

**National Agro-meteorological Committee (NAC) Advisory on the
2022/23 summer season
Statement from Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
03 DALRRD 2022**

02 December 2022

In light of the seasonal climate watch as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk, optimize soil water availability and to manage the renewable resources (rain water and grazing) to uphold sound farming objectives. Long-term mitigation strategies should be considered by implementing techniques to enhance in-field water harvesting by reducing run-off and improving infiltration. Reduced tillage methods are very important in this regard, as is basin tillage, to capture rainwater in the drier areas. **The provinces should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local media and farmers days to disseminate the information. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory.**

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Figure 1

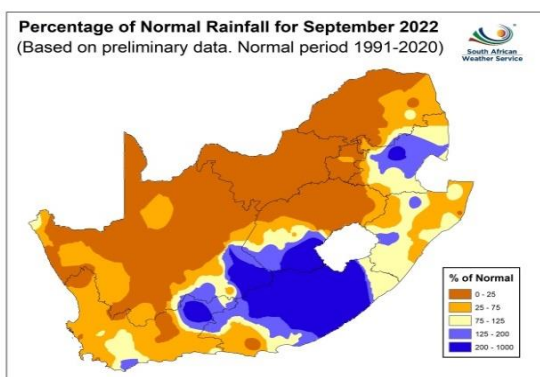


Figure 2

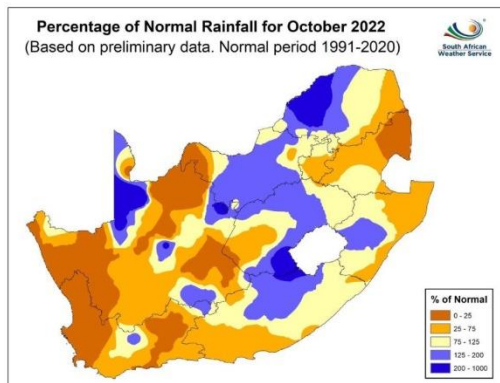


Figure 3

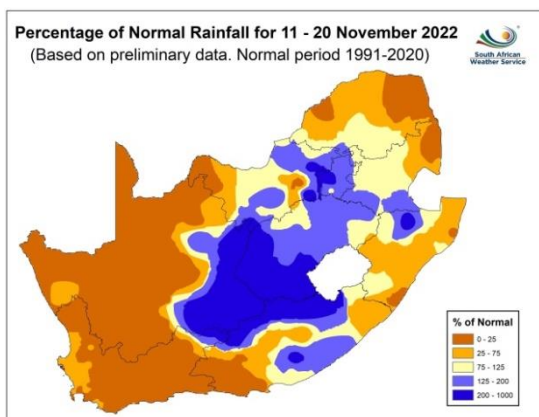
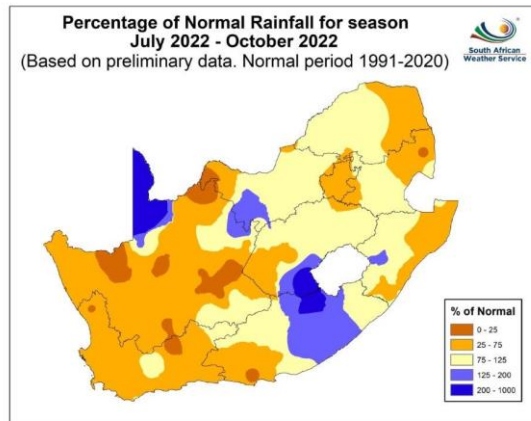
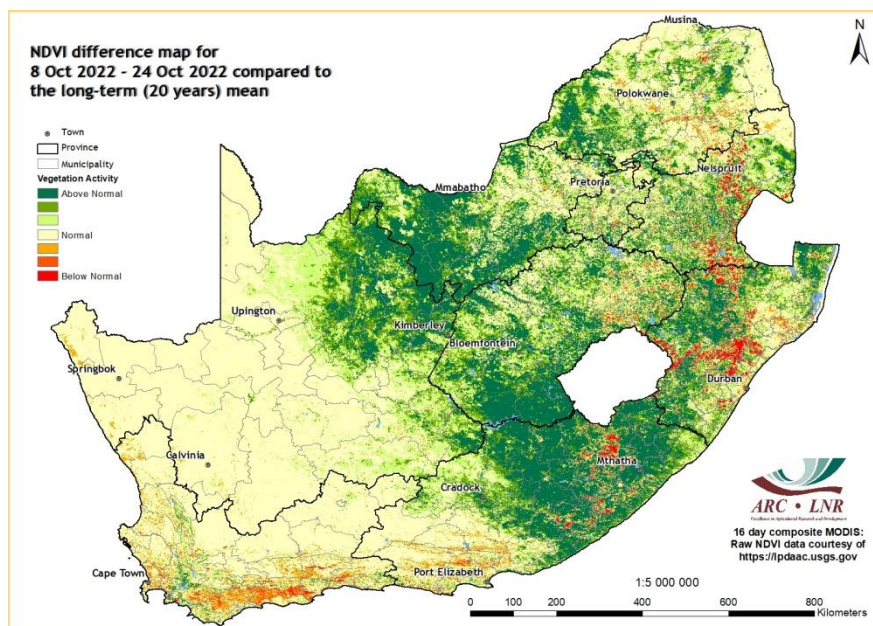


Figure 4



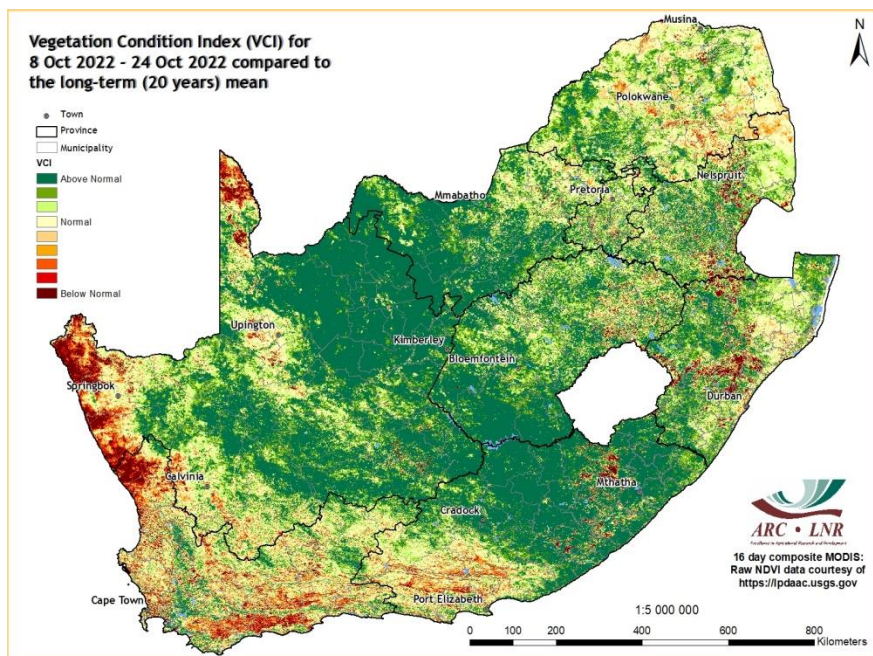
In September, above-normal rainfall was received over the Eastern Cape Province, the southern parts of the Free State, north-eastern parts of the Western Cape and Mpumalanga while the remaining parts of the country received below-normal rainfall (**Figure 1**). In October, above-normal rainfall was received over parts of North West and Eastern Cape, western parts of Limpopo and some areas of the Free State while the remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall (**Figure 2**). Mid-November received above-normal rainfall over most of the central parts of the country but below-normal elsewhere (**Figure 3**). For the season July to October, most parts received near normal to below-normal rainfall with patches of above-normal rainfall in the Northern Cape and North West Provinces as well as over most of the central parts of the Eastern Cape Province (**Figure 4**).

NDVI map: 08 – 24 October 2022 compared to the long-term mean



The 16-day NDVI difference map for October compared to the long-term average shows below-normal vegetation activity in the Overberg and Garden Route districts of the Western Cape and patches in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. In general, the central and eastern parts of the country experienced above-normal vegetation activity.

VCI map: 08 – 24 October 2022 compared to the long-term mean



The October 16-day vegetation conditions index indicates that the Namakwa district of the Northern Cape is still experiencing drought. Most of the Western Cape and Sarah Baartman district of the Eastern Cape are also experiencing below-normal vegetation conditions. The remainder of the country is experiencing mainly above-normal vegetation conditions.

(The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI).

II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

Eastern Cape

The province received normal to above-normal rainfall. Overall, this is a great improvement than last season and it has resulted into favourable conditions for dryland cropping. The better part of the eastern segment of the province reported good crop conditions. While the western segment area reported reasonable conditions of crops, however Nelson Mandela Metro reported poor crop conditions. The conditions of livestock were reported to be good in the eastern part of the province becoming reasonable to poor in the west. Very good livestock conditions were reported in Ndlambe local municipality. Most parts of the province reported reasonable to poor veld condition but good in Amathole District. The condition of pasture was reported to be ranging from reasonable to good throughout the province. Incidences of brown locust are still being reported and controls continue. The average levels of major dams have increased to 75% in 2022, as compared to 54% of 2021.

Free State

Above-normal rainfall was received in most parts of the province. Flooding has been reported in Ficksburg, Harrismith, Bethlehem, Ladybrand, Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Petrus Steyn, Reitz, Koppies, and Heilbron, Bloemfontein, Sheridan, and Fouriesburg and assessments are being undertaken. The veld and livestock are in good condition. Farmers are advised to continue with supplementary feeding and dosing of flocks against internal parasites as well as pulpy kidney. Brown locust was spotted in Jagersfontein and in Trompsburg and controls continue. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (102% in 2022; 88% in 2021).

Gauteng

Normal to above-normal rainfall was received. Grain crop farmers are planting. The hot and wet weather has contributed to the development of some crop diseases such as bacterial soft rot of lettuce and farmers are advised to continue with scouting and put control measures where necessary. The veld and livestock are in reasonable condition. A veld fire incident was reported in Tshwane and assessment of damages is being undertaken. Farms that tested positive for foot and mouth disease in Tshwane remain under quarantine. No new cases have been detected and surveillance continues in the surrounding areas. A new case of African swine fever was detected, and control measures need to be put in place by farmers. In the dog population, there has been an increase in the number of tick bite fever and Parvo virus cases as expected with the warmer climate. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (97% in 2022; 93% in 2021).

KwaZulu-Natal

Above-normal rainfall was received in most parts. Flooding that resulted in damages of roads and bridges has been reported in some parts of the province and assessments are being undertaken. Planting of summer crops has commenced but due to excessive wet weather some farmers have not yet planted but waiting for the land to dry. Last of the winter wheat is being harvested. Planted summer pastures are in good condition whereas fair to good veld conditions continued across the province due to favourable conditions. Livestock condition is variable across the province. Managing livestock numbers according to the available fodder is essential through the spring and into summer. Below average reports of veld fires have been received. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (87% in 2022; 65% in 2021).

Limpopo

The province received normal rainfall. Most farmers have begun planting summer crops such as maize and sorghum. The conditions of livestock are reported to be poor to fair. Farmers are

continually encouraged to supply livestock with supplementary feeds to boost their condition, and further advised to destock older livestock to prevent loss of production. The province still needs some follow-up rains for the grazing to fully recover to be able to support livestock throughout the production period. Veterinary officials are continuing with implementing foot and mouth disease control measures to prevent and combat the disease around Collins Chabane local municipality in Vhembe district. The average level of major dams has increased to 85% in 2022, as compared to 75% of 2021.

Mpumalanga

Normal to above-normal rainfall was received and it led to flooding during the last two weeks of October. Planting of crops continues in all areas while grain farmers have started planting maize and groundnuts as they welcome the planting season with the above-normal rainfall received. Livestock condition ranges from fair to good condition. African swine fever incident was reported in the Victor Khanye municipality and farmers are requested to implement control measures. The average level of major dams has increased to 93% 2022 compared to 75% in 2021.

Northern Cape

NIL REPORT.

North West

Heavy falls were received in Bojanala district where water logging occurred. The Paardekraal dam wall collapsed in the Rustenburg area due to the heavy fall received in early November and relevant authorities are attending to the matter. The grazing and veld conditions have improved especially where grazing was burnt. Livestock conditions are fair to good. There were veld fires in Kagisano Molopo, the Greater Taung, Ratlou, Tswaing and in Bojanala district and assessments are underway. Foot and mouth disease remains under control and there are no new cases. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to previous year (79% in 2022; 69% in 2021).

Western Cape

Below-normal rainfall was received. Average temperatures were normal, with the night temperatures slightly higher than normal. Harvesting of winter grain crops has started in Swartland and southern Cape. Quality and yields are expected to vary between average to above-average. Crop failures were experienced in some areas due to low rainfall. Veld and planted pasture conditions remain poor due to the low rainfall. Livestock is in a reasonable condition as farmers provide supplementary fodder. Cases of avian influenza and sheep scab were reported. Incidents of brown locust swarms were reported, controlled and monitored in the Central Karoo and West Coast districts. Average level of storage dams has decreased to 64% of full capacity, compared to 80% in 2021.

Information on level of dams is obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation

Available: <https://www.dwa.gov.za/Hydrology/Weekly/Province.aspx>

Dam levels as at 2022/11/28

III. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets

According to ABSA Class A carcass prices have moved in a band of R60.00 per kg and R61.00 per kg since mid-September. This is attributed to lack of notable price movement to soft demand and constrained supply. In the first week of November, lamb prices breached R90.00 per kg for the first time since mid-September, whilst mutton prices traded lower by 2.4%. The increase in the price of lamb could be attributed to an uptick in pre-festive season demand. Pork prices increased by double

digits over the past month due to lower supply and persisting high input costs. Year-on-year prices of porkers increased by 23.1% whilst porker prices increased by 26.4% over the corresponding period, Local poultry prices continue to remain firm on the back of strong global prices and a weak rand. Firm demand for affordable meat protein options is providing further price support.

Producer prices for selected livestock commodities	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Poultry
Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds (R/kg)	60.4	-	35.75	33.67
Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)	48.6	68.64	35.25	33.12
Contract: A2/A3* / IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)	60.97	90.30		31.25
Import parity price (R/kg)	-	-	-	
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)	37.20	42.2	-	

ABSA: 2022/11/16

Major grain commodities

Local maize prices improved by 1% for the week ending November 25 on the back of the appreciation of the rand. SAFEX wheat prices traded sideways 8.4% month on month following global price decreases. Wheat prices are expected to continue trading at the current highs supported by poor production prospects for the US winter wheat and continued dry conditions in Argentina. Local soybean prices decreased by 1.3% for the week ending November 25 supported by the firmer rand against the dollar while sunflower seed prices fell by 2.4%.

Commodity	Future Prices (2022/11/29) R/ton				
	Dec-22	Mar-23	May-23	Jul-23	Sep-23
White maize	5 351.00	5 281.00	4 754.00	4 594.00	4 700.00
Yellow maize	5 109.00	5 121.00	4 590.00	4 515.00	4 595.00
Wheat	6 666.00	6 806.00	6 873.00	6 945.00	6 929.00
Sunflower	11 285.00	10 886.00	10 038.00	10 184.00	n/a
Soybeans	10 399.00	10 275.00	8 901.00	8 979.00	9 103.00

SAGIS: 2022/12/01

IV. SADC REGION

The October Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to become more widespread in areas of southern Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as areas of Angola, and much of Zimbabwe, due to compounding impacts of poor 2021/22 rainfall, tropical cyclones, and domestic economic declines starting in October. Food security outcomes are expected to be most severe in southwestern Madagascar, where Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are likely also starting in October. The population in need is likely to steadily increase through early 2023. Conflict in DRC and northern Mozambique remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity with the disruption to livelihood activities. In Mozambique, Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces experienced an escalation of militia attacks in September. According to IOM [the International Organization for Migration], more than 15,400 people were displaced between late August and late September. In DRC, the security situation in the eastern provinces continues to deteriorate, especially in Ituri Province. Households in conflict-affected areas continue experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes and face difficulty engaging in the upcoming agricultural season.

FEWS NET further reported that across the region, poor households are engaging in off-season income-earning activities. While opportunities are currently limited, they are expected to improve to near-normal levels in October as land preparation starts in most areas. The period from November through December will likely see further improvements in agricultural activities, including planting. La Nina conditions predicted are typically associated with average to above-average rainfall in Southern Africa. They will likely improve the availability of agricultural labor opportunities in much of the region. However, in areas like southern Madagascar, income from agricultural labor opportunities will remain lower than typical as better-off households have lower liquidity following consecutive droughts. Food prices are increasing as more households rely on markets for food, especially in areas where production deficits were observed in 2022. This year, price increases are accelerated by high fuel prices linked to high global prices. Prices of maize grain are 70 to 180 percent above the five-year average in Malawi and up to 42 percent higher than the average in Mozambique. In DRC and Zimbabwe, food prices are expected to remain above the five-year average throughout the lean season. In Madagascar's southern drought-affected areas, dried cassava prices are 67 percent higher than average. In most countries, inflation has also been increasing, likely triggering more price increases for food. Poor households in most deficit areas will continue struggling to access food commodities on the market due to weak purchasing power.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardized tools that aims at providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.]

Source: <http://www.fews.net/southern-africa>

Summary of the reports

Summer crop farmers have planted following rain received; however other areas were delayed due to excessive water in the fields due to flooding in a number of provinces. The veld and livestock conditions range from reasonable to poor. There were incidents of veld fires in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and North West provinces. Foot and mouth disease continues to be monitored and no new outbreaks have been reported. Brown locust also continues to be controlled in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Northern Cape and Western Cape provinces. The average level of major dams has increased in all provinces except the Western Cape where it has decreased.

V. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

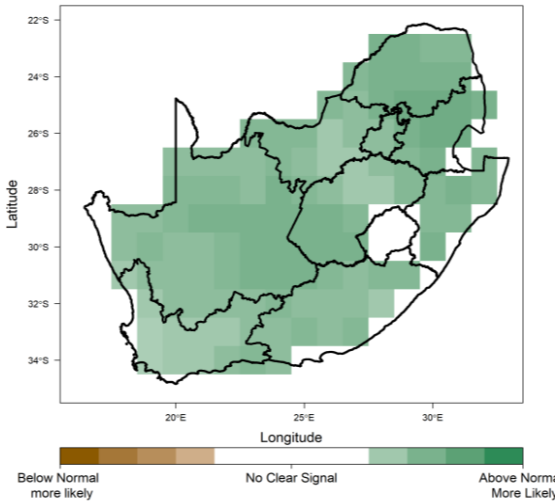
Seasonal Climate Watch: December 2022 to April 2023

State of Climate Drivers

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state, and forecasts indicate that it will likely remain in this state during the remainder of the 2022/23 summer season. The presence of a La Niña event usually has its strongest impact on rainfall during the mid-summer months. With the continued persistence of the La Niña event, there is a high chance that it will have its usual effect on South Africa, which is generally for above-normal rainfall and below-normal temperatures over the summer rainfall areas.

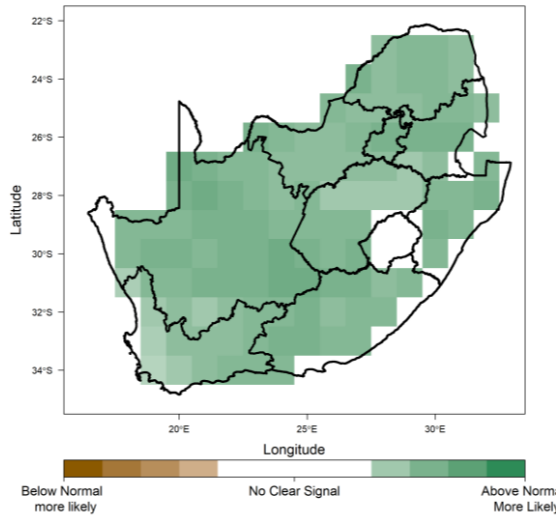
Figure 1 – Rainfall

Expected Precipitation Conditions for DJF 2022/23
Issued: Nov 2022



The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates above-normal rainfall for most parts of the country for all predicted seasons.

Expected Precipitation Conditions for JFM 2023
Issued: Nov 2022



Expected Precipitation Conditions for FMA 2023
Issued: Nov 2022

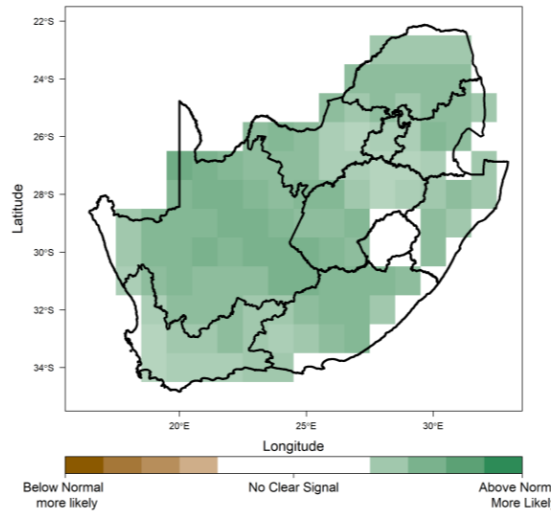
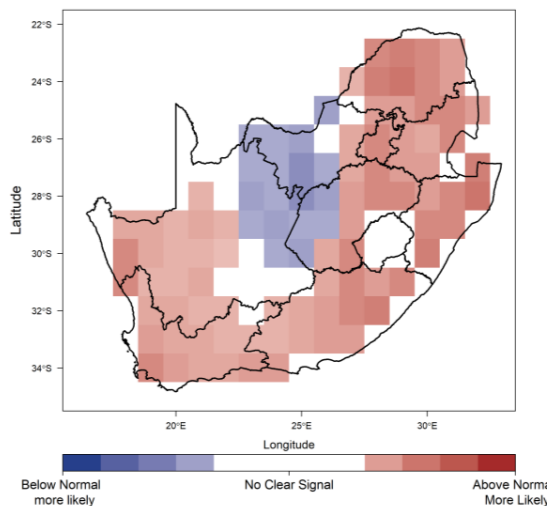


Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures

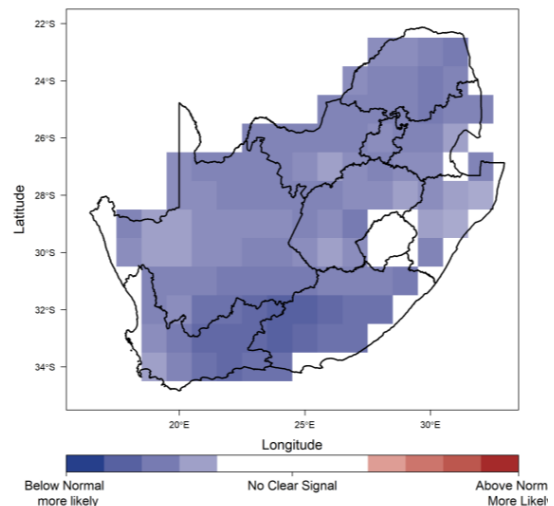
Minimum

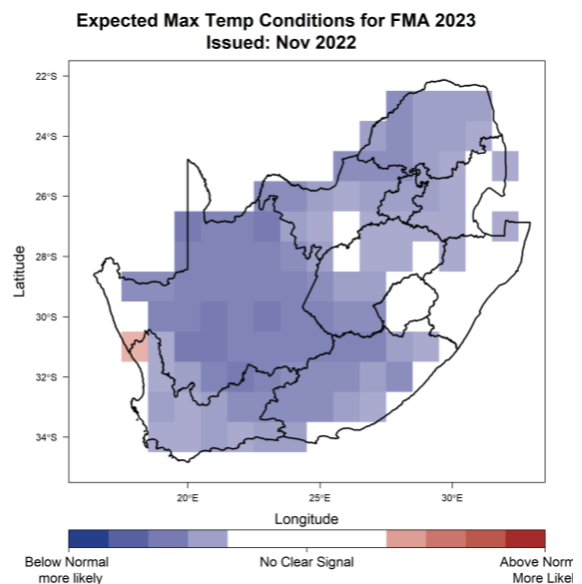
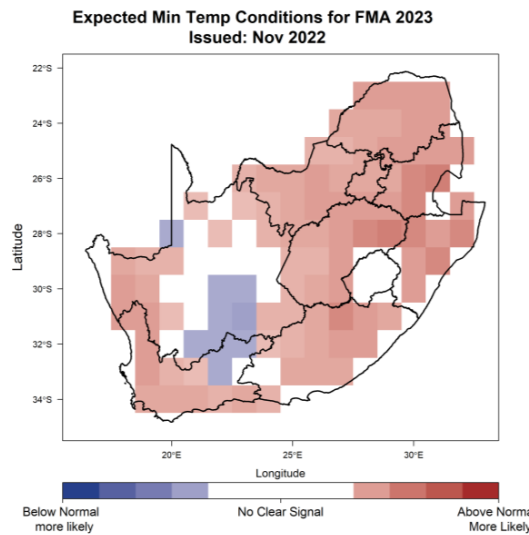
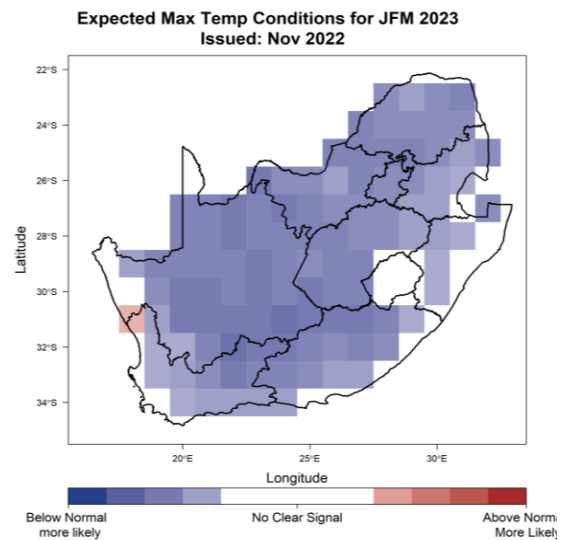
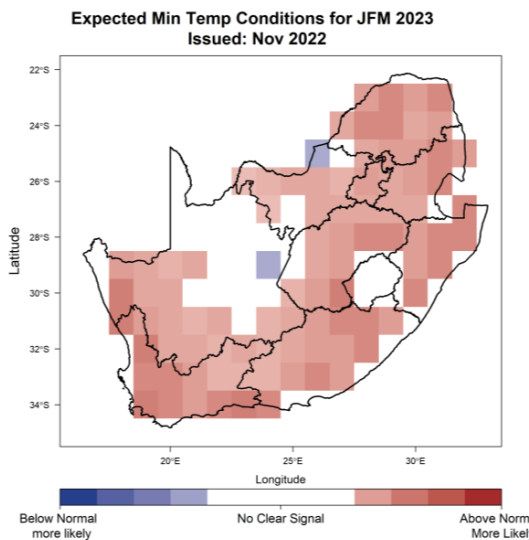
Expected Min Temp Conditions for DJF 2022/23
Issued: Nov 2022



Maximum

Expected Max Temp Conditions for DJF 2022/23
Issued: Nov 2022





Minimum temperatures are still expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide, however, maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal over most of the country during all predicted seasons.

In summary, above-normal rainfall is anticipated for the remainder of the summer season. Minimum temperatures are expected to be above-normal but the maximums are likely to be below-normal. Farmers are encouraged to continually check updates i.e. seasonal forecasts and utilize 7-day weather forecasts for short term planning.

With the above forecast in mind, the following strategies are recommended:

VI. SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

A. Rain-fed crop production

Soil choice:

- Choose suitable soil type.
 - ✓ Suitable soil and land use management practices that would control wind and water erosion in cultivated lands are suggested.
- Roughen the soil surface to enhance rain water penetration and reduce runoff.
- Minimise compaction by reducing the passing of heavy machinery in the field.

Land preparation:

- Avoid where possible soils with pronounced plough pans.
- For sequestration of atmospheric carbon in the soil, for increased biological activity, and to better conservation of water, zero or minimum tillage is advised where possible.
- Do not expand land under crop production unnecessarily.
- Prioritise fallow land.

Crop choice and planting:

- Choose short season, locally adapted cultivars as a precautionary measure.
- Provide flexibility and diversification.
- Stick to normal planting dates if appropriate and follow the weather and climate forecast regularly.
- Consider staggered planting-spreading over weeks.
- Do not experiment with new and unknown cultivars and also avoid unnecessary capital investments.
- Always practice crop rotation.
- Consider intercropping for improved soil structure and pest/diseases control.
- Planting in a controlled environment (e.g. green house) is advisable where possible.

Crop management:

- Adjust planting density accordingly.
- Consider mulching to minimise evaporation.
- Control weeds regularly.
- Consider a conservative fertilizing strategy during dry conditions.
- Consider organic fertilization.
- Scout for pests and diseases regularly and control where necessary.
- Wheat: The strategy proposed is to scout the plants regularly, correctly identify any pests or diseases and make informed decisions regarding reaction.

B. Irrigation farming

- Remove all weeds containing seeds, but keep other vegetative rests on the land because that will reduce evaporation.
- Check and repair all tools and machinery especially where there are water leaks.
- Be aware of the state of regional water resources and whether it will be adequate for irrigation.
- Timing of irrigation - rather late afternoon or early evening to reduce evaporation.

- Manage irrigation so that the plant receives water only when needed.
- Consider using drip irrigation as it saves water by allowing it to drip slowly straight to the roots.
- Avoid over irrigation because that can create problems e.g. water logging and diseases.
- Adhere to water restrictions when issued.

C. Domestic and home garden water use

- Conserve existing water supplies.
- Eradicate water weeds.
- Limit water waste and losses.
- Repair leaking pipes.
- Re-use water and retain high quality.
- Harvest water during rainy days.

D. Stock farming

- Keep stocking rates conservative and even lower to protect grazing.
- Never exceed carrying capacity of plant associations.
- Provide lots of drinking points where possible.
- Provide additional fodder and enhance nutritional value of dry grazing/feed with licks:
 - Phosphorous deficiency is a major problem.
 - Licks should (in most cases) provide:
 - Phosphorous.
 - Urea (to help with the break-down of dry vegetation).
 - Salt.
 - Molasses.
- Deficiencies differ according to vegetation composition/soil properties/climate.
- Analysis of vegetation/soil samples can benefit the decision for supplement composition.
- Sell mature, marketable animals (to help prevent overstocking/ overgrazing).
- If grazing is in danger, herd animals into pens where different animals can be segregated and fed separately.

E. Grazing

- Subdivide your grazing area into camps of homogeneous units (in terms of species composition, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature, soil and other factors) to minimise area selective grazing as well as to provide for the application of animal management and veld management practises such as resting and burning.
- Determine the carrying capacity of different plant associations.
- Calculate the stocking rate of each, and then decide the best ratios of large and small animals, and of grazers or browsers.
- Provide periodic full growing-season rests (in certain grazing areas) to allow veld vigour recovery in order to maintain veld productivity at a high level as well as to maintain the vigour of the preferred species.
- Do not overstock at any time to avoid overgrazing.
- Eradicate invader plants.
- Periodically reassess the grazing and feed available for the next few months, and start planning in advance.

- Spread water points evenly.

F. Pests and diseases

Crops

- Fruit crop farmers should regularly scout for pests and diseases and contact the local agricultural office for advice on best control measures. Farmers should further implement phytosanitary measures.

Livestock

- Follow the vaccine routine and consult with the local veterinarian.

G. Veld fires

Provinces and farmers are advised to maintain firebreaks in all areas. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):

- It has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
- It does not cause soil erosion and
- It is reasonably free of flammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
- Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
- Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
- Firebreaks must be located in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
- Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.

Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:

- Mineral earth firebreak:
 - Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement.
- Use of herbicides.
- Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimise fuel.
- Strategic placement of burned areas,
 - Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
- Plant fire resistant plants.
- Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

Maintaining firebreaks:

- Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
- Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
- Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed must be stabilized i.e.
 - Sow grass.

- Mulch.

What to do when conditions favorable for veld fire are forecast:

- Prohibit fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
- To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
- Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.

What to do during a veld fire:

- Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
- Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

H. Flooding

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or the dams, water flows out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:

- Construction of proper drainage systems. Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
- Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.
- Water pumps in rivers likely to be affected should be lifted from the river banks when a warning for heavy rain has been issued.

What to do when flooding is forecasted:

Avoid:

- Cutting grass in the rainy season as this can result in nutrient depletion.
- Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying Nitrogen fertilizer as this can burn plants. Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burnt and die.
- Irrigation, this can result in waterlogging leading to nutrient depletion.

Other measures to implement:

- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones can die easily).
- Leave cultivated areas coarse.
- Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.

- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining.

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soil and rocks by the action of natural forces, for example, water and wind. The loose and dissolved materials move from one location to another. Erosion therefore may reduce agricultural production potential.

Preventative measures for erosion:

- Do not burn vegetation.
- Keep vegetation cover – e.g. shrubs, grass, small trees; a cover crop may be used to increase organic material and increase soil structure.
- Plant permanent vegetation e.g. perennial grasses where possible.
- Maintain any remaining vegetative cover, e.g. maize stubble during winter wheat sowing, as it acts as a blanket, traps eroded particles and reduces the wind speed at ground level.
- Plant evergreen trees growing densely and perpendicular to the typical wind direction during winter and spring as wind breaks.
- Increase water infiltration by correct management of soil e.g. reduce frequency of plough and use minimum tillage.
- Mulch: to increase infiltration, reduce evaporation, and reduce raindrop impact as well as wind erosion.
- Construct retaining walls around gardens.
- Avoid soil compaction by roughening the soil surface,
 - Furrows and tillage ridges can trap loose soil.
- Farm along contours as this reduces slope lengths.
- Prevent overgrazing.
- Practice conservation farming
 - Maximize retention of crop residues.

I. Heat stress – bad for productivity

- Signs of heat stress:
Bunching in shade, high respiratory rates, open mouth breathing.
- What to do:
 - Offer shade.
 - Offer water- keep good quality water in front of animals.
 - Wet with sprinklers/fire hose.
 - Water ground.
 - Avoid overworking animals.
 - Control insects. Biting insects, such as flies can further stress livestock and interrupt their cooling. If pastures or buildings draw insects to livestock during times of extreme heat, provide proper insecticides or considering relocating your livestock.

Poultry

- Provide cool, clean, quality drinking water to your poultry. Water will help keep your birds cool.
- Always make sure your poultry is in a well-ventilated area in which there is nothing to obstruct the airflow.
- Provide feed during the coolest part of the day.
- Supplement drinking water with electrolytes.
- Reduce the number of birds kept in a house or in an area.
- Avoid excessive activity during the hottest part of the day.

J. Severe thunderstorms/flash floods

Building resilience:

- Identify resources/facilities within 50 km that can be utilized and can be of help during emergencies.
- Be sure to have legal and adequate markings to identify your livestock.
- Stay well informed about livestock in your possession and conduct an inventory after the event.
- Monitor television and local radio stations for information regarding severe storms/flash floods in your region.
- Identify natural or built areas/shelters where animals can be kept during such conditions
 - Sufficient height to be above water level,
 - Sheltered from strong winds and wetness,
- Restrict access to high-risk areas such as low lying fields close to streams.
- Store food in safe areas sheltered from wetness to be used after storms/flash floods.
- Keep pesticides and other chemicals in areas where water will not be contaminated during extreme rainfall/storm events.
- Inspect/repair farm dams before rainy season, and after each event.

Copious rainfall has been received in many of the summer rainfall areas. This was coupled with flooding that resulted in waterlogging on some farms which delayed planting in several areas. However, the majority of summer crop farmers have planted. The veld and livestock are in reasonable condition in most areas. Above-normal rainfall is expected for the remainder of the 2022/23 summer season in most areas. Maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal.

In areas that have yet to receive good rains, dryland farmers are advised to wait for sufficient moisture before planting and remain within the planting window. Areas that have been constantly experiencing dry conditions should prioritise drought tolerant cultivars. In regions that are in reasonable condition, farmers are advised to prepare in line with the expected conditions i.e. in line with the seasonal forecast. However they should not expand planting land unnecessarily. In addition farmers should note that rainfall distribution remains a challenge, therefore not all areas might receive the anticipated above-normal rainfall that is well distributed. Farmers are also advised to put measures in place for pests and diseases associated with wet and hot conditions as above-normal rainfall is anticipated. Moreover, it is important for farmers to follow the weather forecast regularly so as to make informed decisions. Farmers using irrigation should comply with water restrictions in their areas. Farmers must continually conserve resources in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983, (Act No. 43 of 1983).

Farmers are advised to keep livestock in balance with carrying capacity of the veld, and provide additional feed such as relevant licks. Livestock should be provided with enough water points on the farm as well as shelter during bad weather conditions. Winter rainfall areas are drying out, increasing favourable conditions for veld fires. Therefore the creation and maintenance of fire belts through mechanical means should be prioritized as well as adherence to veld fire warnings. Episodes of flooding resulting from rain bearing weather systems have occurred and will continue; precautionary measures should be in place. Heat waves have been reported and will occur and therefore measures to combat these should be in place. Farmers are encouraged to implement strategies provided in the early warning information issued.

The users are urged to continuously monitor, evaluate, report and attend to current Disaster Risk Reduction issues. It is very important and mandatory for farming communities to always implement disaster risk measures and maintain good farming practices.

The climate advisory should be disseminated widely. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory. Information sharing groups are encouraged especially among farming communities for sustainable development. In general, effective communication among all stakeholders in the sector will enhance effective implementation of risk reduction measures/early warning services. It is the responsibility of farmers to implement disaster risk measures.

The Disaster Management Act 2002, (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information. The current advisory can be accessed from the following websites: <https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/>.

For more information contact:-

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