



# Regional Food Security Early Warning System



## FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

SADC Food Security Update 2007/2008 Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2007

*Released: Gaborone 21 December 2007*

### Highlights

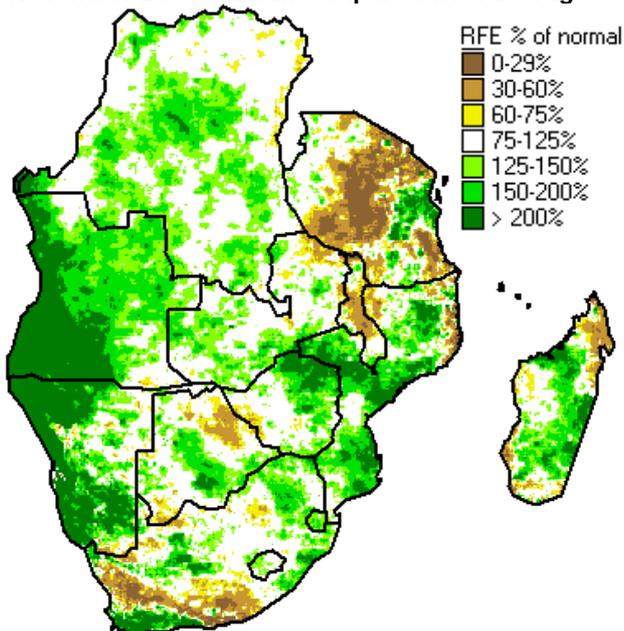
- The 2007/2008 rainy season started with the first and last dekads of November being very wet in most areas except for Tanzania, northern Mozambique, northern Malawi, Namibia
- Seasonal rainfall performance so far has been good with above normal rainfall experienced in most parts of the SADC region
- The vuli (short) rains in the coastal region, north-eastern highlands and Lake Victoria region of Tanzania continue to be erratic, impacting on crops.
- Analysis of satellite derived rainfall imagery shows significant rains concentrated in the northern half of the SADC region in November.
- Current assessments in the region indicate that total area planted to crops may be higher than last season in most countries as commercial farmers in South Africa increase hectareage.

### Contents

Rainfall Performance for November 2007	Pg. 1
Regional Disasters/Hazards and Vulnerability Analysis/Assessment	Pg. 2
Rainfall Performance Monitoring	Pg. 2
Vegetation Performance Monitoring	Pg. 3
Regional Food Balance Sheet	Pg. 4
Country Profiles	Pg. 4

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2007

November 2007 rainfall compared with average



Above average monthly rainfall totals were recorded in most parts of the region in the month of November 2007. Heavy rains were received in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in the second dekad of the month. Widespread rains were received in the southern and eastern parts of the region in the first and third dekads of the month. The main exception was Tanzania, which was largely dry throughout the month. Ground reports confirm that rainfall performance has been poor in October and November for most parts of Tanzania. Other areas where below average monthly rainfall was received include parts of central South Africa, north eastern Botswana, central Malawi, north-eastern Madagascar and parts of northern Zambia.

Analysis of cumulative rainfall from the beginning of September shows that most parts of the region have had a good start to the season in terms of rainfall performance. Central and northern Tanzania are the main exceptions to this.

#### SADC Member States:

Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Published by: **Agricultural Information System, FANR Directorate, SADC Secretariat**, Private Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Tel: (267) 3611826 / 3951863 Telefax: (267) 3972848 Website: [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

## 2. REGIONAL DISASTERS/HAZARDS/VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

As a way of facilitating a forum for information sharing and exchange on vulnerability in SADC and hence plan for drought mitigation and disaster preparedness, the Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Committee held its Annual Organizational Meeting (AOM) from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The main theme of the AOM was “Enhancing Efficiency and Innovation in VAA Practice”. The first two and half days of the AOM was dedicated to training on “Improved Monitoring and Integration of Food Security Scenarios into the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) process and products”. This was then followed by discussions / presentations on the following themes: Prospects for Incorporating the International Phase Classification Approach in the SADC region; Incorporating HIV/AIDS issues into VAC assessments; Integrated Market Analysis; Institutionalization of National VACs; Profiling Chronically Vulnerable Populations; finalization of the VAC work plans for 2008 and brief updates of food security and vulnerability situation as of November 2007.

The food security and vulnerability situation as of November has remained largely unchanged in some of the Member States since the July 2007 Vulnerability Assessments. Response programmes from national Governments and humanitarian partners to address the identified food insecurity and vulnerability levels were being implemented in all Member States. However, prices of basic food commodities continue to escalate in Zimbabwe, Southern Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho thereby eroding the purchasing power of the affected households. Several factors continue to contribute to increased levels of vulnerability in the region, including growing poverty, steady erosion of household assets and reduced resiliency of households as they deal with adverse impacts of varied shocks such as HIV/AIDS, policy related shocks and climate change.

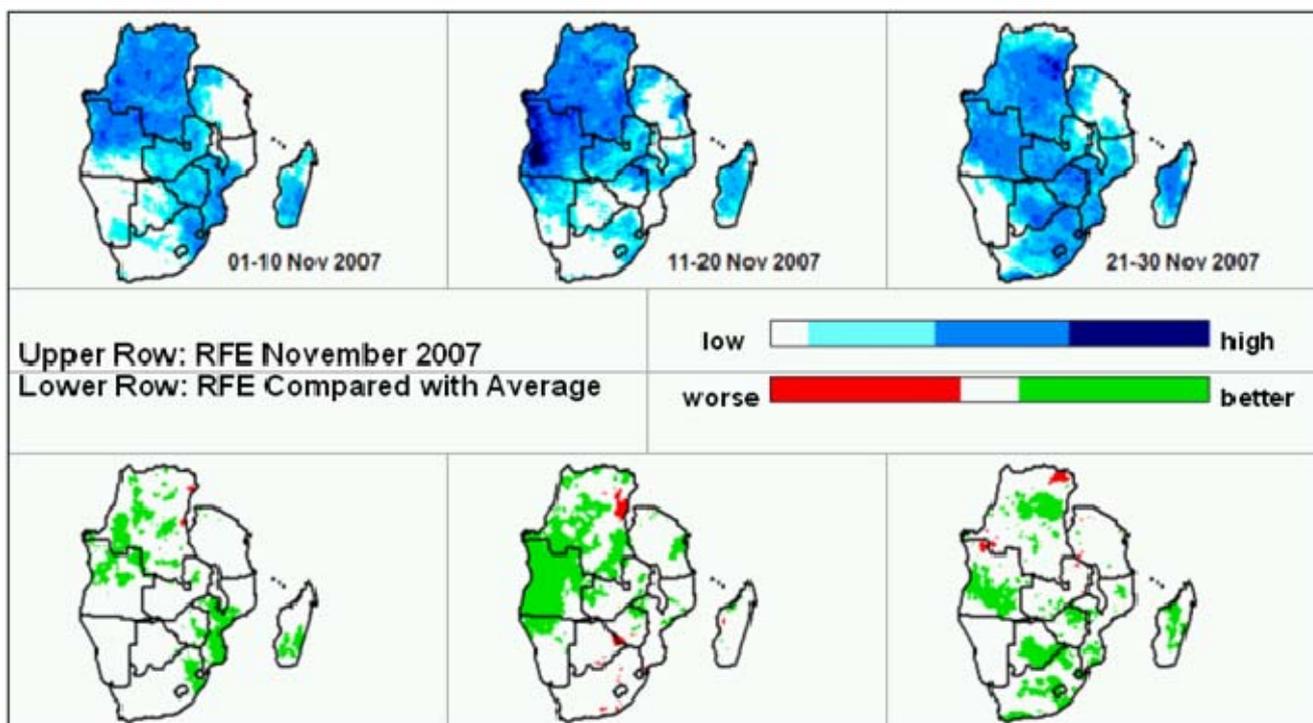
The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) held a Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop from 5-7 December 2007. The objectives of this meeting were: to reach a common understanding of the implications of weather forecasts for the next 3 to 6 months and climate change scenarios for humanitarian response; to review and clarify national capacities and gaps going into the 2008 flood and cyclone season; to identify the required action of regional and humanitarian actors necessary to fill these gaps in both the immediate (3-6 months) and longer term; and to identify the roles, responsibilities and sources of funding to address the gaps. The workshop was attended by international aid workers and officials from Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to a press release by OCHA at the end of the workshop, the emergency responders present at the workshop “agreed in a draft *Declaration of Intent* to share information and capacities for emergency response, establish regional rapid response teams, and develop protocols that allow for the free circulation of emergency personnel and relief materials in the region. The group further agreed on the need for Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders to demonstrate the political will and financial commitment necessary to ensure the full implementation of their recommendations, including the reactivation of the SADC Disaster Risk Management Team. In recognition of the high HIV prevalence levels throughout Southern Africa, the group also agreed that special attention will be paid to integrating HIV prevention and care into emergency preparedness and response.”

§

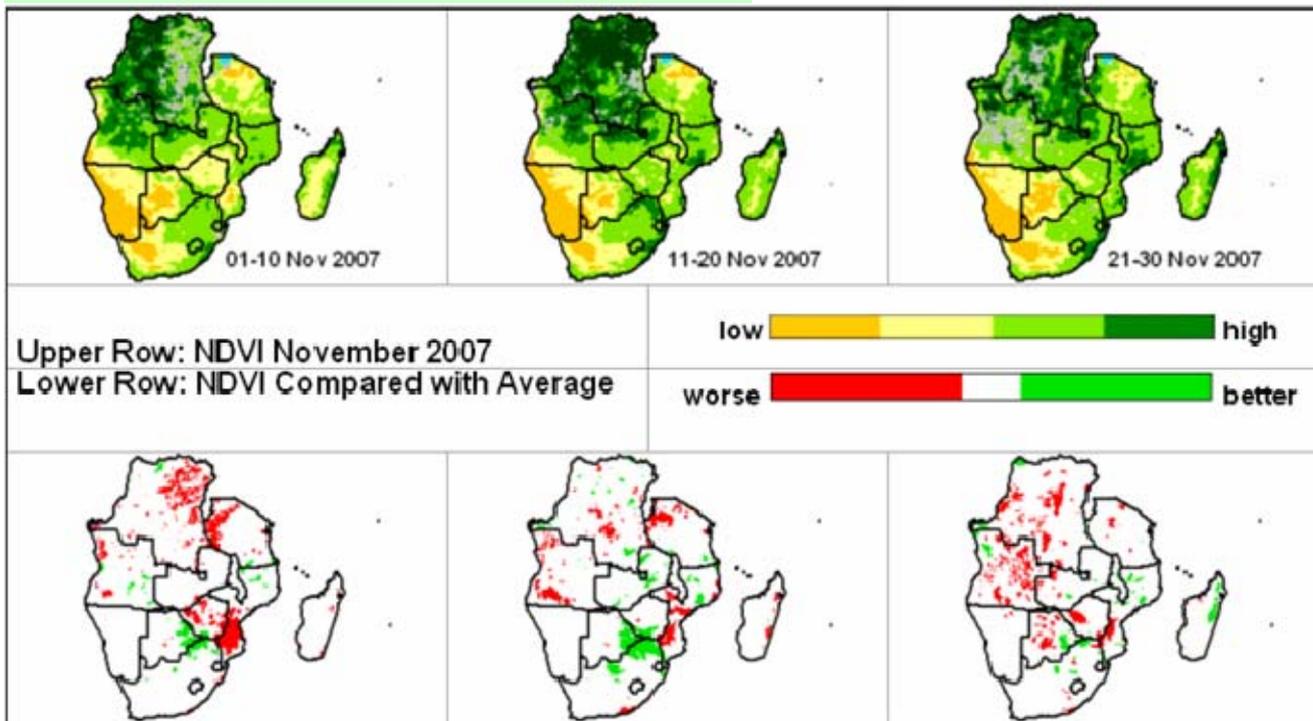
## 3. RAINFALL PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The rainfall estimates images suggest that during the month of November, 2007, the region mainly had normal to above-normal rains. Only isolated areas in the DRC, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, extreme southern Angola and Tanzania had below normal rainfall. Both the bimodal and unimodal rainfall regimes of Tanzania continued to have little to no rains. Most parts of the region received normal to above-normal rainfall, mainly over eastern Angola, the DRC, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa (see Figure 2 below). §



**Figure 4.** Rainfall Estimates (RFE) images, November 2007 and difference from average  
 From left to right are Dekads 1 (1-10 Nov), 2 (11-20 Nov) and 3 (21-30 Nov)  
 Differences from average, lower row, are based on a 10-year average of 1995-2006§

**4. VEGETATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING**



**Figure 5.** Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) images, November 2007 & difference from average  
 From left to right are Dekads 1 (1-10 Nov), 2 (11-20 Nov) and 3 (21-30 Nov)  
 Differences from average, lower row, are based on a long term average of 1982-2006

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) images for November 2007 (Figure 5 above) suggest that the vegetation conditions were worse than expected for southern half of Mozambique, parts of Zimbabwe, western and northern Tanzania, parts of Botswana, parts of South Africa and Lesotho, during the first dekad. As more significant rainfall amounts were received in these areas, vegetation and pasture conditions had improved by the

end of the November. Elsewhere in the region, there was normal vegetation. Vegetation conditions were also above average for northern South Africa, eastern Botswana and northern Mozambique. §

## 5. REGIONAL FOOD BALANCE SHEET

### ANNUAL CEREAL BALANCE

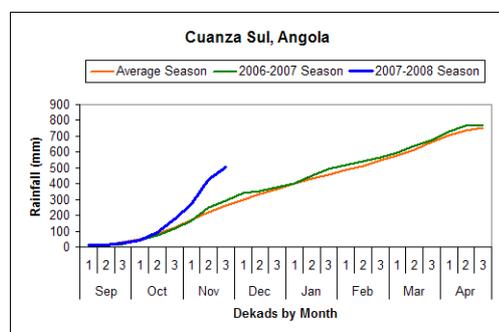
MARKETING YEAR April 2007 - 2008 March

Thousands of Metric Tons

	Maize	Wheat	Rice	Sorghum/ Millet	All Cereals	Cassava
<b>A. Domestic Availability</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>8607</b>
<b>A.1 Opening Stocks @ 1st April</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>20</b>
Formal/SGR	8	10	7	0	25	0
On Farm	20	0	0	7	27	20
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>A.2 Gross Harvest</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>8587</b>
<b>B. Gross Domestic Requirements</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>3192</b>
<b>C. Desired SGR Carryover Stocks</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>D. Domestic Shortfall/Surplus</b>	<b>-189</b>	<b>-255</b>	<b>-284</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-778</b>	<b>5395</b>
<b>E. Commodity Cross Substitution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>F. Imports</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>F.1 Received</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>F.2 Expected</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>G. Exports</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Committments Shipped	0	0	0	0	0	0
Committments Not Shipped	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>H. Import Gap</b>	<b>-189</b>	<b>-255</b>	<b>-284</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-778</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>I. Forecasted Closing Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5415</b>
<b>J. Stock as @ 30 Sept 2007</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>Na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

§

## 6. RAINFALL TIME SERIES AND COUNTRY UPDATES/PROFILES

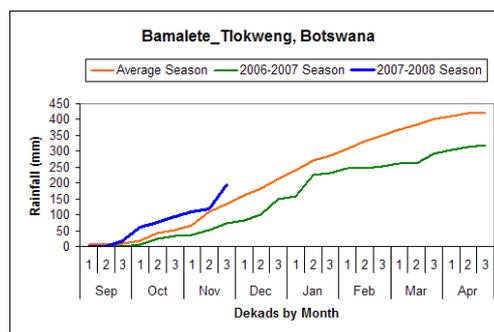


**ANGOLA: Substantial amounts of rain received over the western half...**

Satellite imagery for November suggested that the northern half of Angola received significant rains during the first dekad. Substantial amounts of rain were received over the western half of the country during the second dekad. Uige, Cuanza Sul, Lunda Norte and Sul, Benguela, Huila, Huambo and parts of Cunene provinces received heavy rains. The eastern parts received moderate to significant rainfall. The south-eastern parts of Angola only received light to moderate rains during the last dekad of the month. Crops were in good condition and at early vegetative stages. Ploughing and planting were still in progress in some areas. Pastures improved and livestock condition were improving. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for Cuanza Sul for the month of October suggests that rains so far have been above-normal. §

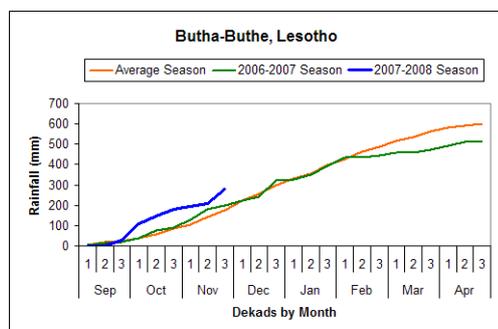
**BOTSWANA: Dry but substantial amounts of rain in the south eastern parts...**

The country was dry during dekad one and two with the exception of a few very isolated areas getting showers. Light to moderate rains were received in many parts of the country during the last dekad. Substantial amounts of rainfall were recorded in the south-eastern parts. Land preparation and sowing were either embarked on or continued in most crop-growing areas. Water situation, vegetation, pasture and livestock conditions continued to improve in all districts. Cumulative rainfall for the Bamalete\_Tlokweng district indicates a season way above normal. §



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC): Light to significant rains received throughout the month...**

Satellite imagery suggests widespread significant rains throughout the month. Almost the entire Democratic Republic of Congo with the exception of the extreme south-eastern Shaba province received light to significant rainfall during the month of November. The heaviest rains were received in the northern Kivu province during the third dekad. §



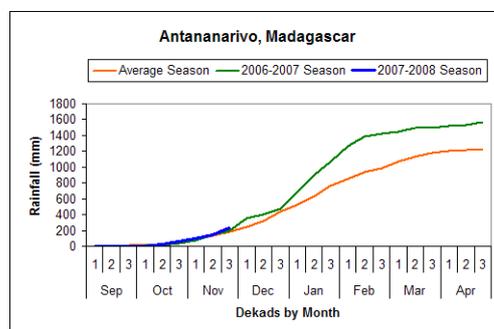
**LESOTHO: Normal to above normal rainfall...**

Lesotho experienced normal to above normal rainfall during the month of November 2007. The first two dekads were dry but substantial amounts were received over most areas during the third dekad. Only Mokhotlong recorded below normal monthly rainfall while Semonkong received the highest amounts of rain throughout the month. Cumulative rainfall for the period September to November 2007 was above normal countrywide. The eastern and southern areas of the country (especially

Mokhotlong and Quthing) have the lowest amounts of accumulated rainfall whereas Butha-Buthe, Leribe and Semonkong have the highest accumulated rainfall. Land preparation and sowing were in progress. Summer crops (maize and sorghum) were mostly at germinating to early vegetative stages and in good condition. Winter wheat stages ranged from from watery ripe kernels to hard kernels and its condition ranged from fair to good. Heavy downpours and sometimes hailstorms that were being experienced could impact on the wheat. Water resources had improved and were normal countrywide. General vegetation cover and rangelands have improved and as a result livestock conditions were gradually improving. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for Butha Buthe for November suggests that the rains so far have been normal. §

**MADAGASCAR: Above normal rainfall experienced in the South-West ...**

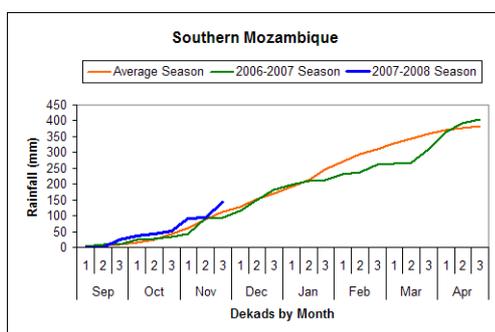
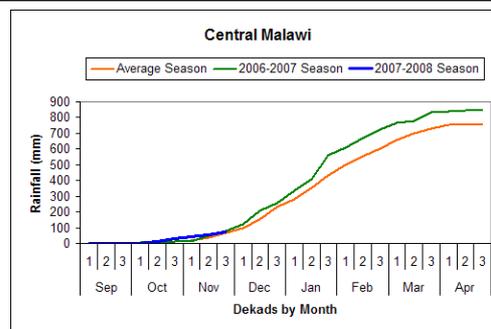
Satellite imagery as well as ground data indicate that below normal monthly rainfall was received in the extreme southern and the northern parts of Madagascar during the month of November. Normal or above normal rains were recorded in the North-West and the central part of Madagascar. Water availability, especially in the south, continued to improve. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for Antananarivo for November suggests that the rains so far have been normal. §



**MALAWI: Erratic rains experienced throughout...**

During November, Malawi experienced erratic rains. Most rains were received during the first and third dekads of the month as the second dekad was relatively dry. Significant rainfall amounts were registered mainly over southern and some parts of the central regions of the country. Rainfall amounts in excess of

20mm per rainy day were reported mainly over the southern half of the country while the northern half experience isolated and light rains. Land preparation was in progress as most farmers anticipated the main rains. However in some areas where significant amounts have been received, a few farmers started planting different crops. Inputs (seed, fertilizers, mechanical power) were readily available. The early crop was healthy, but in some areas crops, experienced mild water stress during the second and third dekads. Livestock was healthy and pasture in good condition and readily available. The general food security situation was still good due to last season's good production. Some areas would require food aid because pockets of dry spells on one hand and flash floods on the other during the previous growing season resulted in crop failure. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for Malawi Central suggests a normal season so far (NOTE: Major growing areas during November include the central plains, lakeshore as well as most southern areas). §



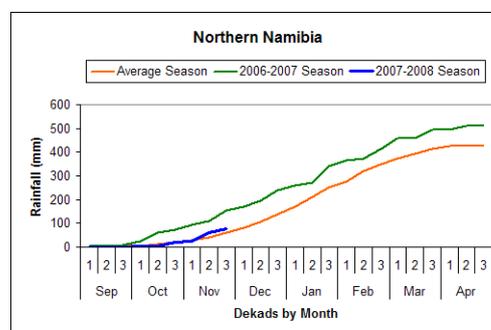
**MOZAMBIQUE: Northern Mozambique was dry but south received good rains ...**

Almost the entire country received widespread light to moderate showers during the first dekad of November. A few parts in the north received little to no rains. For the rest of the month, northern Mozambique was dry while the central parts were wet. During the second dekad, the southern half was dry. Land preparation and inputs procurement were the main activities in the major crop growing areas in the north. Farmers in southern

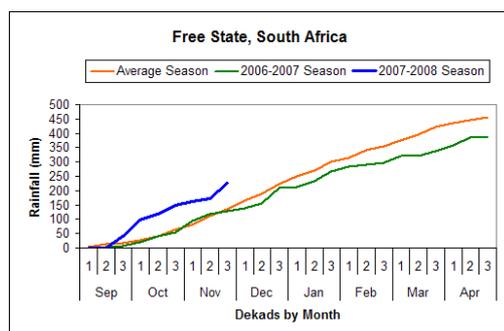
Mozambique continued with land preparation and planting. Crops ranged from emergence to early vegetative stages and were in good condition. Generally there was improvement in vegetation and pasture conditions. Cumulative seasonal rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for southern Mozambique indicates above-normal rainfall for the month. §

**NAMIBIA: Light to significant showers over the major crop growing areas.**

The entire country was mostly dry during the first dekad. The northern parts received notable light to significant showers over the major crop growing areas in the second dekad with extreme northern Kunene province receiving the highest for the month. The only rains received during the third dekad were over the Caprivi Strip and the Okavango. The southern half remained dry throughout the month. Most farmers in the major crop growing areas continued with land preparations and started planting. Generally crops ranged from emergence to early vegetative stages. Cumulative seasonal (RFE curve) rainfall analysis for northern Namibia suggests normal rainfall for the month. §



**SOUTH AFRICA: Total area planted to increase in anticipation of better seasonal rainfall performance...**

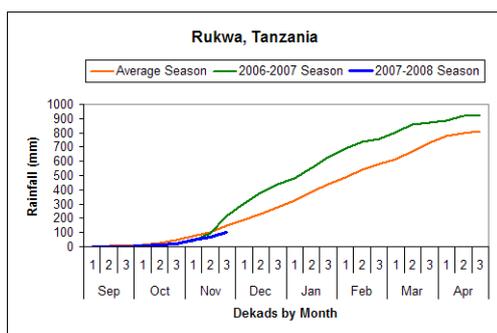
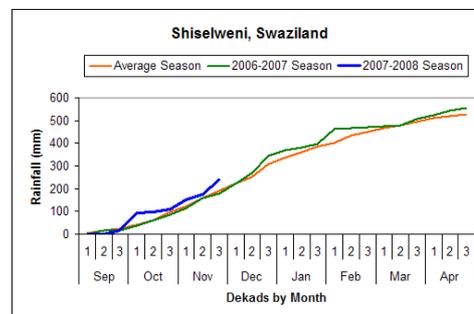


The eastern half of South Africa was generally wet throughout the month of November. Substantial amounts of rainfall were received over Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga and Kwazulu Natal during the third dekad. Isolated rains were experienced over coastal Western Cape throughout the month. The highly productive maize triangle area received more than average rains prompting farmers to plant. Land preparation and planting were in progress over the maize producing areas. The Crop Estimation Committee indicated that farmers, in anticipation of

better seasonal rainfall performance, will increase total area planted from 2,551,800 hectares of last season to 2,753,800 this season. The early planted crops were at emergence and early vegetative stage. Livestock and pastures condition had improved. Winter wheat had reached maturity. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for the Free State province suggested way above normal rains. §

### **SWAZILAND: Fairly good widespread rains received countrywide...**

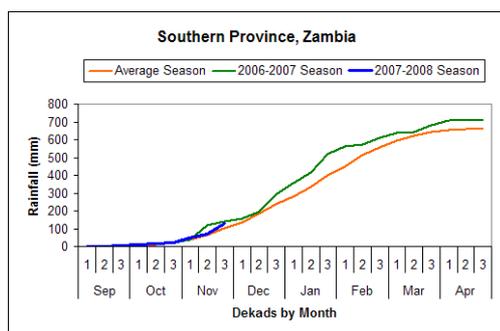
Fairly good widespread rains were received countrywide in November 2007. Plowing and weeding were the main agricultural activities. Inputs were readily available. The very early planted maize in the Lowveld was at mid to late vegetative stages while maize in the Middleveld was at early vegetative stages and in both regions, the crops were in good condition. The majority of farmers in the Highveld had started planting in November. Both livestock and pasture had improved in all areas. Water availability which had been affected by last season's drought was improving but had not yet fully recovered. There was reduction in the total area planted this season as farmers were still apprehensive and cautious in increasing hectareage due to the drought experienced in the previous season. The cumulative rainfall graph for Shiselweni indicates above-normal rains from October to November. Food assistance was being still being distributed by the government and WFP. §



### **TANZANIA: Vuli crops in Kagera and Mara regions negatively affected by soil moisture stress...**

During November, most areas in the bimodal sector experienced relatively poor soil moisture supply that was not conducive for growth and development of the early planted crop. A few localized areas in Lake Victoria basin, northern coastal belt and western (Kigoma region), and Mbeya regions received significant rains during the first and second dekads. Rainfall declined in the third dekad mainly over bimodal areas in the

north of the country where the short rains (*vuli*) have had a poor performance so far. Reports from these areas indicate that over several parts of Lake Victoria basin particularly in Kagera and Mara regions crops at vegetative stage were negatively affected by soil moisture stress. Dry conditions have persisted to the extent that even land preparations have not yet commenced in some areas of Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts in north-eastern highlands and northern coast. However, there were a few areas in Kagera region where some favorable soil moisture enhanced crop conditions. The central areas, southwestern highlands and southern sector including southern coast remained seasonably dry with a few areas reporting some light rains. Land preparation was still the main agricultural activity over much of the unimodal rainfall regime areas (central, south, southern coast and south-western highlands). There was good development of both cassava and sweet potatoes. Pastures and water for both livestock and wildlife were dwindling especially over central and south-western areas, however, it was anticipated that the seasonal rains would start early to arrest the situation. Cumulative rainfall performance from October to November 2007 was generally below normal over many areas in the country except over Bukoba, Morogoro, Zanzibar and Kigoma. The cumulative rainfall graph (RFE) for Rukwa suggested below normal rains. §



### **Zambia: North-eastern parts recorded cumulative rainfall deficits...**

Much rainfall activity was confined to the Western half of the country in November. Favourable light to moderate rains, extending from October, covered almost the entire country with the exception of some eastern parts. Light to moderate rains over the western half continued into the first dekad of November. Sparsely distributed rainfall was received in the second dekad,

with the heaviest rains being received in the extreme north-western parts. The north-eastern parts of the country recorded cumulative rainfall deficits. Land preparation, planting and input procurement continued as the major agricultural activities in most parts of the country. In places where dry planting was done, the crops were doing well while elsewhere they ranged from emergence to early vegetative stages. The farmers in the southern half of the country were advised to intensify planting activities. It was not anticipated that the higher rainfall deficits being experienced in the north eastern part of the country would have negative impact on crops as this was just the start of season. Livestock condition was fair except in the Southern Province where a few cases of Contagious Bovine Plural Pneumonia (CBPP) were reported. Most parts of the country have enough water for agriculture and domestic use except the southern province of Zambia where high rainfall deficits were recorded last season. Pastures were in fair condition. Continuous rainfall in western Zambia could result in flash floods in some low lying areas which might impact on crop production. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFE graph) for southern Zambia suggested normal conditions. §

**ZIMBABWE: Major maize production areas receive good rains**

...

Widespread rains covered most parts of the country during the first and last dekads of November 2007. The northern half experienced moderate to heavy rains during the second dekad with the eastern Mashonaland Central Province receiving rainfall totals above 200 mm in one dekad while the southern and western areas were dry. Heavier, widespread rainfall was received over the entire country during the last dekads. The rains prompted enhanced land preparation and planting. Pastures, livestock condition and water availability improved vegetation except in some areas in the western and southern parts of the country. Cumulative rainfall analysis (RFEgraph) suggested above normal rains for the Mashonaland provinces. §

