 2026



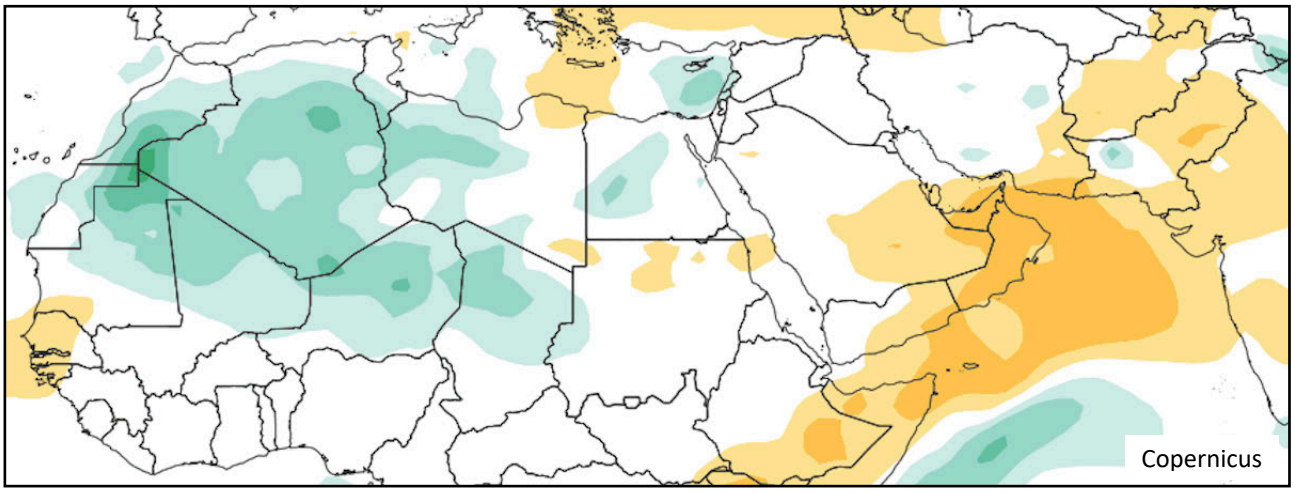
May 2026



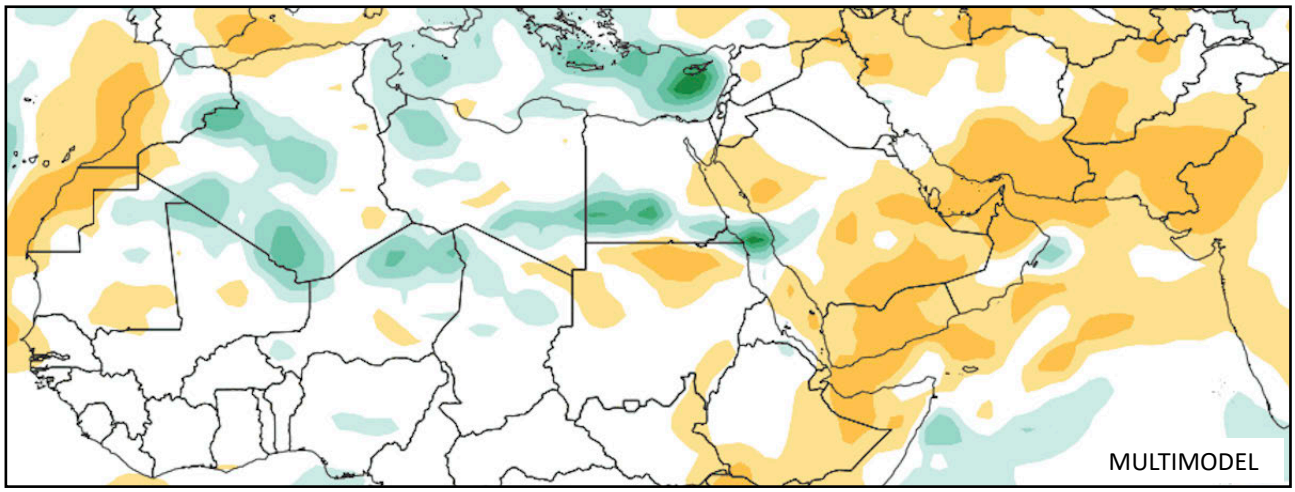
Seasonal forecast multi-model precipitation (continued)



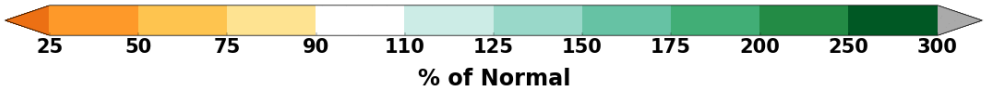
June 2026



July 2026

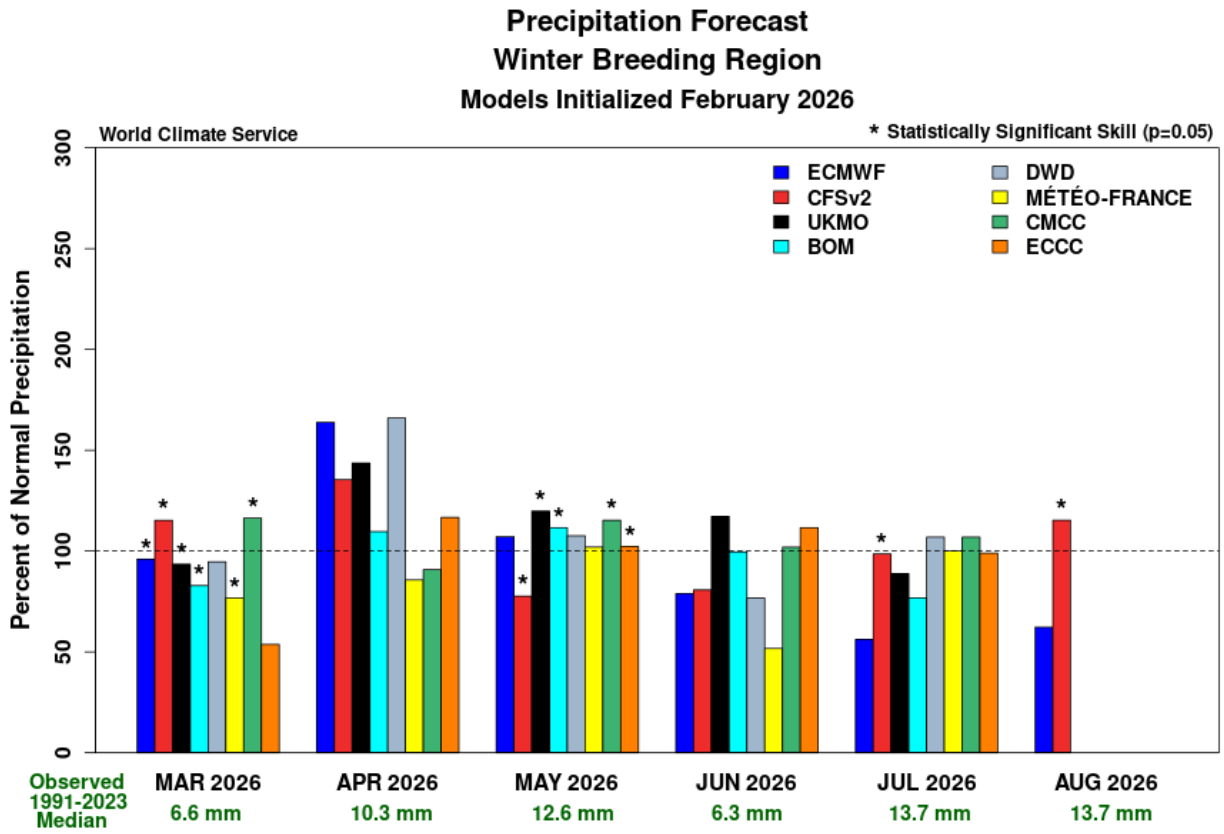


August 2026

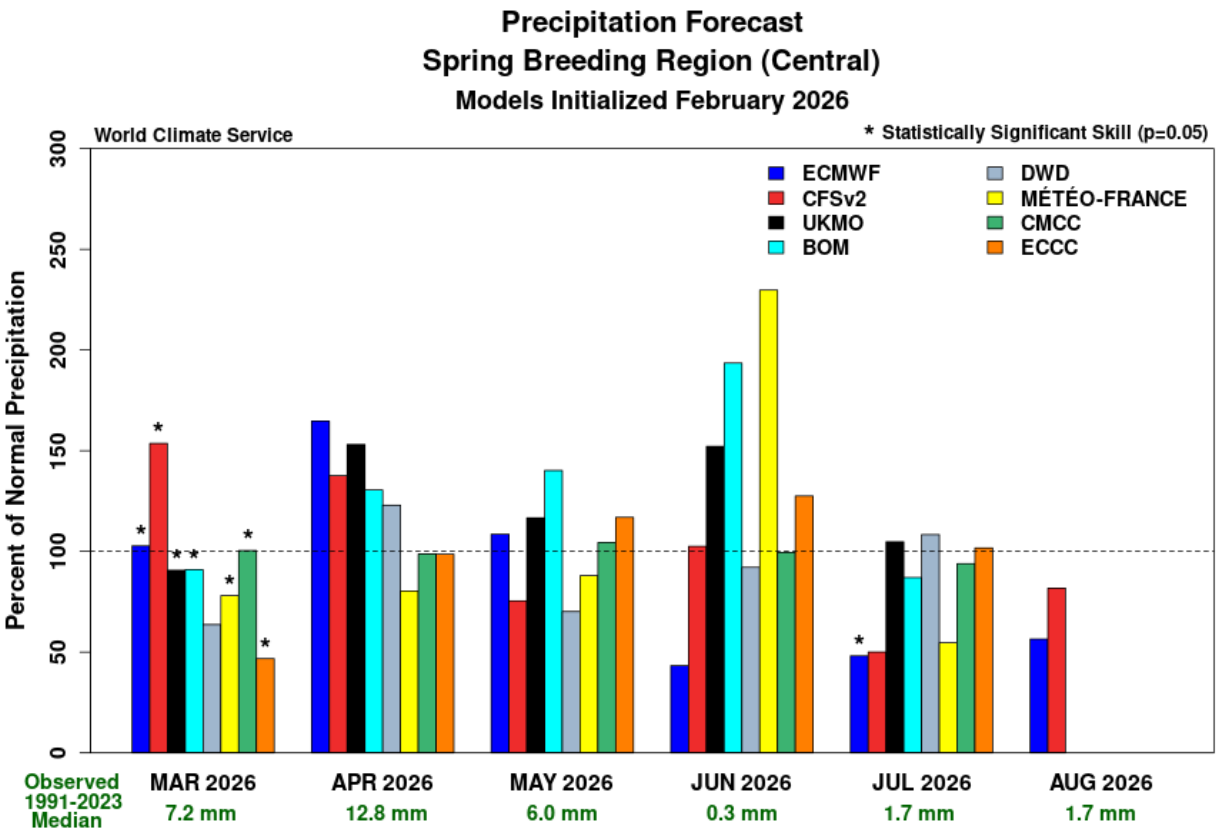


Model forecast charts. The latest seasonal precipitation predictions provided by the World Climate Service (WCS) cover the spring, summer and winter breeding areas of the Desert Locust. This is one of the most sophisticated products available, derived from **nine** models: CFSv2, ECMWF, CMCC, DWD, ECCC, JMA, Météo-France, UKMO and BOM. The results of each model are presented below.

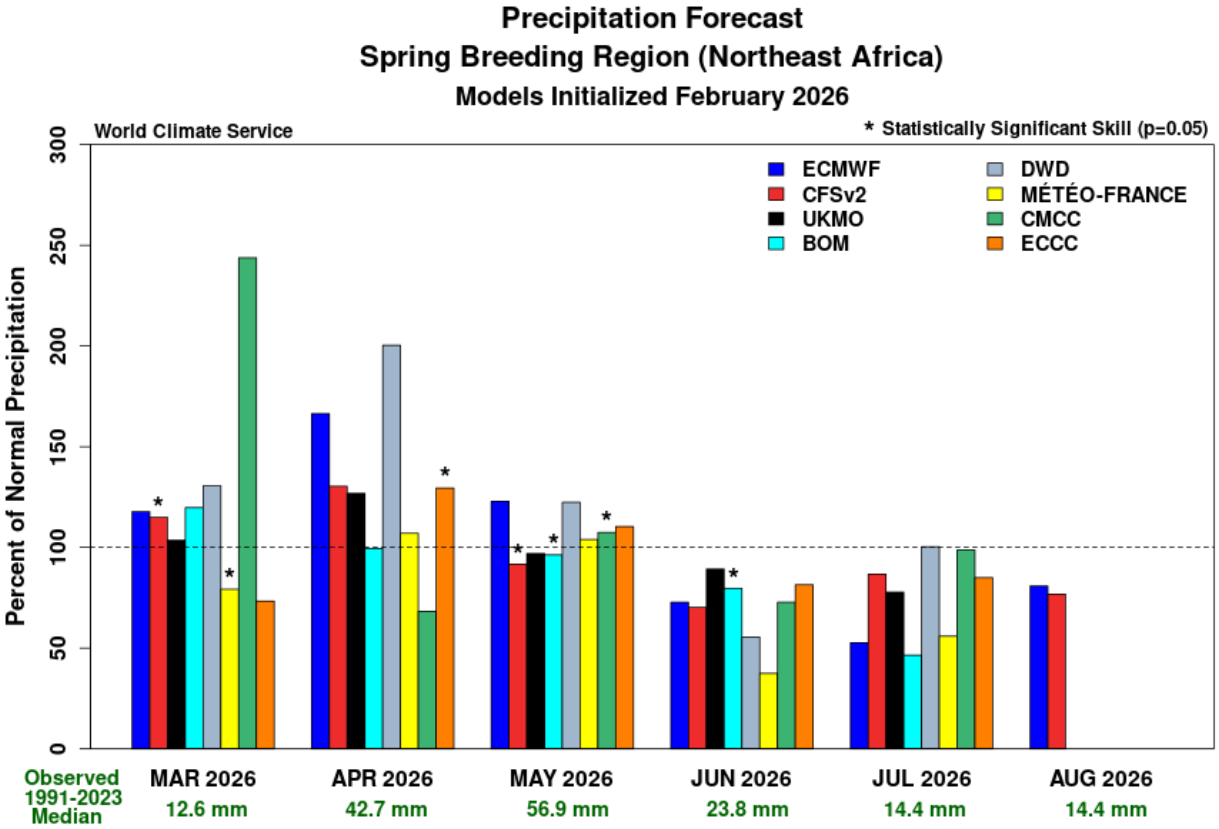
How to interpret the precipitation forecast charts. A value of 100 on the left axis indicates normal rainfall; values less than 100 indicate drier than normal conditions; more than 100 indicates wetter than normal. Little variation between models suggests greater confidence and reliability. Asterisks indicate the models for which the forecasts were evaluated as reliable for the given month. When available, the historically best model during the entire forecast period in the region is indicated in the caption.



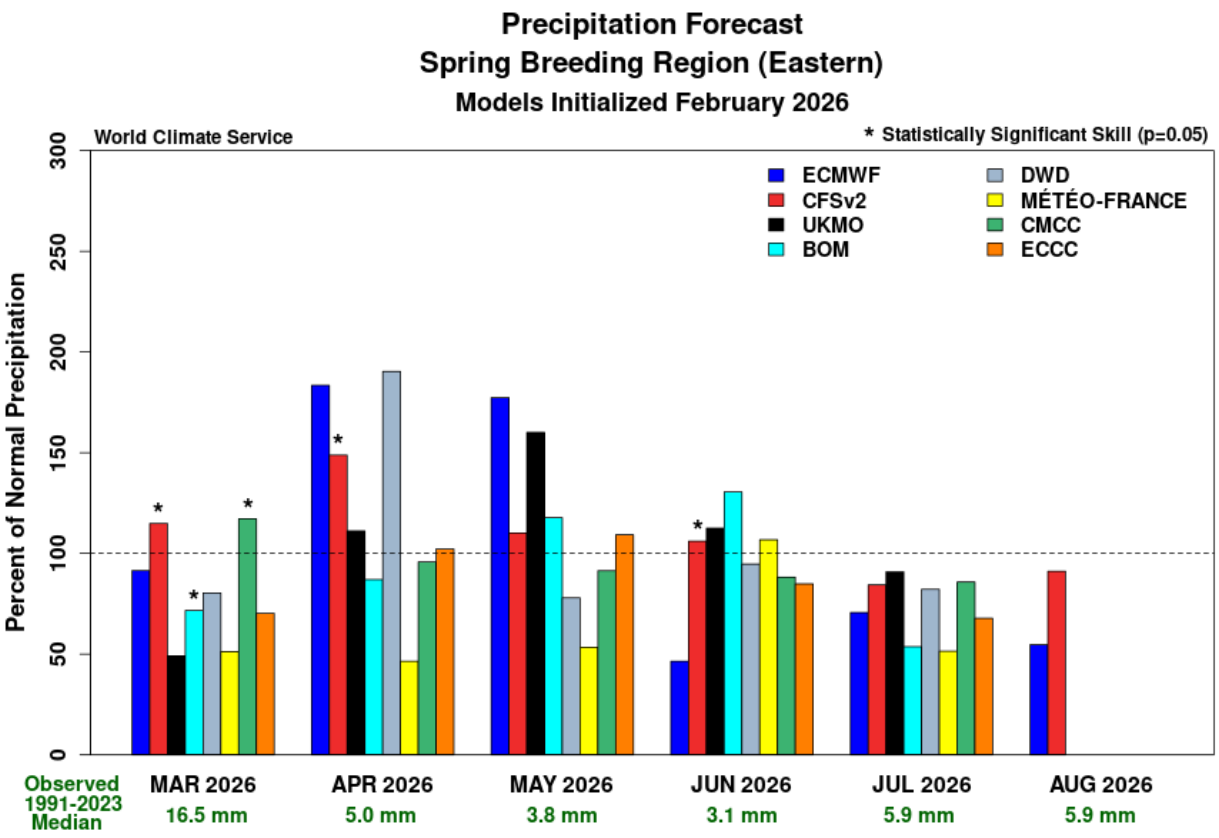
Winter breeding, March (Red Sea / Gulf of Aden)



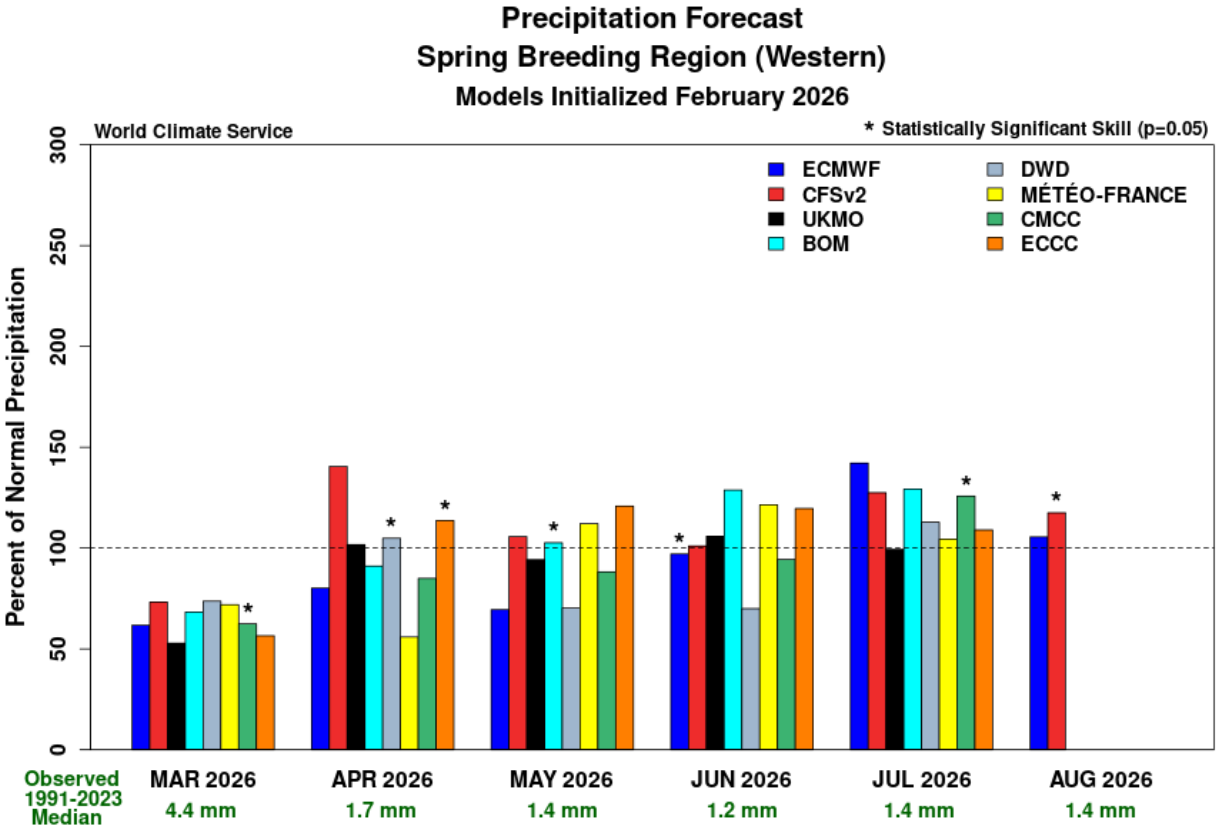
Spring breeding, March–June (Arabian Peninsula)



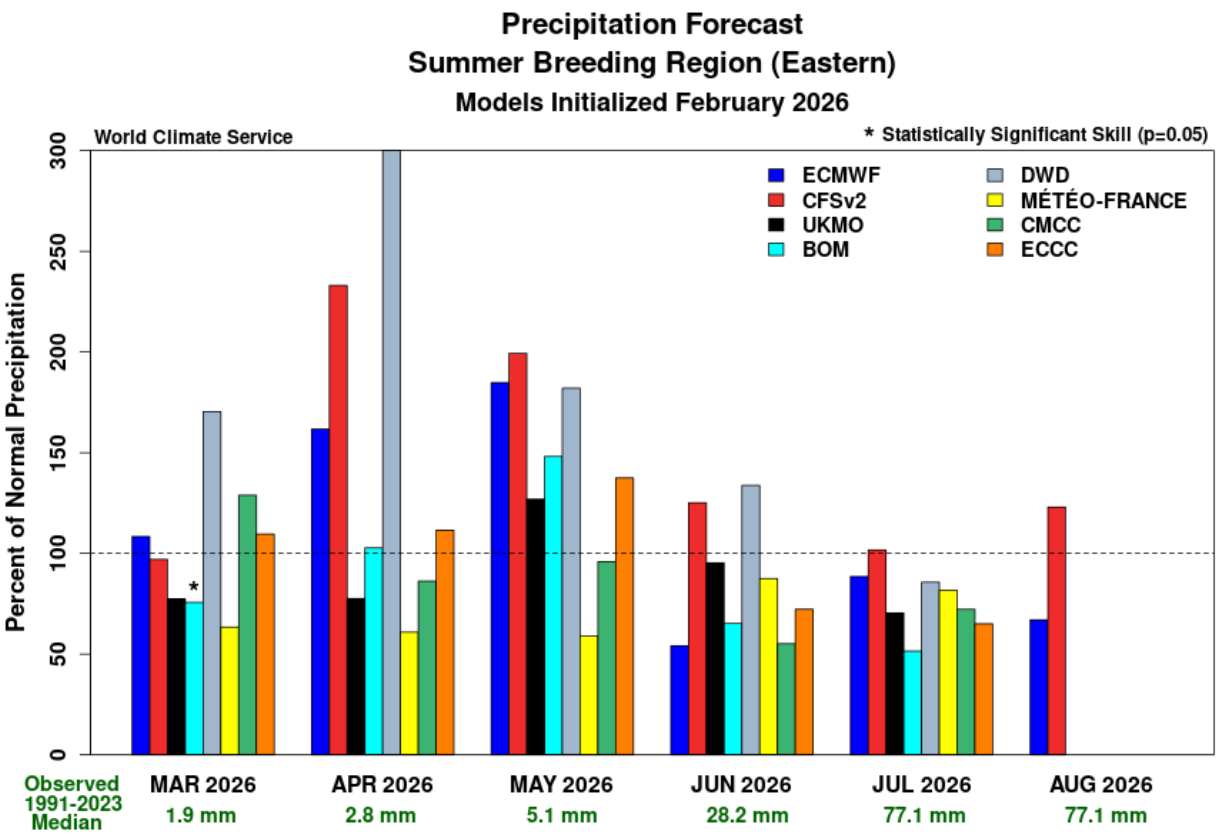
Spring breeding, March–June (Horn of Africa)



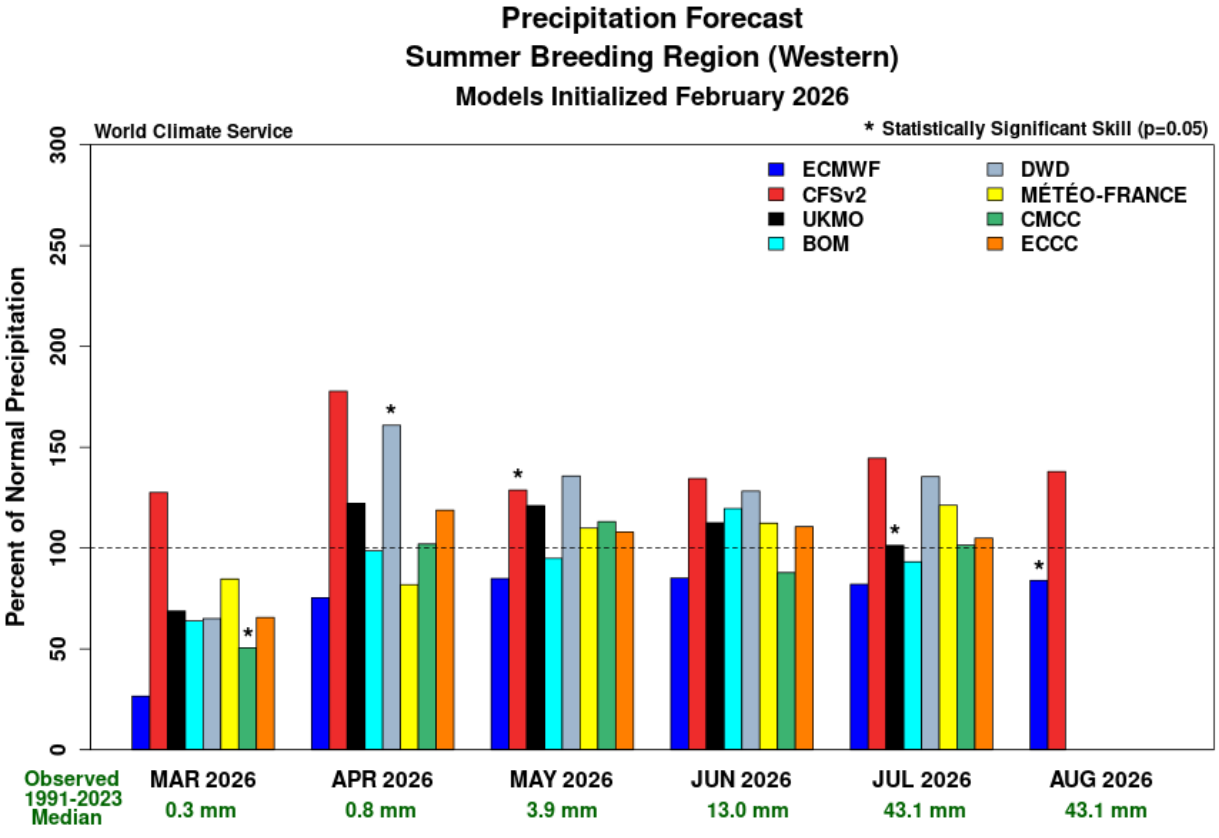
Spring breeding, March–June (SE Iran / SW Pakistan)



Spring breeding, March–June (NW Africa)



Summer breeding, June–August (E Pakistan / W India)



Summer breeding, June–August (Sahel)

Weather and breeding forecast summary

Western Region

Subseasonal outlook (February–March)

- Dry until early March. Light above-normal rainfall from mid-March in northern Mauritania, Western Sahara, eastern Morocco, and western/central Algeria, extending into Libya by late March, but totals will remain low in spring breeding areas.

Six-month seasonal outlook (March–August)

- Spring: Mostly dry in March; normal rainfall possible in April–May in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya.
- Summer: Possible early rains in June in Chad, Niger, southern Libya and Algeria. Continued wet signal in July–August across Chad, Niger, Mali, southern Algeria, and northern Mauritania.

Breeding outlook

- Winter: Localized breeding in Morocco and possibly western Algeria.
- Spring: Likely limited to parts of Morocco and Algeria, though Tunisia and Libya may also see breeding if adult groups move as usual.
- Summer: Early breeding possible if early rains occur.

Central Region

Subseasonal outlook (February–March)

- Dry until end of February. Above-normal rains in southern and interior Saudi Arabia in early March, extending later to Oman and Yemen, and further to Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Six-month seasonal outlook (March–August)

- Spring: Near- to above-normal rainfall in March followed by intensified wet signal across the Region until June.
- Summer: Breeding areas are not forecast to receive above-normal rainfall.

Breeding outlook

- Spring: Small-scale breeding could begin in March–April in interior Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, and Oman and continue through the spring.
- Summer: Normal to below-normal breeding expected.

Eastern Region

Subseasonal outlook (February–March)

- Dry until mid-March. Above-normal rainfall in Iran in the third week of March and extend into western Pakistan in late March–early April.

Six-month seasonal outlook (March–August)

- Spring: March likely drier than normal in southeastern Iran and western Pakistan; April–June expected to bring near-normal to above-normal rains.
- Summer: Drier-than-normal conditions along the India–Pakistan border.

Breeding outlook

- Spring: Small-scale breeding in Iran and Pakistan in March and continue through the spring.