

Eastern Cape Forecasting Desk

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South African Weather Service:

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28th November 2025

SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE EASTERN CAPE: December 2025 to April 2026

WARNING: Hot and dry conditions are set to move in over most parts of the eastern cape except over Alfred Nzo and surrounding areas where above normal rainfall is expected.

Strict water level monitoring and management protocols will need to be followed over the following regions: - Kou-Kama, Kouga, Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman districts.

Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is still in a neutral state, however, it is closing in on transitioning to a weak La Niña state. Predictions indicate that we are moving towards a weak La Niña event during the coming summer season. Most predictions indicate that there will be a short and weak La Niña State during mid- and late-summer. The usual effect of La Niña on South Africa is for an increased likelihood to receive above-normal rainfall over the northeastern parts of the country during summer.

Most of the areas that receive significant rainfall in the coming summer is situated in the North-East of the country. Most of these areas are expected to receive in above-normal rainfall during the forecast period up until late-summer.

Minimum temperatures are largely expected to be above-normal for most parts of South Africa during summer, with maximum temperatures likely to be below-normal for the northeastern parts of the country and above-normal for the southwest. This increased likelihood of below-normal maximum temperatures indicates prolonged cloud cover and gives extra confidence in an above-normal summer rainfall season.

LOCAL Overview

The western parts of the Eastern Cape are hereby warned that strict water management protocols will need to be followed to manage available water resources given the strong signature for below normal rainfall.

Water resources along the Garden route, Kou-Kama and Kouga are already experiencing challenges regarding water management. If the current forecast remains on track there will be further stress placed on the available water resources in these areas.

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

The extreme eastern parts of the Eastern Cape (Alfred Nzo and surrounding areas) should continue to receive above normal rainfall.

Dam levels generally are quite full, and many smaller dams are overflowing. Some Provincial dam levels as 24th November 2025. Garipe dam is at 99.3%

Dam	River	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Belfort Dam	Mafube River	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bridle Drift Dam	Buffalo River	87.7	88.4	103.2
Darlington Dam	Sondags River	33.4	34.1	45.7
Elands Drift Dam	Great Fish River	54.9	95.5	66.1
Groendal Dam	Swartkops River	50.3	49.6	83.5
Impofu Dam	Krom River	45.6	46.1	58.8
Kromrivier Dam	Krom River	61.3	62.8	100.2
Katrivier Dam	Kat River	97.9	99.1	99.8
Kommandodrift Dam	Tarka River	73.3	74.3	83.8
Kouga Dam	Kouga River	59.7	61.4	100.1
Loerie Dam	Loeriespruit River	78.0	79.6	99.6
Lubisi Dam	Indwe River	37.2	37.0	40.1
Nahoon Dam	Nahoon River	78.7	79.9	99.3
Ncora Dam	Tsomo River	92.6	92.5	100.4
Mthatha Dam	Mtata River	95.8	95.0	101.0
Waterdown Dam	Klipplaat River	96.8	97.6	100.8
Wriggleswade Dam	Kubisi River	98.7	98.8	100.8
Xonxa Dam	White Kei River	96.2	95.9	101.4

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

WATER AND ENERGY

The anticipated above-normal rainfall, particularly in the summer-rainfall regions covering the north-east of the country, are likely to significantly improve surface runoff, which flows into dams and reservoirs, consequently increasing water levels and storage capacity. Such conditions may lead to flash floods or flooding in areas prone to flooding, including low-lying bridges and areas.

Below-normal rainfall conditions, coupled with above-normal temperatures in the southern regions, might impact water supply and availability in both the Eastern and Western Cape, where most settlements are experiencing moderate drought.

Furthermore, minimum temperatures are expected to be mostly above normal across the country. Maximum temperatures are anticipated to be below normal in the north-eastern parts of the country, while above-normal conditions are expected in the south-western parts of the country during the forecast period. An increased demand for cooling is expected in the south-western parts of the country, where temperatures are expected to be above normal. Relevant decision-makers are encouraged to note these possible outcomes and communicate with affected businesses and communities accordingly.

WINTERBERG and SURROUNDING AREAS

Hot and dry conditions will set in over this area from late December through until April 2026.

GAMTOOS / Kouga Region / Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

WARNING: Strict water management over these regions will need to be followed if the forecast remains on track. This area has not received sufficient rainfall to fill up the dams, and the levels are dropping quickly. Hot and dry conditions is forecast for this region leading to high rates of evaporation and increased water demand.

Gariep Dam (Nooitgedacht System)

Although models are favouring drier conditions towards the latter part of summer the dam should remain sufficiently full to feed the Nooitgedacht Scheme

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

Models are now indicating a continued dry spell for this region throughout the period. Strict water management protocols will need to be followed to ensure water supplies do not run dry.

Health Sector

The seasonal forecast indicates a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall across most of the summer rainfall regions during the upcoming summer months. These wetter-than-usual conditions increase the potential for localised and widespread flooding, particularly in areas with inadequate drainage systems, informal settlements situated near rivers or floodplains, and locations with poor soil infiltration. Such flooding may pose immediate health risks, including waterborne infections and water-related injuries or accidents. Above-normal minimum temperatures are anticipated for most of South Africa during the summer, while maximum temperatures are expected to be below normal in the north-eastern regions and above normal in the south-west.

These elevated temperatures may increase vulnerability to heat-related illnesses and heighten the risks associated with prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, such as sunburn, skin damage, and other UV-related health effects. Communities are encouraged to adopt preventive measures such as avoiding flooded areas, ensuring safe water use, staying hydrated, reducing exposure during periods of extreme heat, and using sun protection to minimise UV-related health risks. Authorities and health professionals are advised to intensify risk communication, strengthen public health messaging, and ensure that early warnings, heat alerts, and flood safety information are disseminated promptly to support community-level preparedness and response.

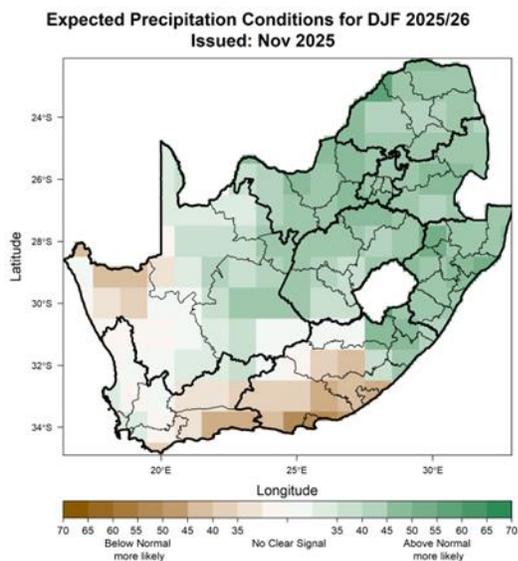
Agriculture Sector

Above-normal rainfall is forecasted for all regions in the country's summer rainfall areas during the summer months, which is expected to have positive impacts on crop and livestock production. However, there is an increased risk of waterlogging that can cause crop damage in areas receiving excessive rainfall. Therefore, the relevant decision-makers are encouraged to advise farmers to practice measures such as soil and water conservation, ensure proper water harvesting and storage, establish good drainage systems, and implement other appropriate farming practices. Farmers should also monitor the increase in pests and diseases and vaccinate their livestock to avoid disease outbreaks due to the wet conditions

Eastern Cape Rainfall outlook

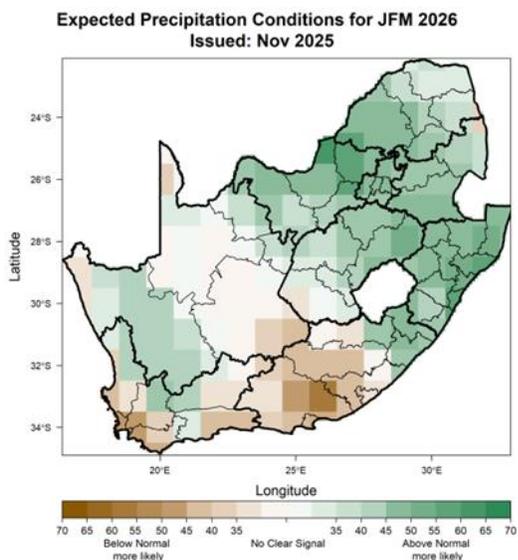
RAINFALL FORECAST MAPS

Figure 1: Rainfall (December 2025 to February 2026)



Drier than normal conditions are now anticipated for most of the Eastern Cape except over the Alfred Nzo and the northern highveld areas where above normal rainfall can still be expected. There is a high probability of below normal rainfall along the Garden route, Nelson Mandela Bay and Klein Karroo areas including the Winterberg.

Figure 2: Rainfall (January to March 2026)

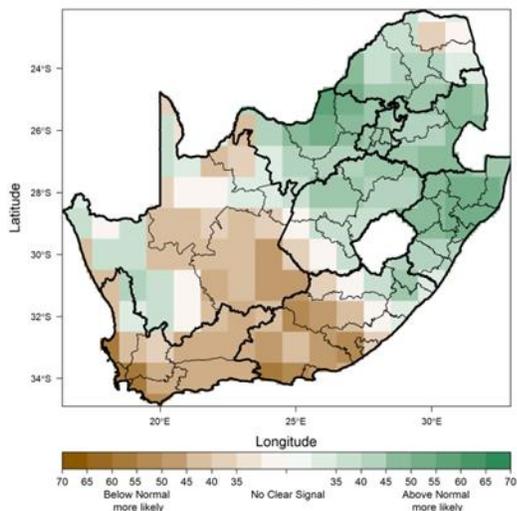


The province will experience hot and drier conditions over most parts except the extreme eastern parts (Alfred Nzo) where above normal rainfall will continue.

Figure 2: Rainfall (February to April 2026)

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

Expected Precipitation Conditions for FMA 2026
Issued: Nov 2025

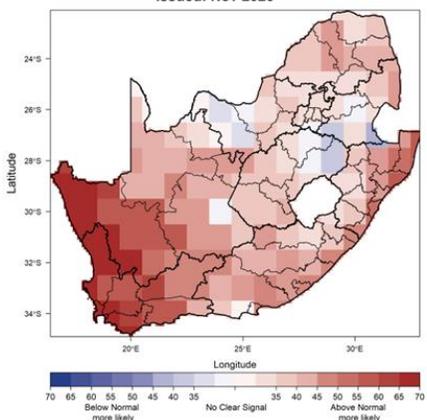


There is a strong signature for below normal rainfall for most parts of the Eastern Cape, except in the extreme east where above normal rainfall continues.

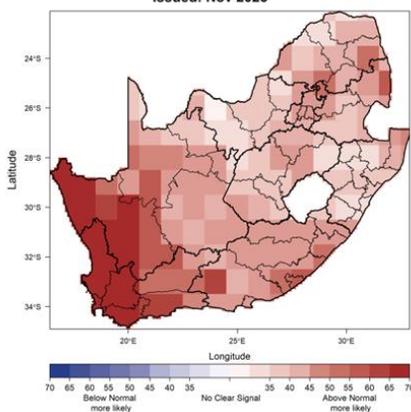
Day & Night Temperatures

Day time temperatures

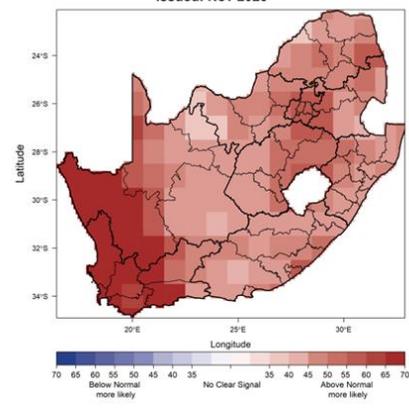
Expected Min Temp Conditions for DJF 2025/26
Issued: Nov 2025



Expected Min Temp Conditions for JFM 2026
Issued: Nov 2025

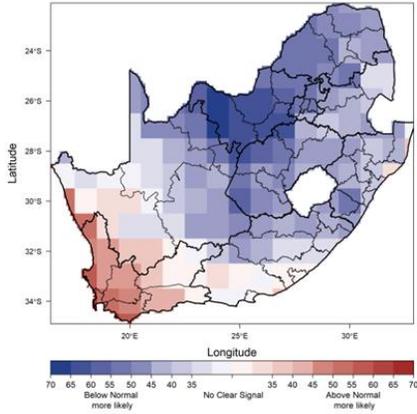


Expected Min Temp Conditions for FMA 2026
Issued: Nov 2025

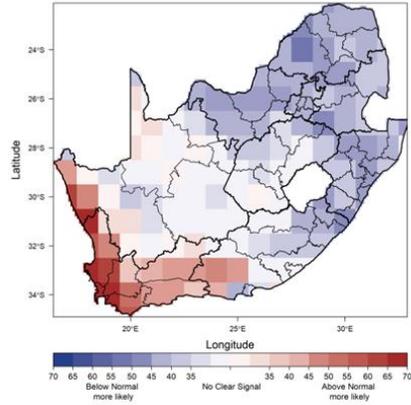


Overnight Temperatures

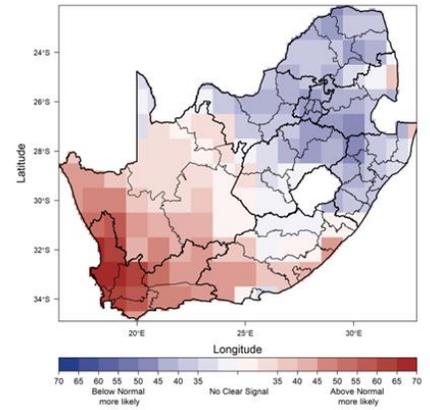
Expected Max Temp Conditions for DJF 2025/26
Issued: Nov 2025



Expected Max Temp Conditions for JFM 2026
Issued: Nov 2025



Expected Max Temp Conditions for FMA 2026
Issued: Nov 2025



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