



SWAZILAND SEASONAL RAINFALL FORECAST FOR THE 2010/11 SEASON

Overview

The country's seasonal rainfall outlook for the 2010/11 show an increased chance of Normal to Above-Normal Rainfall over most parts of the country during the October-November-December (OND) 2010 period. There is an increased chance for Above-Normal rainfall in the western half of the country with a Normal to below-Normal chance over the Eastern half of the country during the January, February and March (JFM) 2011 period. A regional perspective forecast for the entire season is presented below starting with the OND period;

October-November-December (OND) 2010 Rainfall forecast

There is an increased chance for *Normal-to-Above-Normal* rainfall throughout the country during the October – November – December (OND) period of the 2010/11 season, with a *bias of Above-Normal to Normal* rainfall in the Middleveld and Lubombo Plateau zones. The Highveld and Lowveld zones are likely to receive *Normal* Rainfall during OND.

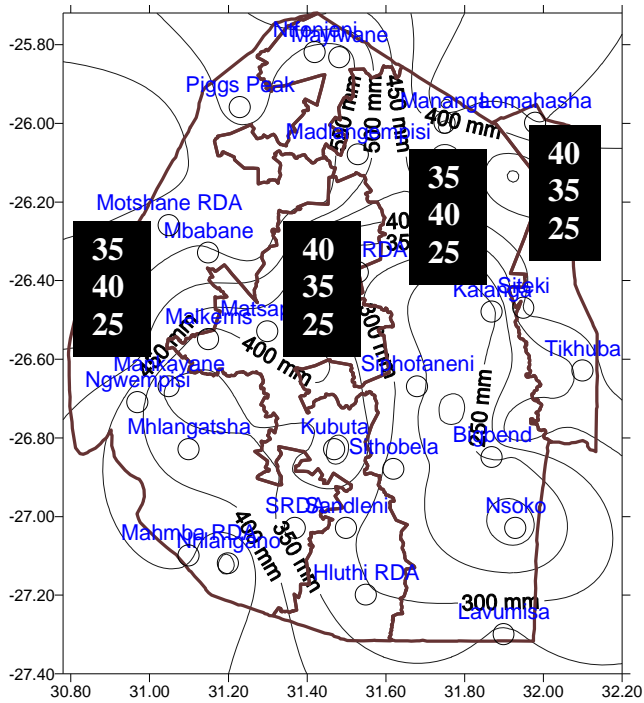
The regional breakdown of the predicted OND rainfall probabilities are as presented below:

Highveld

There is a chance of Normal-to-Above-Normal Rainfall in this region during the October-November-December (OND) 2010 period.

Middleveld

There is a high chance for Above-Normal-to-Normal Rainfall over most parts of this region during the OND 2010 period.



Lowveld

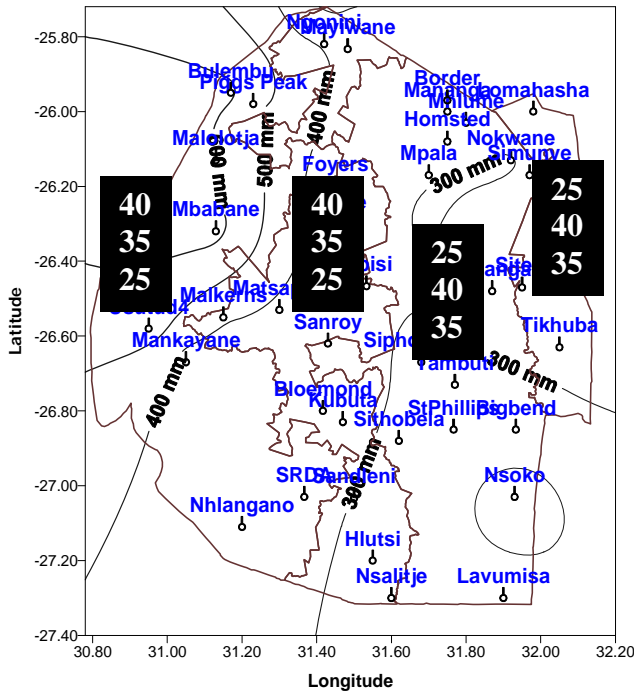
There is an increased chance for Normal to Above-Normal Rainfall over most parts of this region during the OND 2010 period.

Lubombo

There is a chance for Above-Normal to Normal Rainfall in this region during the OND 2010 period.

January -February -March (JFM) 2011 Rainfall

The July predictor (SST) used currently puts most of the **western** parts of the country in ***Above-Normal to Normal*** rainfall while the **eastern** parts of the country in a ***Normal to Below-Normal*** category. The regional breakdown of the predicted January-February-March (JFM) 2011 rainfall probabilities are as presented below:



Highveld

There is an increased chance of Above-Normal to Normal rainfall over most areas within the region during the JFM period.

Middleveld

There is an increased chance of Above-Normal to Normal rainfall over most of the region during the forecast period, JFM 2011.

Category

Above
Normal
Below

Lowveld

There is a chance for Normal to Below-Normal rainfall over the Lowveld region during the JFM period.

Lubombo

There is a chance for Normal to Below-Normal rainfall over the Lubombo Plateau during the JFM 2011 period.

Conclusion

Presently, seasonal-to-inter-annual forecasting allows predictions for large areas over seasonal timescales. This means that, seasonal forecasts may not fully account for all factors that influence local and time specific climate variability. Shorter timescale climate variations may occur, which can be determined through daily and ten-day weather forecasts and monthly climate outlooks. The Swaziland Meteorological Service will continuously provide updates monthly during the season.

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