

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **About average rainfall received...**
- **Vegetation condition looking good....**
- **Very little farming activity observed....**
- **Insignificant rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **No improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Slightly improved rainfall was observed during the dekad trading along the average threshold (**Figure 1**).

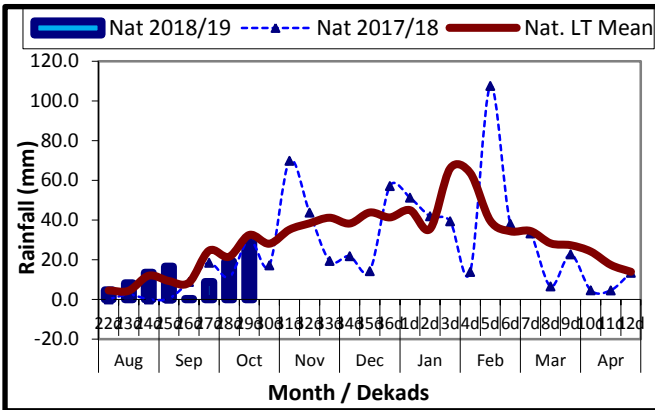
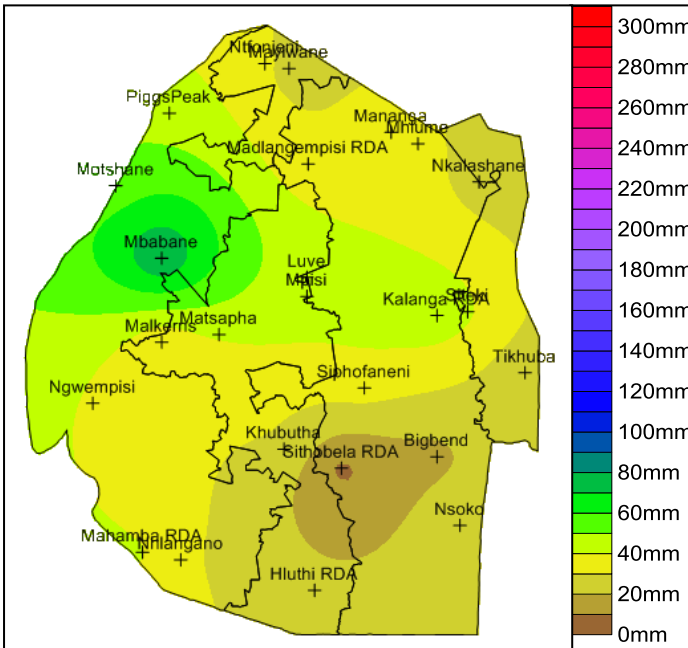


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 2nd dekad of October 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 2nd dekad October 2018

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

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 2nd dekad October 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2017/18	40	43	19	19
Average	42	36	24	28
2018/19	34	21	26	33
Anomaly	-8	-15	3	5

TEMPERATURES

Cool to hot temperatures were observed during the dekad, ranging from 11°C to 31°C (**Figure 2**) and (**Figure 3**).

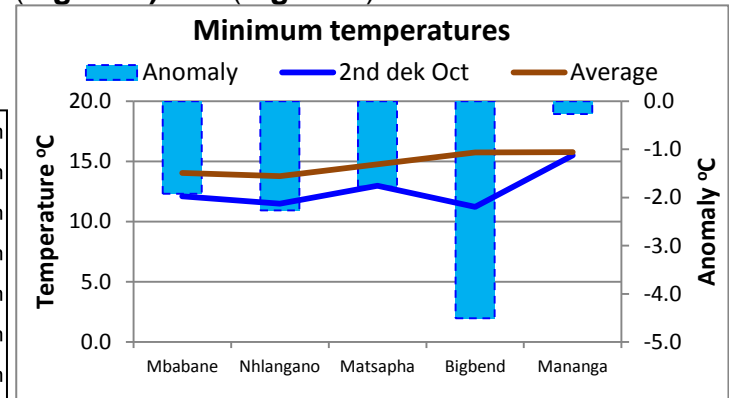


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as first dekad of October 2018

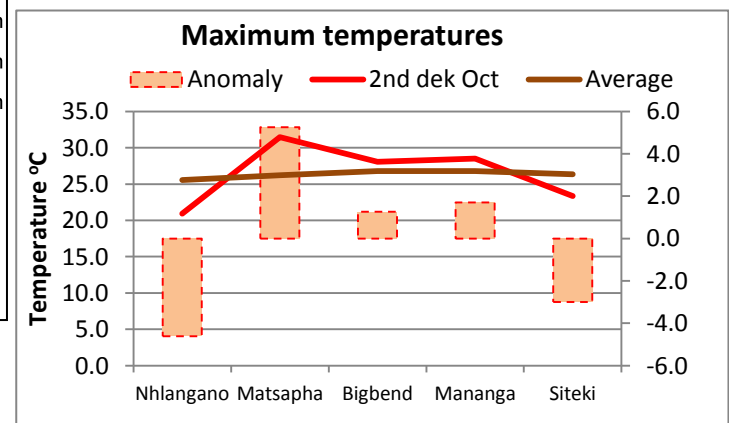


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as first dekad of October 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Very few farmers have planted maize.

OTHER CROPS

No other crops have been planted.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Most farmers are busy with purchasing farming inputs and land preparation activities.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock is reported to be in good condition as vegetation seems to be improving from the recent 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

Not much rainfall is expected in the outlook period. Insignificant precipitation is forecasted on the 27th and 28th of October 2018 in some places.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot temperatures expected in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

No improvement in soil moisture anticipated in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

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

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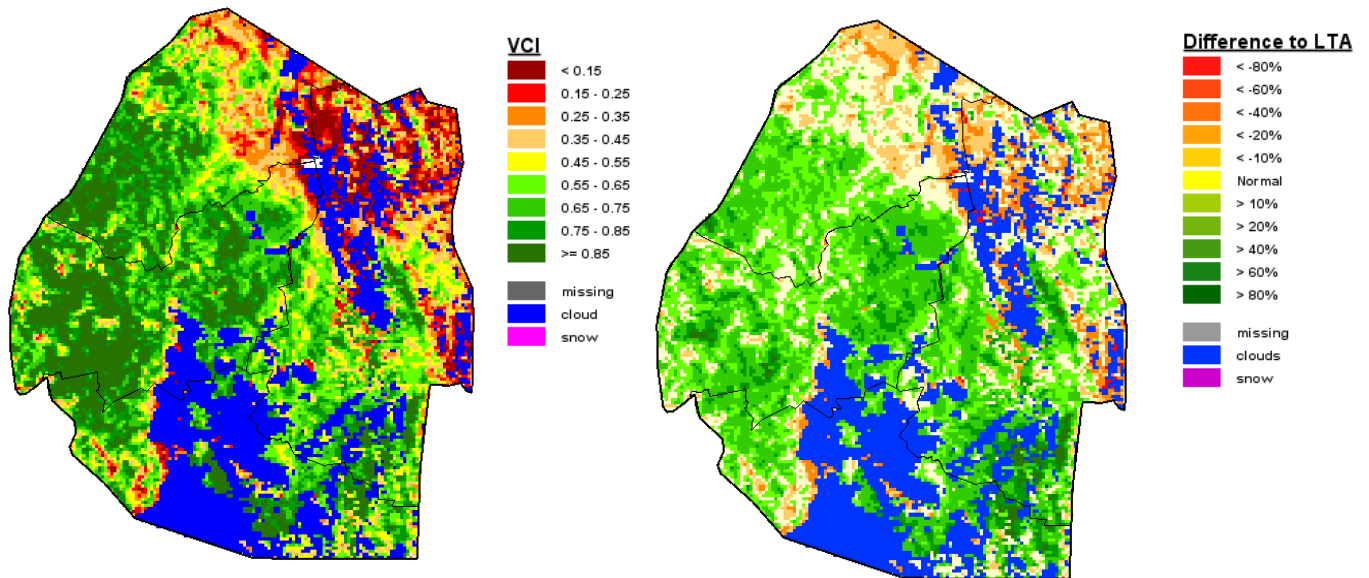


Image 1: Vegetation Condition Index image (2nd Dekad October 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*

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