

April 8, 2026

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SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE EASTERN CAPE: April to August 2026

1 Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently still in a neutral state; current predictions indicate that it will rapidly move towards an El Niño state within the next few months and continue to strengthen up to spring and the start of the next summer season. Caution is advised, however, as the prediction skill of the ENSO phenomena can be limited during the winter months, and therefore it is highly recommended to keep track of the forecasts during and after winter. During the late autumn and winter seasons, it is only the southern and eastern coastal areas that receive significant rainfall. The south-eastern and eastern coastal areas are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during late autumn with only the eastern coastal areas expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the winter season. The south-western and southern coastal parts are expected to receive below-normal rainfall during the winter season. Minimum and maximum temperatures are largely expected to be above-normal for most parts of South Africa during the autumn and early winter seasons. The SAWS will continue to monitor the weather and climate conditions and provide updates on any future assessments that may provide more clarity on the current expectations for the coming season.

2 Local Overview

2.1 Eastern Cape Dam Levels (Latest weekly data)

Dam data not available at this time at:

<https://www.dws.gov.za/hydrology/Weekly/ProvinceWeek.aspx?region=EC>.

2.2 Winterberg and surrounding areas

Above normal precipitation, but this is a summer rainfall region, hence might see limited impact.

2.3 Gamtoos / Kouga Region / Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

Moving to below-normal rainfall levels which indicate it might be a drier winter. This is not good for the dam levels in this region.

2.4 Gariep Dam / Nooitgedacht System)

Above normal precipitation, but this is a summer rainfall region, hence might see limited impact.

2.5 Klein Karoo (Small Karoo-, Steytlerville/Jansenville and surrounds)

Starting with above-normal rainfall, and then heading into a drier and warmer period over winter. This might be beneficial for the Angora goat farmers.

3 Water and Energy

The anticipated above-normal rainfall conditions are likely to increase dam levels and enhance groundwater recharge, relieving pressure on water-scarce regions in both the south-eastern and eastern coastal areas during late autumn as well as in winter seasons in the eastern coastal areas only. Increased groundwater and runoff feed into the dams and other reservoirs, thereby increasing water levels and storage capacity. Such conditions may overwhelm stormwater and sewage systems, as well as cause flash floods and flooding in areas prone to floods, including low-lying bridges. Below-normal rainfall conditions expected in south-western and southern coastal parts, coupled with largely forecasted above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures for most parts of South Africa during the late autumn and winter seasons, are likely to increase water loss, adding pressure on water-scarce regions. Additionally, minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be above normal countrywide during the forecast period. With the onset of winter, the demand for space heating is expected to increase. Relevant decision-makers are encouraged to note these possible outcomes and communicate with affected businesses and communities accordingly.

4 Health Sector

The forecast indicates that, during late autumn and winter, significant rainfall is expected mainly over the southern and eastern coastal parts of South Africa. Above-normal rainfall is expected over the south-eastern and eastern coastal areas during late autumn, with the eastern coastal areas remaining likely to receive above-normal rainfall during the winter season. These wetter-than-normal conditions may increase the risk of localised flooding, temporary waterlogging, and poor drainage in vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas, particularly in settlements located near rivers, estuaries, and flood-prone zones. Such conditions may elevate the potential for waterborne disease outbreaks, contamination of water sources, and water-related injuries or accidents. In contrast, the south-western and southern coastal regions are expected to receive below-normal rainfall during winter, which may place pressure on local water availability and hygiene conditions in some communities if dry conditions persist. Minimum and maximum temperatures are also expected to be above normal across most parts of the country during autumn and early winter. These warmer-than-usual conditions may increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, especially among vulnerable groups such as older persons, young children, people with chronic illnesses, and those working outdoors. Elevated temperatures may also heighten exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, increasing the likelihood of sunburn, skin damage, and other UV-related health impacts. Communities are therefore encouraged to remain alert to both heat- and rainfall-related health risks by staying hydrated, limiting unnecessary exposure to heat, using sun protection, avoiding flooded areas, and ensuring safe water and sanitation practices. authorities and disaster management structures are advised to strengthen public health messaging and ensure the timely dissemination of heat-health information, flood alerts, and hygiene awareness measures to support preparedness and response.

5 Agriculture Sector

During late autumn and winter seasons, only the southern, south-western, and eastern coastal regions of the country receive significant rainfall. Above-normal rainfall is anticipated in the south-eastern and eastern coastal regions during late autumn, with only the eastern coastal areas expected to experience above-normal precipitation in the winter months. This is likely to bring positive impacts for crop and livestock production. However, the south-western part of the country, which normally receives significant rainfall during the winter season, is expected to receive below-normal rainfall during this period. Therefore, the relevant decision-makers are encouraged to advise farmers in these regions to practice soil and water conservation, proper water harvesting and storage, and other appropriate farming practices.

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

6 Eastern Cape Rainfall Outlook

Expected Precipitation Conditions for AMJ 2026
Issued: Mar 2026

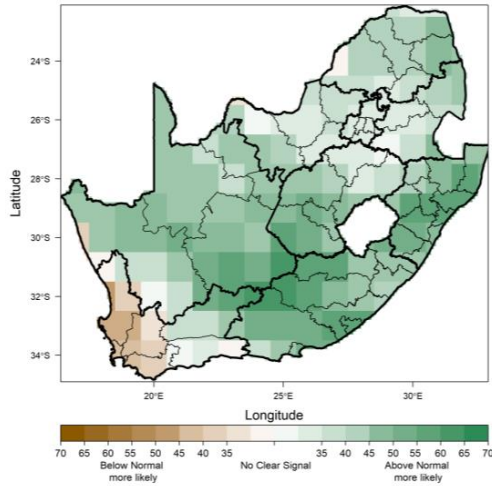


Figure 1: Rainfall for April to June (AMJ)

Rainfall is expected to be above normal with above normal temperatures, with exception of the South Coast that will be below-normal.

Expected Precipitation Conditions for MJJ 2026
Issued: Mar 2026

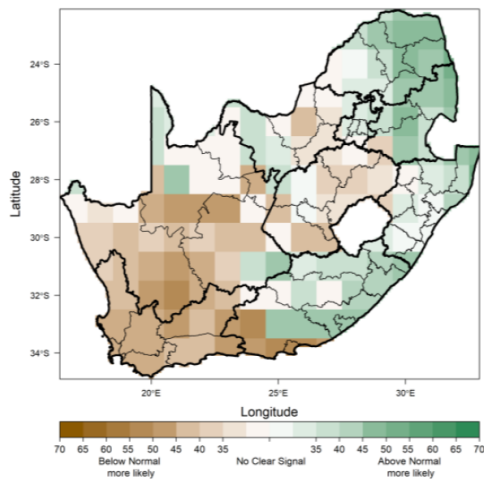


Figure 2: Rainfall for May to July (MJJ)

Rainfall is expected to be above-normal with the South Coast expected to be below-normal. Temperatures are expected to be above-normal.

Expected Precipitation Conditions for JJA 2026
Issued: Mar 2026

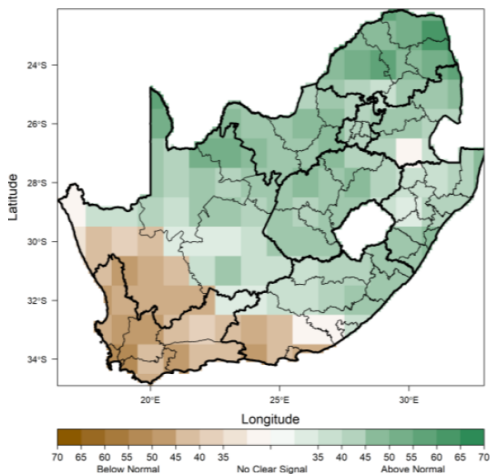


Figure 3: Rainfall for June to August (JJA)

Rainfall is expected to be above-normal with exception of the south-western corner that will be below normal rainfall. Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal.

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

7 Day Temperatures

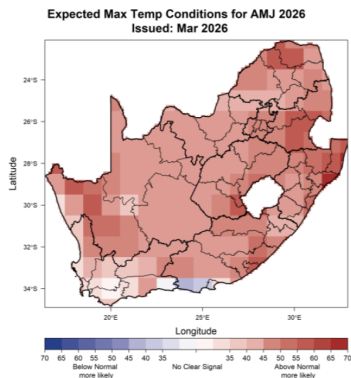


Figure 4
Daytime temperatures for
April to June (AMJ)

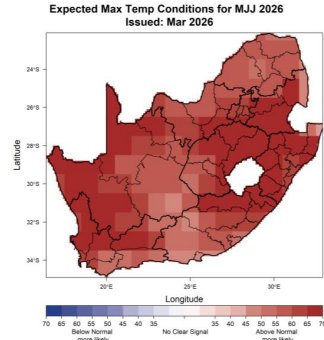


Figure 5
Daytime temperatures for
May to July (MJJ)

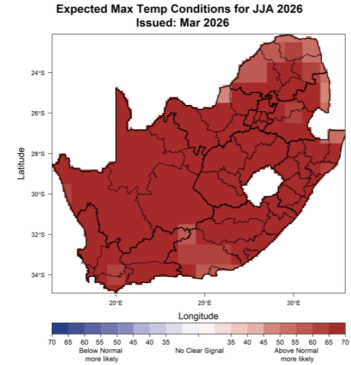


Figure 6
Daytime temperatures for
June to August (JJA)

8 Night Temperatures

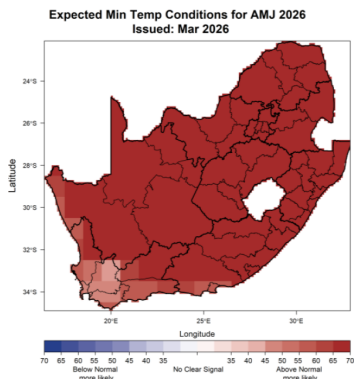


Figure 4
Daytime temperatures for
April to June (AMJ)

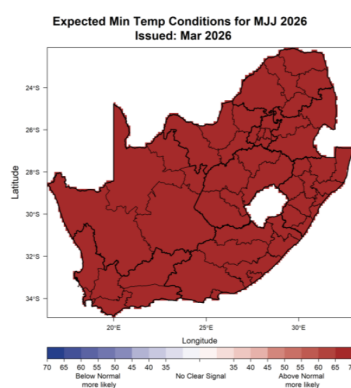


Figure 5
Daytime temperatures for
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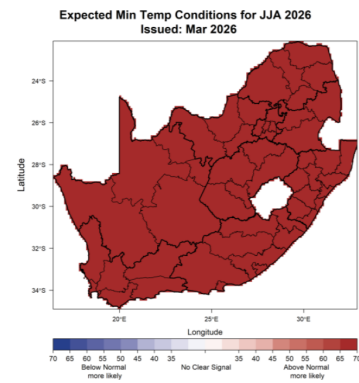


Figure 6
Daytime temperatures for
June to August (JJA)

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