

## Eastern Cape Forecasting Desk

Port Elizabeth Weather Office

**South African Weather Service:**

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### **SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE EASTERN CAPE: June 2024 to October 2024**

## Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently still in a El Niño state (the February-March-April Oceanic Niño Index = 1.1°C) but weakening and predicted to rapidly decline into a neutral state by mid to end winter. As the summer has ended, we expect minimal influence from the current El Niño event that is still in effect.

We are now at the start of the winter season, and as such weather systems occurring during this season are notoriously difficult to predict at a seasonal timescale. These systems typical have the largest impact along the southern to southeastern coastal areas. It is therefore strongly recommended that the short-term weather forecasts of SAWS are routinely consulted in addition to the seasonal forecast.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) multi-model rainfall forecast indicates mostly below-normal rainfall over most of the country during Jun-Jul-Aug (JJA), Jul-Aug-Sep (JAS) and Aug-Sep-Oct (ASO).

Minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period.

## **WATER AND ENERGY**

The anticipated below-normal rainfall coupled with above-normal temperatures across the forecast periods are likely to increase water losses and reduced water storage levels through evapotranspiration and drought, among other factors, particularly in summer rainfall regions and parts of the Northwest, Free State and Limpopo where a number of settlements are experiencing on-going drought.

In addition, maximum temperatures are expected to be above normal across the country. Minimum temperatures are expected to be mostly above normal, with cooler temperatures expected in parts of Northern, Eastern and Eastern Cape, and Free State provinces which may result in increased heating demand during JAS and ASO. Relevant decision-makers are encouraged to take note of these possible outcomes and communicate with affected businesses and communities accordingly.

## Climate information: Seasonal prediction

### WINTERBERG and SURROUNDING AREAS

A drier and hotter winter is expected and water should be used sparingly.

### GAMTOOS / Kouga Region / Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

Parts of this region experienced flooding conditions towards end of May and Beginning of June due to the cut-off low pressure system that developed. This resulted in significant rainfall of 200 to 300 mm over the coastal areas between Cape St Francis to East London.

Unfortunately there was not much inflow into the Kouga river. Given the drier than normal conditions still predicted for the rest of the season, water management will need to be controlled during the hot and drier than normal remainder of the winter period.

### Gariep Dam (Nooitgedacht System)

Below normal rainfall is anticipated over this region which typically does not receive much rainfall over the winter months. Snow melt over the Lesotho mountains will contribute towards water supply to this dam but this depends upon the amount of snow that is received. The dam levels are starting to drop quite rapidly.

### Klein Karoo (Small Karoo- Steytlerville/Jansenville and surrounds)

Models are indicating a strong signal for below normal rainfall for this period. Thus a hot and drier than normal winter is anticipated.

## Health Sector

The predicted above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures across South Africa are likely to result in increased exposure to high solar ultraviolet radiation (UV) and elevated temperatures, which may lead to UV and heat-related illnesses.

Relevant decision-makers are encouraged to advise the public on sun protection measures to mitigate overexposure by staying in the shade, applying sunscreen, and wearing protective clothing, especially during peak UV hours at noon.

Additionally, below-normal rainfall expected in the south-western part may cause health problems related to drier conditions. Communities in these regions are advised to take precautions and follow the advice and recommendations of local authorities.

## Agriculture Sector

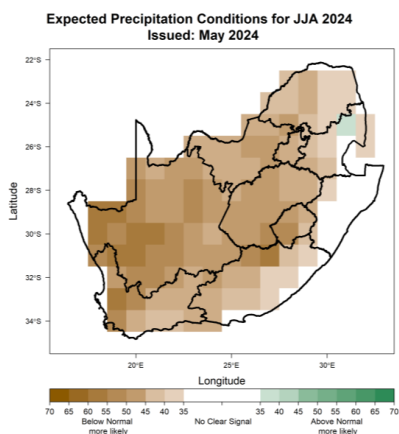
Below-normal rainfall is forecasted for most parts of the country during the winter season. Below-normal rainfall during the winter months over the summer rainfall regions is not likely to be significant. However, the south-western part, which normally receives significant rainfall during the winter season, is expected to receive mostly below-normal rainfall during this period. Below-normal rainfall conditions in these areas are expected to have a significant impact on crop and livestock production.

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.

## Eastern Cape Rainfall outlook

### RAINFALL FORECAST MAPS

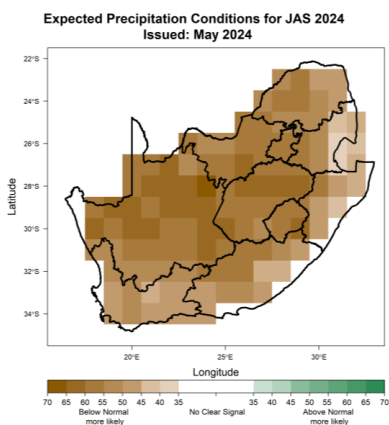
Figure 1: Rainfall (June to August 2024)



The recent cut-off low event will result in a higher than normal rainfall figure for June along the Southern and South Eastern coastal areas. This event was very coastal and did not have a significant impact on our water storage dams.

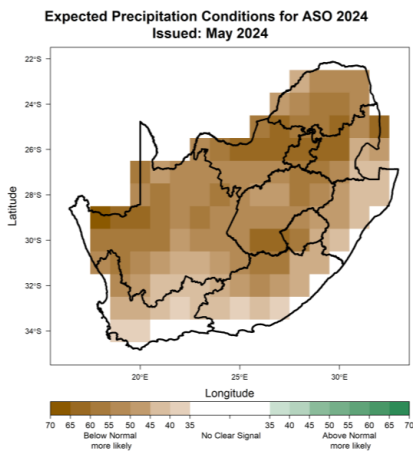
The models, however, still predict drier than normal conditions over the three-month period indicated.

Figure 2: Rainfall (July to September 2024)



Models predict below normal rainfall over the entire region for this period with a strong probability of below normal rain over the Interior.

Figure 3: Rainfall (August to October 2024)



A strong probability of below normal rainfall expected over the entire Country for this period.

## Day & Night Temperatures

The models are indicating warmer night and day time temperatures throughout the period.



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