

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced rainfall received...**
- **Continued improvement in vegetation**
- **More farming activity observed....**
- **Below average rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Insignificant improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

Reduced rainfall was received in most part of the country. This drying effect is due to the current positioning of the upper high over our region coupled with Mozambique Channel depression, which has since deepened.

➤ **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 of dry spells in some parts of the country.

Compiled and Issued by: Agrometeorological Unit,

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Reduced rainfall was received throughout the country during the 1st dekad of January 2018 (Figure 1) (Map 1). This was towards the end of the reporting period after a few days of dryness.

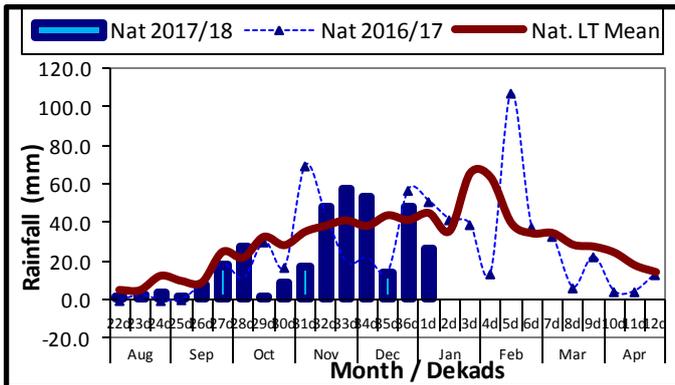
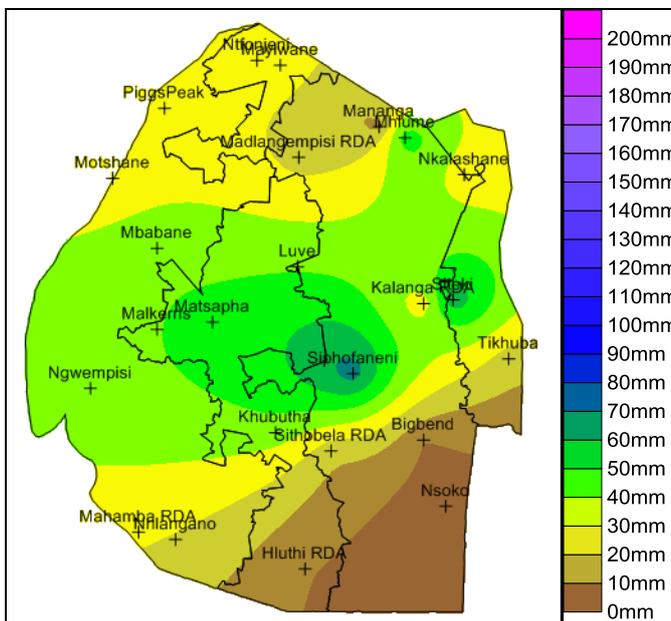


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 1st dekad of January 2018



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

All Agroecological zones received below average rainfall during the reporting period (Table 1)

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

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	75	47	24	60
Average	57	40	36	46
2017/18	16	21	27	41
Anomaly	-41	-20	-10	-5

TEMPERATURES

Most reporting stations observed below normal maximum and minimum temperatures during the reporting period (Figure 2) and (Figure 3).

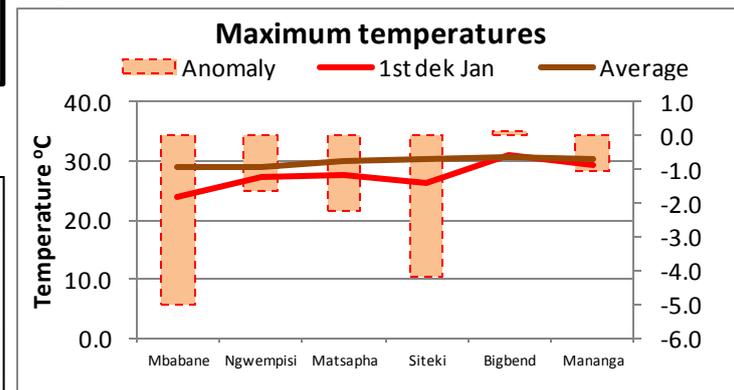


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 1st dekad of January 2018

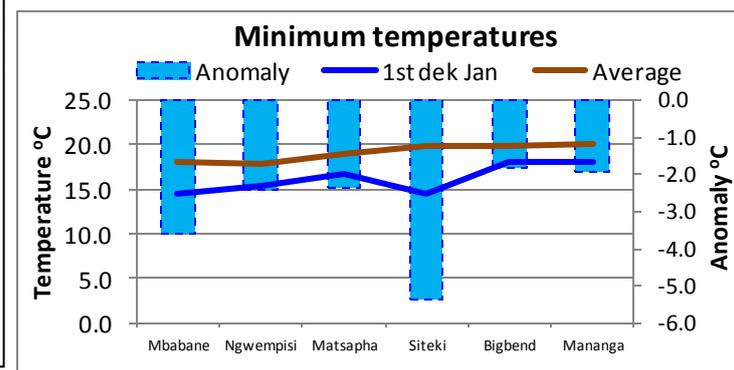


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 1st dekad of January 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Maize is reported to be mostly at germination and early vegetative stages while a few is at late vegetative stage.

Most of the crops reported to have been affected by the storm is recovering (**Picture 1**) while some was completely destroyed (**Picture 2**)



Picture 1: Maize recovering from storm damage at Manzini North



Picture 2: Maize at tasseling stage destroyed by storm at Ekudzeni in the Manzini region

OTHER CROPS

Legumes such as groundnuts observed growing well in most parts (**Picture 3**)



Picture 3: Groundnuts growing well at Mbekelweni in the Manzini region

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Farmers are busy with weeding activities, while a few are still planting their fields.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Vegetation continues to improve in most parts and livestock is reported to be in good condition (**Picture 4**).



Picture 4: Cattle grazing at Sibuyeni under Manzini North

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WATER SITUATION

Major dam reservoirs are at satisfactory levels and have been increasing as the season progresses.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Below average rainfall forecasted in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot temperatures anticipated in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

Insignificant improvement in soil moisture is expected in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Winds will be light to moderate breeze speeds.

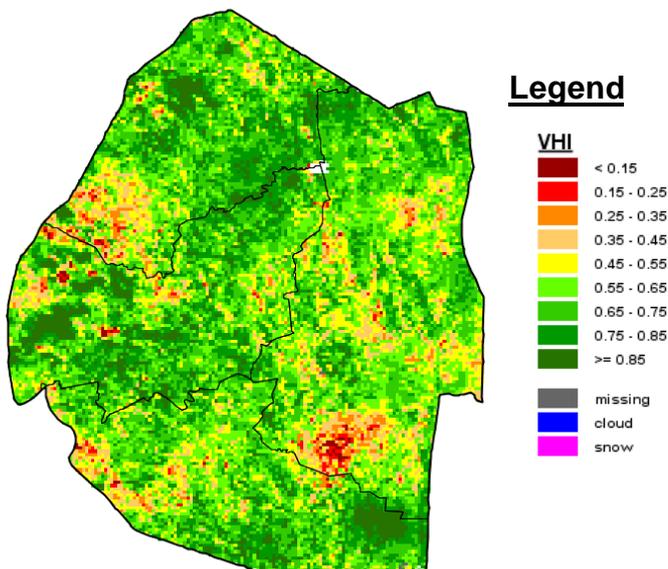


Image 1: Mean Vegetation Health Index image (1st Dekad January 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*

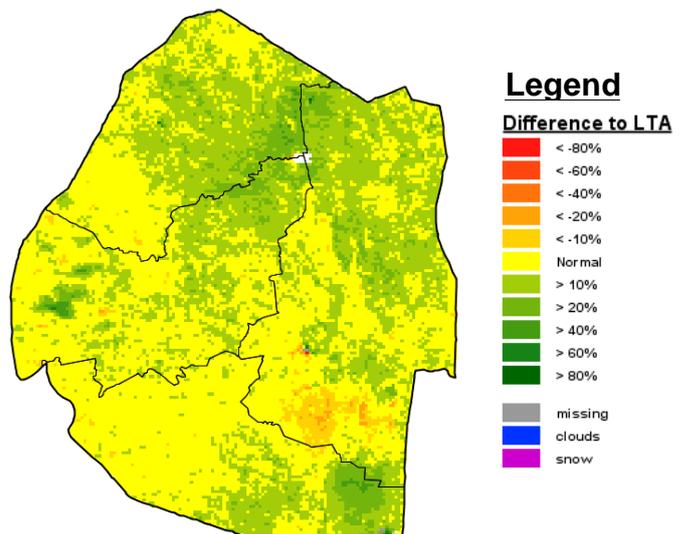


Image 2: Vegetation Anomaly image (1st Dekad January 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*