

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Approved by:

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced rainfall received...**
- **Improvement in vegetation**
- **Not much farming activity observed...**
- **Much reduced rainfall forecasted...**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Decrease in soil moisture expected...**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

Below normal rainfall was received throughout the country during the dekad. This drying effect is due to the current positioning of the upper level convergence over the country.

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

The current positioning of the upper high over our region is expected to persist during the outlook period; thus increasing the probability reduced rainfall in most parts of the country in the next dekad.

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Rainfall continued to be much below long term average countrywide during the dekad (Figure 1). This was mostly observed in the Southern part (Map 1).

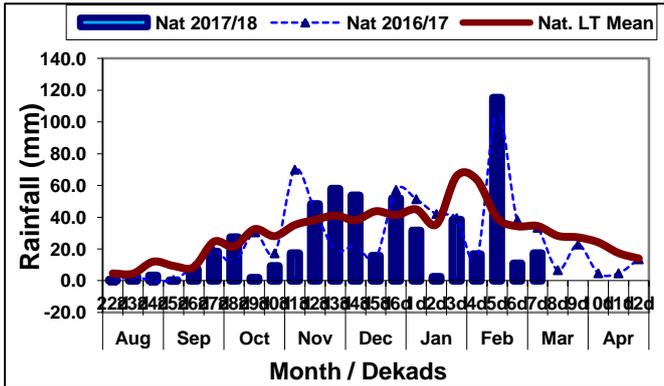
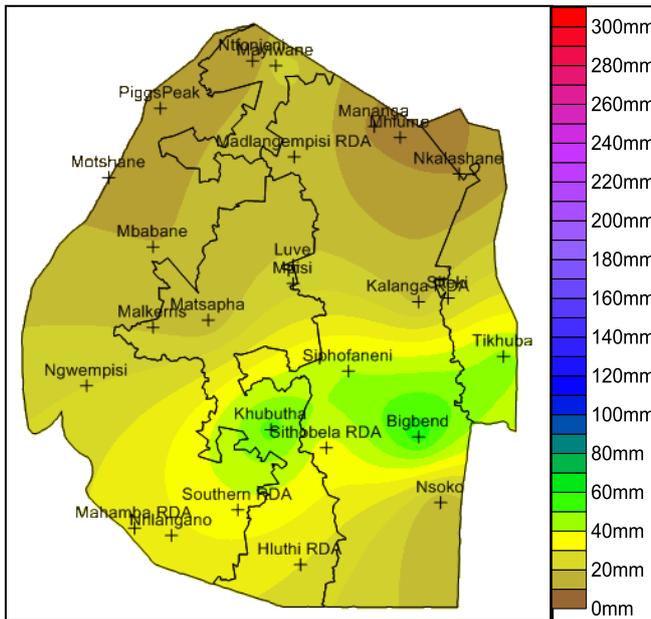


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 1st dekad of March 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 1st dekad March 2018

Table 1 below shows the rainfall distribution in Agro-ecological zones.

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 1st dekad March 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	43	25	21	45
Average	54	33	27	23
2017/18	7	15	24	23
Anomaly	-47	-18	-4	0

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures were mostly warm to hot during the dekad as most of the reporting stations observed slightly above average maximum and minimum temperatures (Figure 2) (Figure 3).

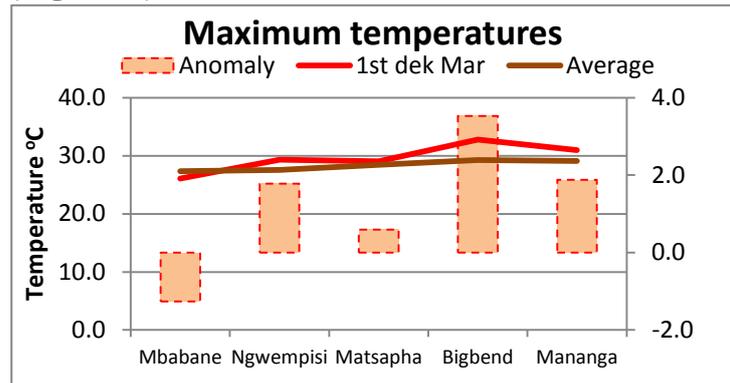


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 1st dekad of March 2018

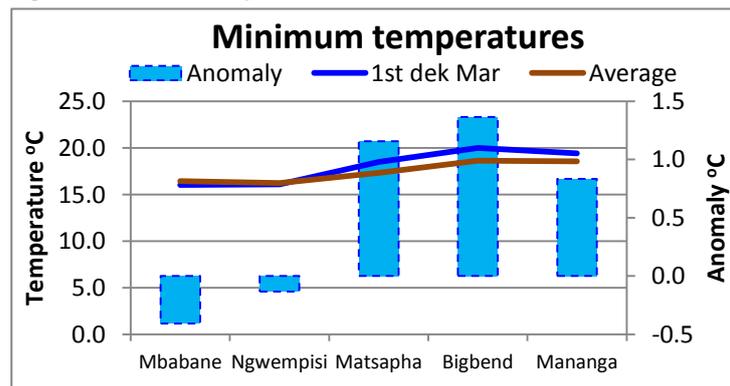


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 1st dekad of March 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

The majority of maize crops are at tasseling to reproductive stages and in good condition in most parts, save for a few that are affected by dry spells and Fall Army Worm (FAM).

OTHER CROPS

Other crops grown such as legumes are reported to be in good condition.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Most farmers are busy with weeding activities in their legume crop fields.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Pastures are reported to be in good condition and livestock doing well in most parts. This is evident by the health index of vegetation in most parts (**Image 1**).

WATER SITUATION

Most bulk water reservoirs are at satisfactory levels and rivers have healthy flows. Some water sources however remain dry even after the recent rains.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Reduced rainfall expected in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot temperatures anticipated in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

Decrease in soil moisture is forecasted for the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Wind will be moderate speeds between 2-5m/s

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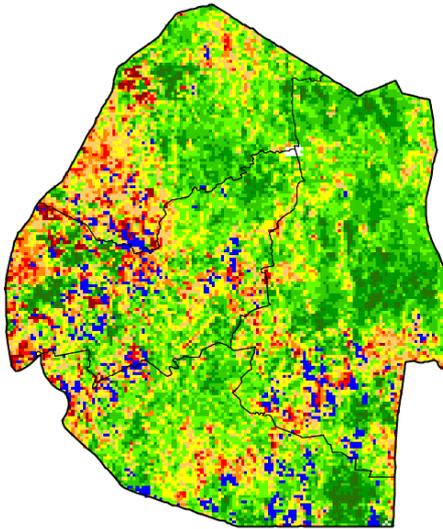
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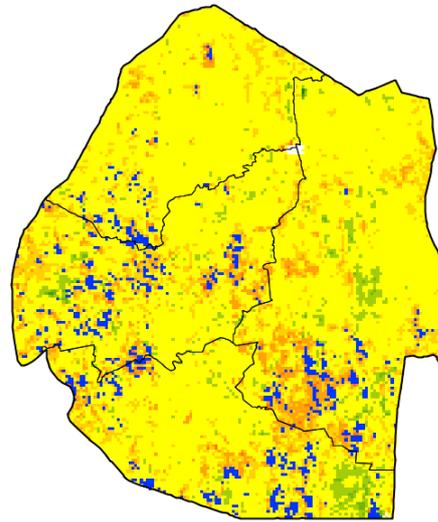
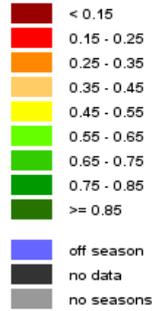
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Legend

Mean VHI



Legend

Difference to LTA



Image 1: Vegetation Condition Index image (2nd Dekad October 2017) Source: FAO-GIEWS

Image 2: Vegetation Anomaly image (2nd Dekad October 2017) Source: FAO-GIEWS