



ICPAC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 73rd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 73)

**June to September (JJAS) 2026 Season
18–19 May 2026 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Hybrid Format)**

Theme: Climate Services for Resilience and Sustainable Development

Sub-theme: Enhancing Early Warning and Anticipatory Action for Climate Extremes in the Greater Horn of Africa

1. Introduction

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), in collaboration with its Member States and partners, will convene the 73rd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 73) for the June to September (JJAS) 2026 rainfall season.

The forum will be held from 18 to 19 May 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in a hybrid format, bringing together both in-person and virtual participants. GHACOF 73 is organised within the framework of IGAD's Regional Strategy for Mainstreaming Climate Services in key socio-economic sectors for sustainable development.

GHACOF 73 will provide a platform for the co-production, dissemination, and application of seasonal climate information to support informed decision-making, risk reduction, and resilience-building across the region.

2. Objectives of the Forum

The main objectives of GHACOF 73 are to:

- Review the performance and impacts of the March to May (MAM) 2026 rainfall season.
- Present the consolidated objective regional climate outlook for the June to September (JJAS) 2026 season.
- Discuss sector-specific implications of the forecast and identify appropriate preparedness and response strategies.
- Strengthen interaction between climate scientists, decision-makers, and users of climate information.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and regional collaboration.
- Issue the GHACOF 73 Statement to guide policy and action.



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3. Pre-Forum Sessions

The forum will be preceded by:

- A pre-GHACOF 73 webinar with the relevant sectoral institutions: 6th May 2026
- A pre-GHACOF 73 Climate Prediction Development Workshop with regional experts from NMHSs: 11–15 May 2026 at ICPAC.

4. Participants and Stakeholders

GHACOF 73 will bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) from the Greater Horn of Africa
- Government ministries and sectoral institutions (e.g. agriculture, water, health, disaster risk management)
- Research institutions and academia
- Development partners and humanitarian organisations
- Regional and international organisations
- Media and civil society
- Users of climate information and decision-makers
- Private sector
- Regional Climate Centres

5. Participation and Registration

- Interested participants from relevant sectors and organisations are invited to register for the forum through the ICPAC website by **4 May 2026**.
- Participation will be available both in-person and virtually. In-person participation is by approved invite-only.

6. Working Language

The working language of the forum will be English.

7. Expected Outcome

GHACOF 73 will generate an objective regional JJAS 2026 seasonal outlook and a GHACOF 73 Statement, providing actionable climate information to support early warning, anticipatory action, and sectoral planning across the Greater Horn of Africa.

The forum will further strengthen the link between climate science and decision-making, ensuring that climate services effectively support resilience and sustainable development in the region.