

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

02 November 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

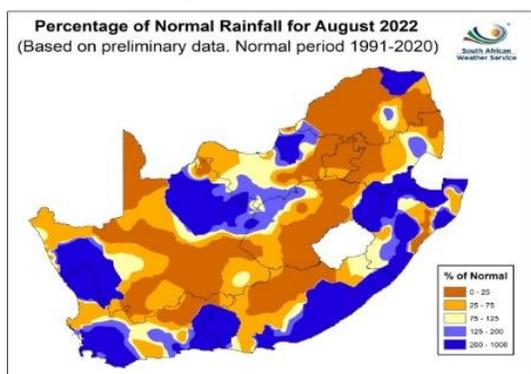


Figure 2

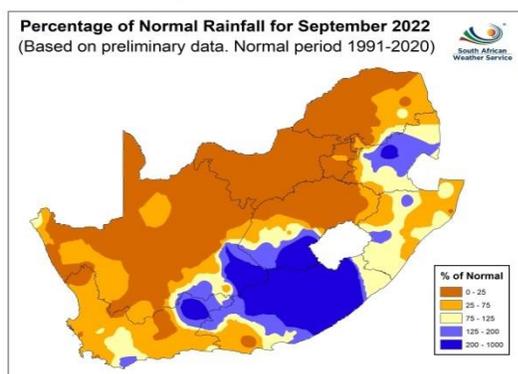


Figure 3

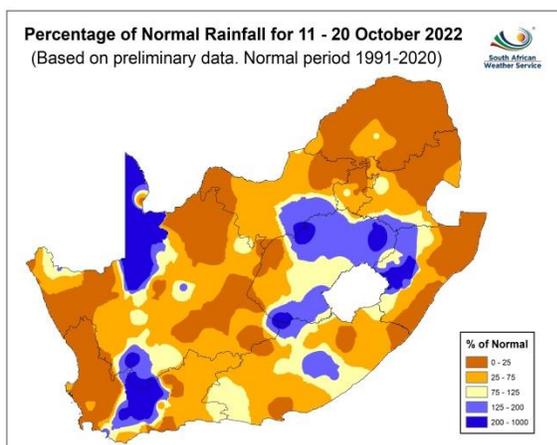
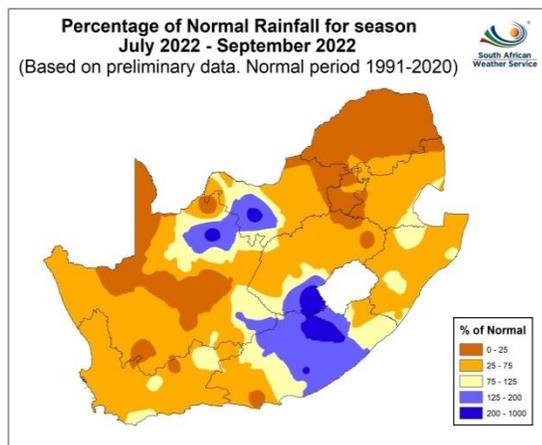
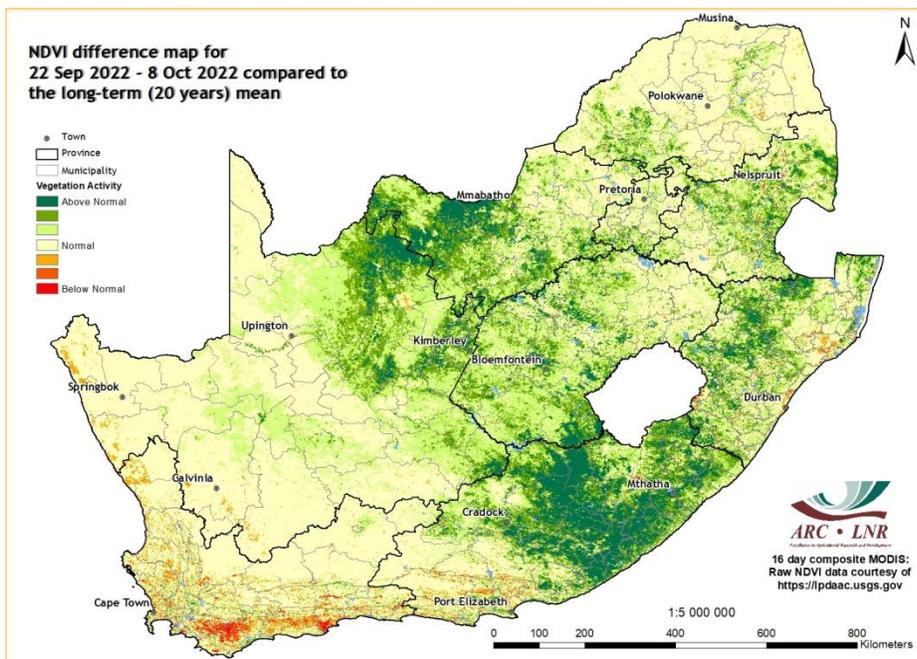


Figure 4



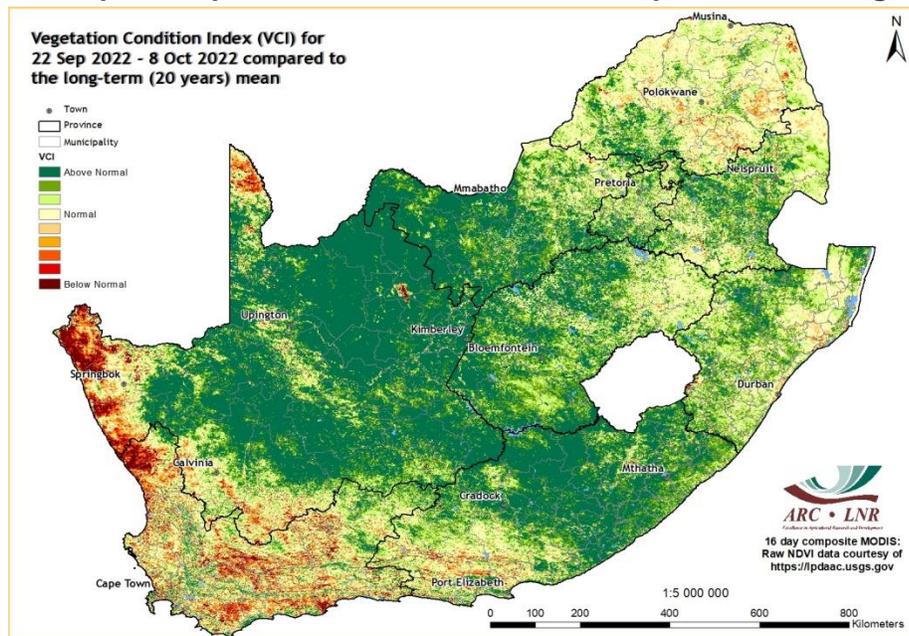
Above-normal rainfall was scattered across the country in August especially in the coastal provinces (**Figure 1**). The remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall. September received above-normal rainfall in the south-eastern parts of the country and Mpumalanga (**Figure 2**). Below-normal rainfall dominated elsewhere. Patches of above-normal rainfall fell in parts of the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Free State in mid-October (**Figure 3**). However, the remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall. For the season July to September above-normal rainfall was received in parts of John Taolo Gaetsewe district of the Northern Cape, the western parts of North West and over the Eastern Cape (**Figure 4**). Remaining regions of the country received below-normal rainfall.

NDVI map: 22 September – 08 October 2022 compared to the long-term mean



The 16-day NDVI difference map compared to the long-term mean, shows that most parts of the country continue to experience normal to above-normal vegetation activity while below-normal activity prevails in the far western and south-western parts of the country.

VCI map: 22 September – 08 October 2022 compared to the long-term mean



Compared to the long term mean, the 16-day VCI map shows that the western parts of the Northern Cape, most of the Western Cape and Sarah Baartman district of the Eastern Cape continue to experience poor vegetation conditions. Above normal vegetation conditions are visible in other regions of the country. (The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI).

II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER

Eastern Cape

The province received normal to below-normal rainfall. Most of dryland farming areas reported reasonable to good cropping conditions however excessive rains especially along the coastal areas have affected the quality of maize. Kouga local municipality and Great Kei municipality reported poor conditions of pastures while the western and mid-provincial municipalities reported reasonable pastures. Veld conditions are in good condition in Amathole district but poor to reasonable in the western side of the province. Livestock conditions range from very good to good but reasonable to poor in Sarah Baartman district. Incidences of brown locust swarms were reported and are being controlled. The average level of major dams has increased to 74% in 2022, as compared to 51% of 2021.

Free State

Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Land preparation for summer crops has started especially in the northern and eastern parts of the province as a result of recent rain. The veld has started to regrow due to first rains and livestock condition is fair. Winter pastures are in excellent condition especially those that are under irrigation. Veld fires have been reported in Ficksburg, Harrismith, Bethlehem, Ladybrand, Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Petrus Steyn, Reitz, Koppies, and Heilbron and assessment of damages are being conducted. There were reports of foot and mouth disease on a farm in Viljoenskroon and in another farm in Marquard. The veterinary service is monitoring these farms through quarantine process. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (94% in 2022; 89% in 2021).

Gauteng

Below-normal rainfall was received although flash flooding occurred in Alberton during mid-October as a result of rain that fell at that time. Grain farmers have completed land preparation for the planting season and have begun planting. The veld and livestock are in poor to reasonable condition and are expected to improve as the rainfall season continues. There were veld fires in the Bronkhorstspuit area and assessment of damages is being conducted. 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

Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. UMkhanyakude in the Big 5 Hlabisa and Mathuba local municipalities are experiencing mild drought. Summer pastures have started growing except along the coastal areas. Regrowth of winter pastures has slowed down due to the end of the season. Land preparations are underway for summer crops. Planted winter crops are in good condition. Veld condition is fair to good. Livestock condition across all sectors remains good across the province. Few veld fire incidents have been reported and damages are being assessed. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (84% in 2022; 66% in 2021).

Limpopo

The province received below-normal rainfall. Farmers under irrigation have harvested vegetables. Crop failure was experienced in Mopani district due to below-normal rainfall. The conditions of grazing areas were mostly poor, except for some areas in Vhembe district where improvement was reported. The condition of livestock is generally poor to reasonable. Farmers are continually encouraged to supply supplementary feed and to destock older livestock to prevent production loss. Cases of foot and mouth disease were reported in Collins Chabane local municipality within Vhembe district. The veterinary service is controlling and placing livestock in quarantine to prevent further

spread. Incidences of veld fires were reported in Waterberg district and Lepelle-Nkumpi local municipality within Capricorn district and assessments of damages are being conducted. The average level of major dams has increased to 82% in 2022, as compared to 76% of 2021.

Mpumalanga

Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Planted crops such as spinach, beetroot, onion and cabbage are in good condition and being harvested. Most farmers are busy with land preparation, and some have already planted maize. The veld is in poor to fair condition following the dry winter. Livestock condition ranges from fair to good but is in poor condition in communal areas. The average level of storage of dams across the province has increased to 89% 2022 compared to 75% in 2021

Northern Cape

NIL REPORT.

North West

Below-normal rainfall was received. Crop farmers are preparing land for planting. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to poor condition. Veld fires were reported in some areas and officials are assessing damages. The average level of major dams is at 70%, the same level as the previous year.

Western Cape

Below-normal rainfall was received across the province during September and temperatures were normal. The harvesting of grains and canola has started. Livestock is in reasonable condition due to farmers providing fodder to livestock in response to the poor condition of the natural grazing and planted pastures. The average storage of dams has decreased to 70% in 2022 compared to 82% 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 2022/10/31

III. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets

According to ABSA, in contrast to global red meat price dynamics, local carcass prices continue to remain firm. This is due to low supply which is because of high input costs and elevated disease risks associated with foot and mouth disease. Local lamb carcass prices have continued a downward trajectory since the start of July. Prices are under pressure because of soft demand and a seasonal increase in supply. Locally, porker prices broke R30.00 per kg in the first week of October since Christmas 2021. Before this, such price highs occurred in mid-2021. These firmer prices are a result of persistently high input costs which have resulted in lower supply. Poultry prices continue to remain firm on the back of strong global prices and a weakening 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)	60.8	-	30.47	33.30
Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)	48.5	74.51	28.74	32.65
Contract: A2/A3* / IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)	61.40	89.37	-	30.15
Import parity price (R/kg)	-	-	-	-
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)	37.60	42.50	-	-

ABSA: 2022/10/10

Major grain commodities

ABSA reported that local maize prices traded above R 5000 per ton and continued trading at these highs. Wheat prices increased by 1.8% supported by the weaker exchange rates and wheat prices are expected to remain above the R 7000 per ton mark. Local soybean price and sunflower prices increased by 7.9% and 7.5%. Local price increases were more noticeable driven by the weaker rand. Soybean prices are anticipated to trade over the R 9000 per ton threshold for the rest of the year.

Commodity	Future Prices (2022/10/25) R/ton				
	Nov-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	May-23	Jul-23
White maize	5 331.00	5 363.00	5 349.00	4 926.00	4 905.00
Yellow maize	5 179.00	5 234.00	5 232.00	4 830.00	4 835.00
Wheat	7 310.00	7 379.00	7 525.00	7 559.00	7 563.00
Sunflower	11 460.00	11 528.00	11 339.00	10 636.00	10 435.00
Soybeans	10 430.00	10 525.00	10 259.00	8 860.00	9 009.00

SAGIS: 2022/10/27

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

Rain has been received in some summer rainfall areas and summer crop farmers are preparing land. The veld is in poor to reasonable condition and is slowly recovering in areas that have received some rain. Livestock is generally in reasonable condition. Cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported in the Free State and Limpopo. Brown locust continues to be controlled in the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. There were veld fires in Gauteng, Limpopo, Free State, North West and KwaZulu-Natal and assessments of damages are being conducted. The average level of major dams has increased in the majority of provinces. Over SADC, 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.

V. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

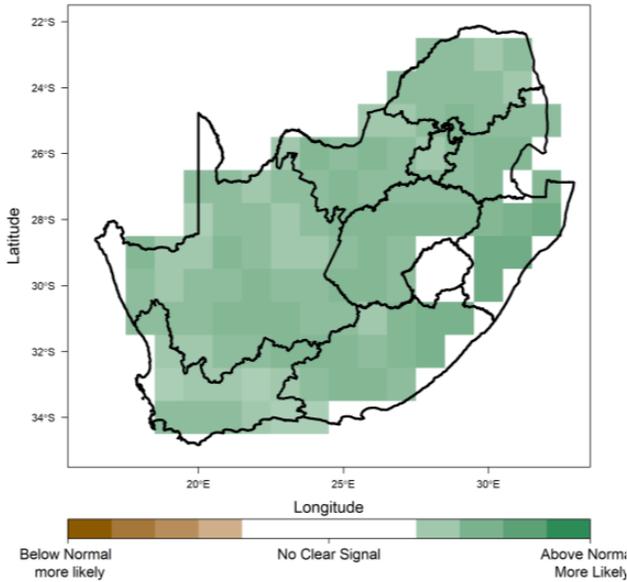
Seasonal Climate Watch: November 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 and early 2023. The presence of a La Niña event usually has its strongest impact on rainfall during the mid-summer months. With the continued strengthening 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.

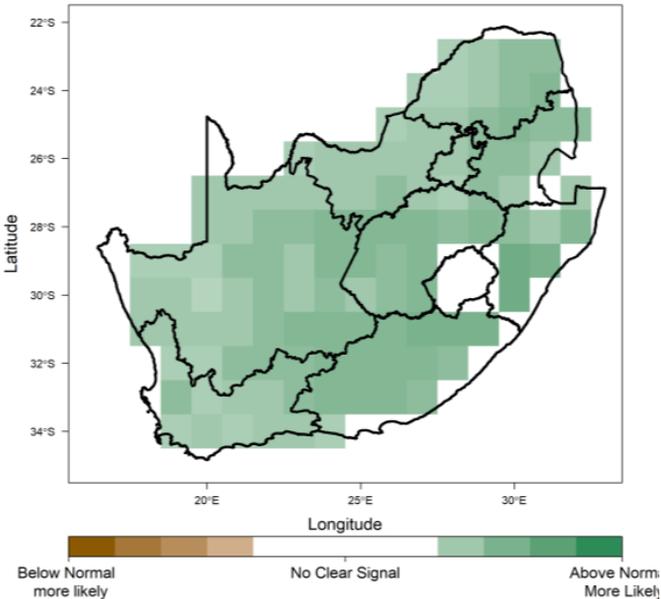
Figure 1 – Rainfall

Expected Precipitation Conditions for NDJ 2022/23
Issued: Oct 2022



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

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



Expected Precipitation Conditions for JFM 2023
Issued: Oct 2022

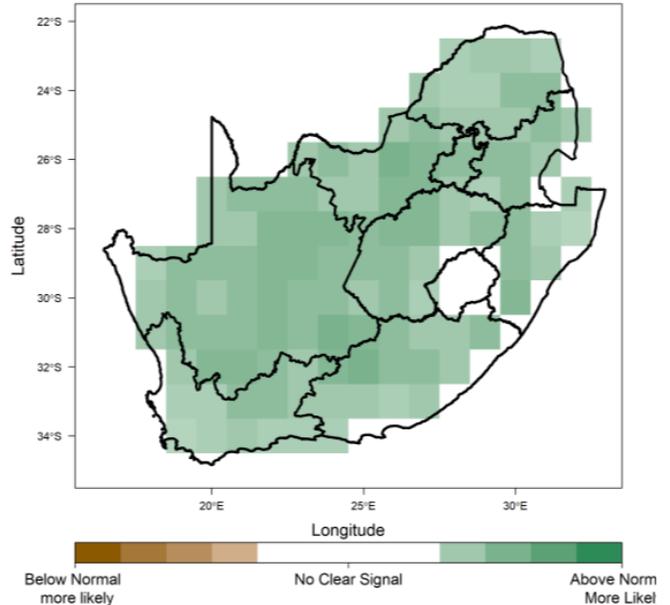
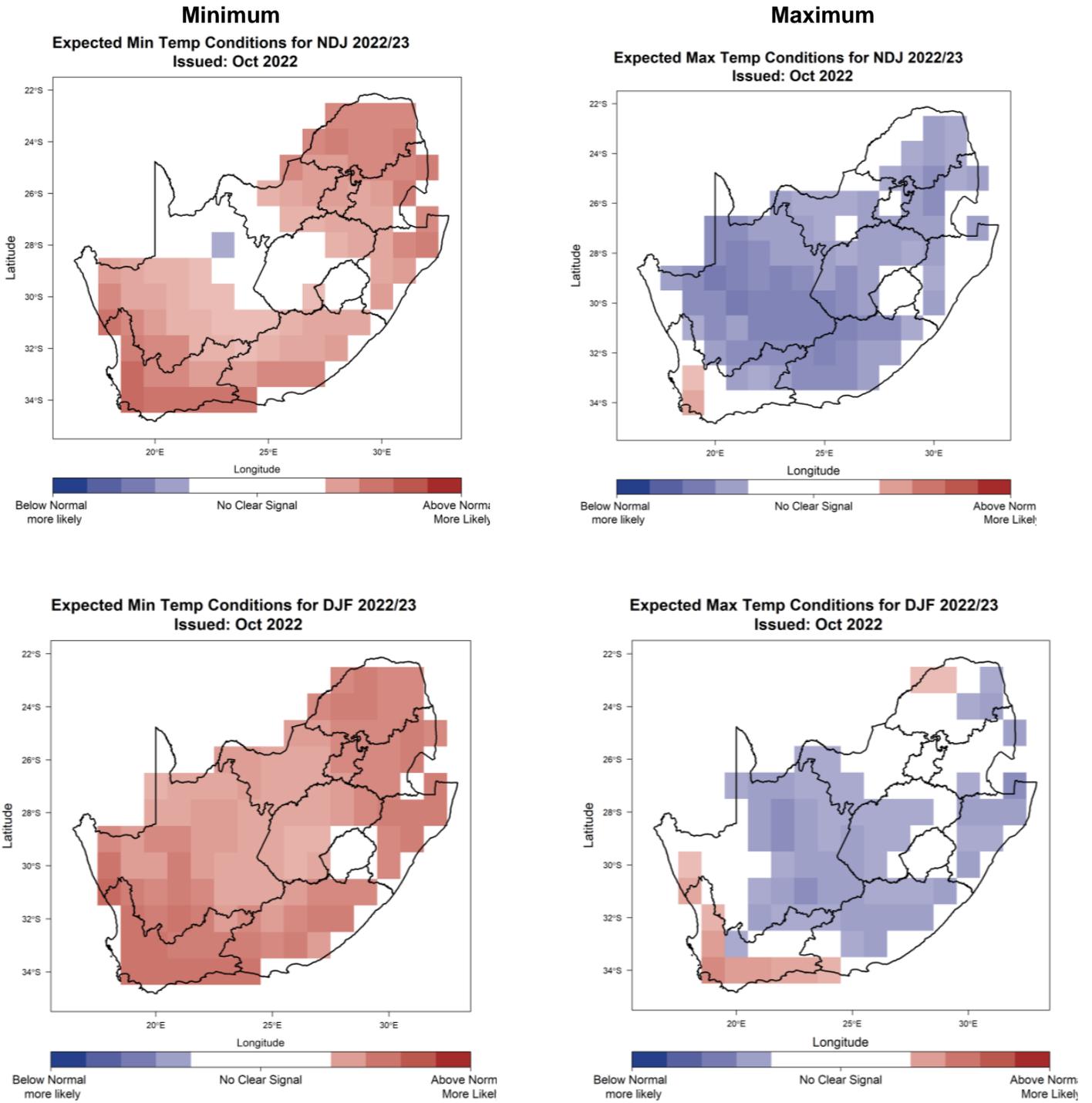
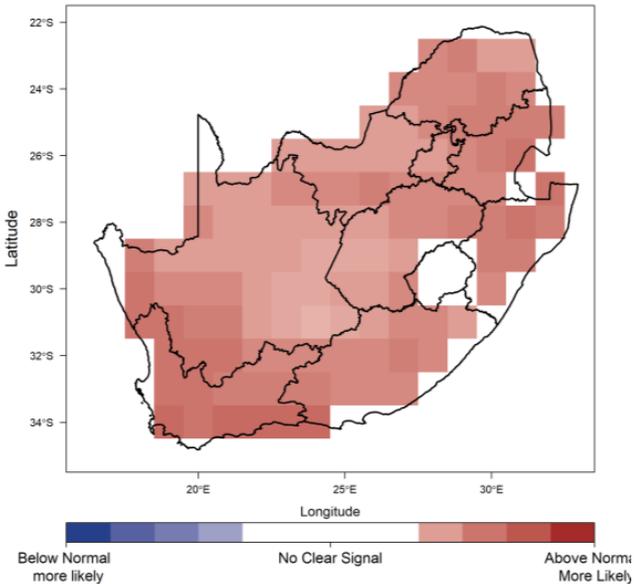


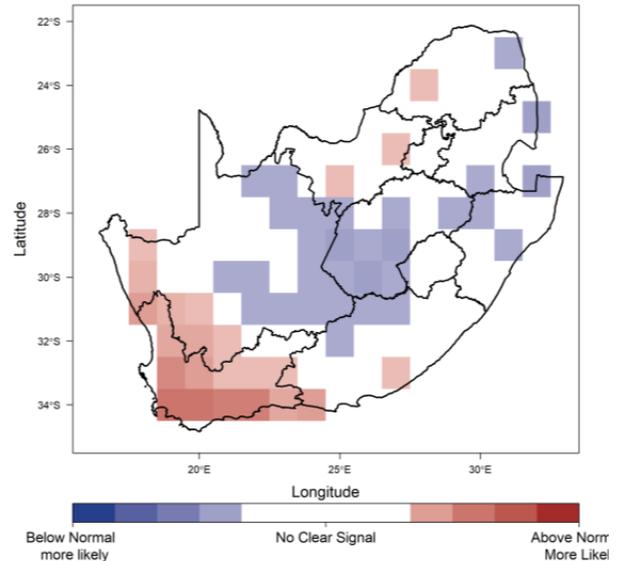
Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures



Expected Min Temp Conditions for JFM 2023
Issued: Oct 2022



Expected Max Temp Conditions for JFM 2023
Issued: Oct 2022



Minimum temperatures are still expected to be above-normal countrywide, however, maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal over large parts of the country during early- (Nov-Dec-Jan), mid- (Dec-Jan-Feb) and late-summer (Jan-Feb-Mar).

In summary, above-normal rainfall is anticipated during the entire summer period. Minimum temperatures are expected to be above-normal while maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal over most parts of the country. 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 were 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.

Summer rainfall areas began receiving some rain mainly towards the latter part of October and farmers are preparing land for planting. The veld and livestock are in reasonable condition in most areas. Above-normal rainfall is expected for summer rainfall areas during the entire forecast period (November 2022 to March 2023). Maximum temperatures are expected to be below-normal over most areas.

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 during summer 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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