

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

Revision No: 1

Effective Date: 01.07.2017

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Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
01 – 10 OCTOBER 2018**



ISSUE No.: 01

SEASON: 2018/19

RELEASED: 12/10/2018

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Below average rainfall received...**
- **Vegetation condition looking good....**
- **Very little farming activity observed....**
- **Light rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Slight improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

As the 2018/19 season begins rainfall is observed to be setting off on a progressive start in August, however subsides in September up to first dekad of October (Figure 1).

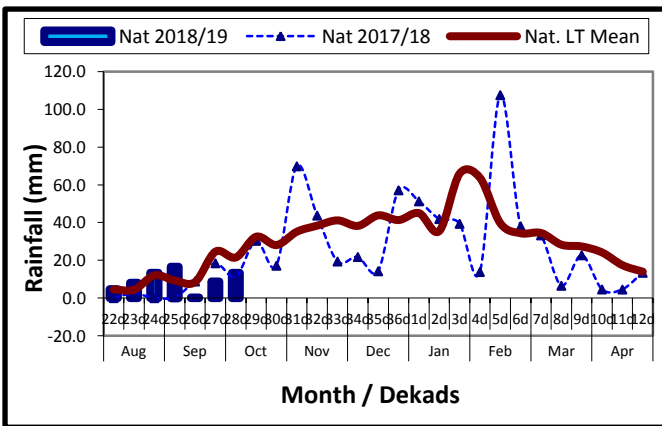


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as first dekad of October 2018

Below average rainfall was observed in the Highveld, Middleveld and Lubombo Plateau while the Lowveld observed slightly above average rainfall (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 1st dekad October 2017

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2017/18	11	8	8	18
Average	26	23	14	22
2018/19	15	9	17	12
Anomaly	-12	-14	3	-10

TEMPERATURES

Cool to hot temperatures were observed during the dekad, ranging from 8°C to 28°C (Figure 2) and (Figure 3).

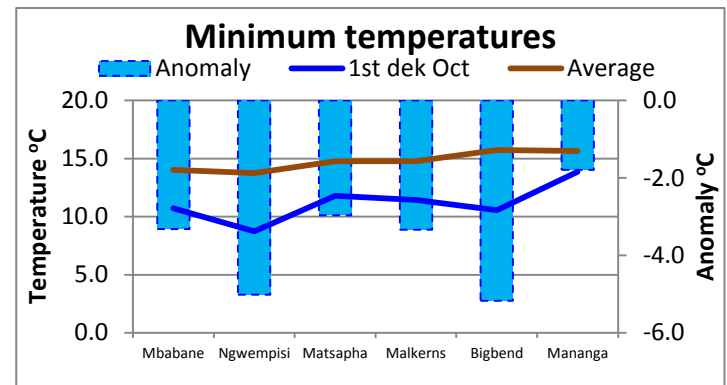
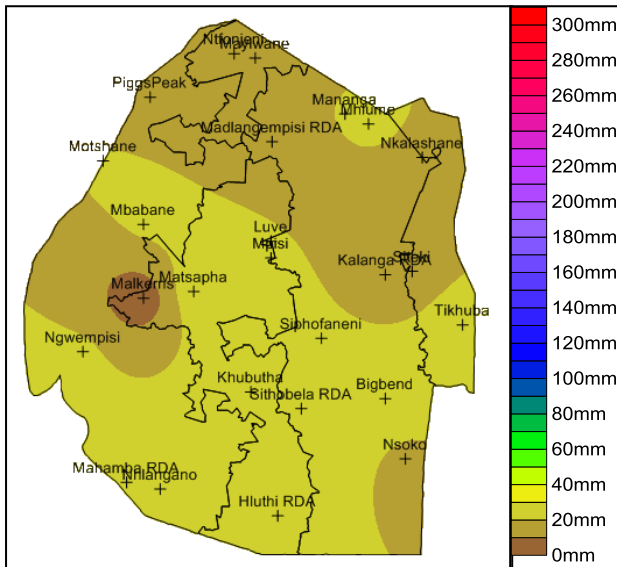


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as first dekad of October 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for first dekad October 2018

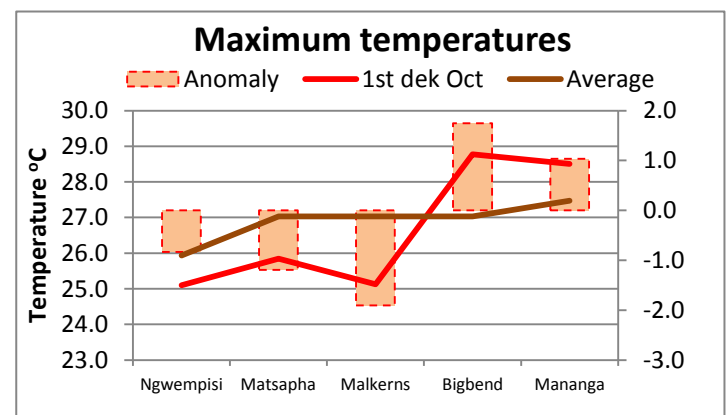


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as first dekad of October 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Very few farmers have planted maize. This is mostly attributed to insufficient soil moisture due to low rainfall received. At least more than 25mm in one dekad and 10mm in the next should be received to start planting. Short maturing varieties are encouraged this season.

OTHER CROPS

No other crops have been planted.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Farmers are busy with purchasing farming inputs, such as, seeds, fertilizer and tractor service. Most farmers rely on government subsidy, hence are awaiting delivery of their inputs to their various Rural Development Areas (RDAs) in the country

Very few farmers have started land preparation activities.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock is reported to be in good condition as vegetation seems to be improving from the early rains (**Image 1**) and (**Image 2**).

WATER SITUATION

Water levels in major dams in the country are at satisfactory levels mostly above 60% and rivers have adequate flows. There are very few cases of dried up water sources.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

An improvement in rainfall is expected in the outlook period significantly anticipated on the 13th and 17th of October 2018.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot temperatures expected in the outlook period, mostly hot on the 15th and 19th of October 2018.

SOIL MOISTURE

Slight improvement in soil moisture anticipated in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Wind will be light to moderate breeze speeds in the outlook period.

Compiled and Issued by: Agrometeorological Unit,

Swaziland Meteorological Service, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

Box 2652, Mbabane, Swaziland. ☎ (+268) 2404 8859 / 2404 6274. Fax: 2404 1530

E-mail: dudu@swazimet.gov.sz

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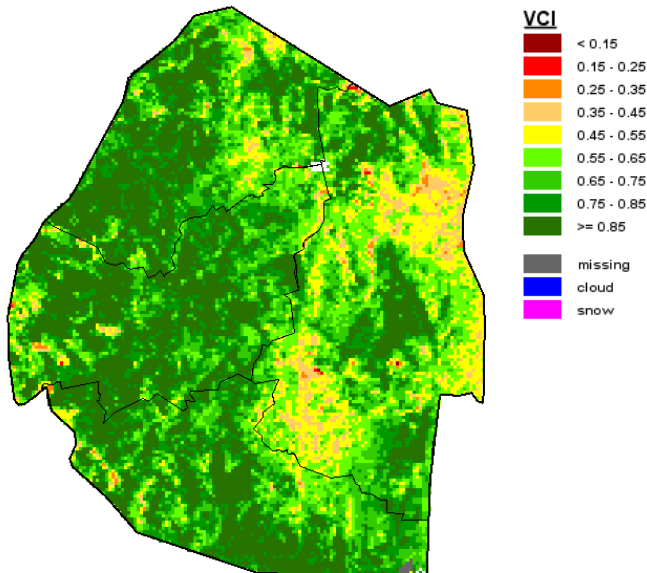


Image 1: Vegetation Condition Index image (1st Dekad October 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*

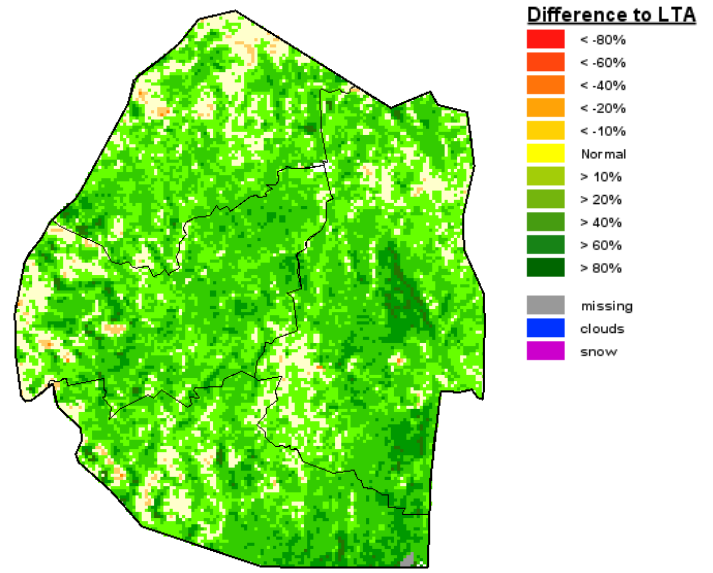


Image 2: Vegetation Anomaly image (1st Dekad October 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*