

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL UPDATE



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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced rainfall received in some parts...**
- **Slight improvement in vegetation....**
- **Very few activities observed....**
- **Below average rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **An improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS

Slightly above average rainfall was recorded in most parts of the country as a result of influence from atmospheric disturbances as influenced by remnants of tropical cyclone Dineo.

➤ PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS

The deepening of sub-tropical depressions over northern parts of the SADC region coupled with the upper atmospheric high's position, will restrict significant moisture over the country, thus reduced rainfall activity.

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Reduced rainfall received throughout the country; however, it was above the average long-term mean. This is attributed to remnants of tropical cyclone Dineo over the southern parts of the SADC region (**Figure 1**) below.

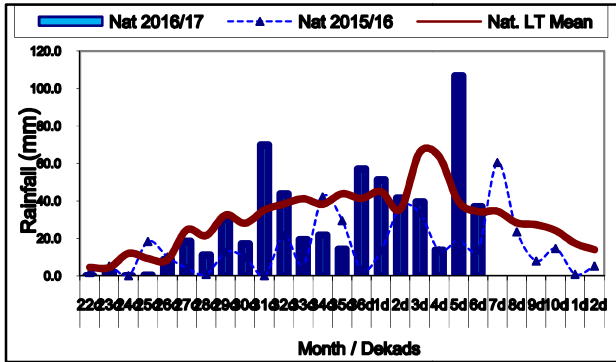
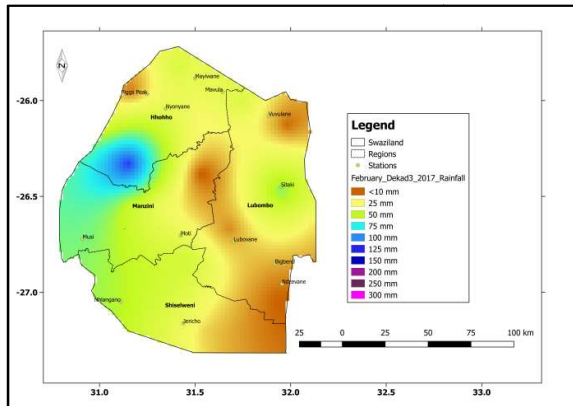


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as third dekad of February 2017



Map 2: Spatial rainfall distribution for third dekad February 2017

Above average rainfall recorded in most parts of the country during the dekad, except for some areas in the Middleveld (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 3rd dekad February 2017

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2015/16	21	23	3	7
Average	49	36	20	32
2016/17	53	31	22	42
Anomaly	4	-6	2	10

TEMPERATURES

Warmer temperatures were experienced mostly in the Middleveld in areas such as Ngwempisi and as well as the Lowveld as temperatures recorded were slightly above average (**Figure 2 and 3**).

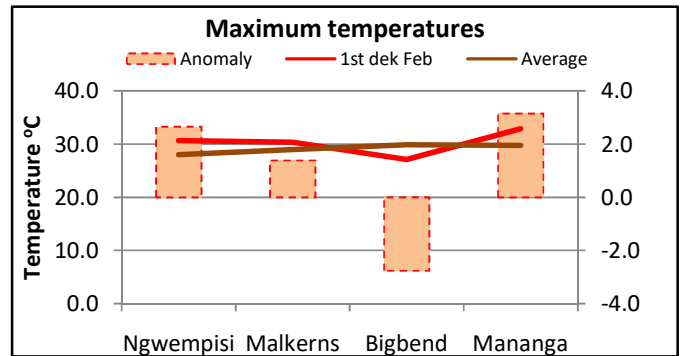


Figure 2: Maximum temperature as of third dekad of February 2017

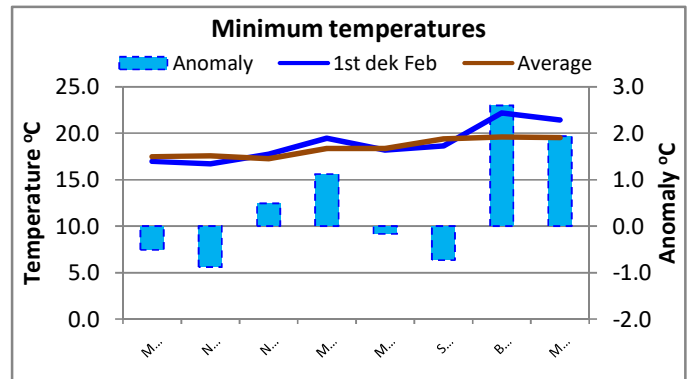


Figure 3: Minimum temperature as of third dekad of February 2017

MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Some maize crops that suffered from dry spells failed to recover, especially in the Lowveld (**Picture 1**). Most maize crops are at grain filling stage.



Picture 1: Maize that suffered from dry spell at Ngudzeni

OTHER CROPS

Planted legumes reported to be at vegetative stage and growing well (**Picture 2**).



Picture 2: Beans growing well at Hosea

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Not much farming activities observed except for very few harvesting early planted maize.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock reported to be in good condition. Pastures observed to be improving as a result of recent rains, except for most parts of the Lowveld and southern part of the country (**Image 1**).

WATER SITUATION

Major Dams observed to have recharged to more than half of their levels and small rivers flooding their banks.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Rainy episodes expected to persist in the medium term outlook.

TEMPERATURE

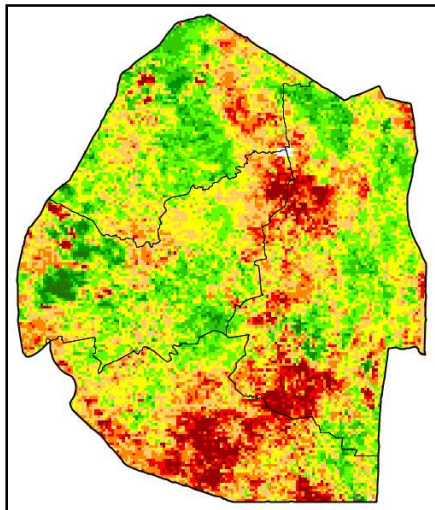
Warm to hot temperatures forecasted in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

An improvement in soil moisture expected.

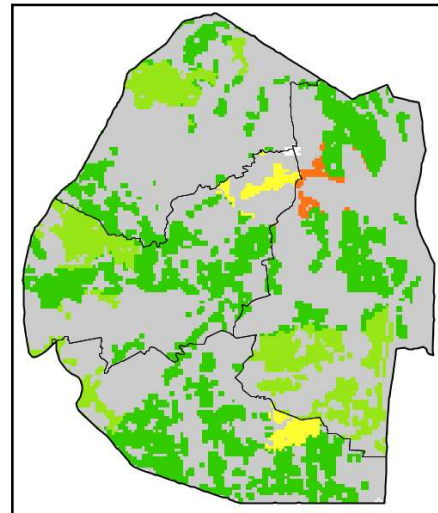
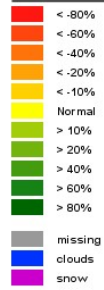
WIND SPEED

Moderate wind speed forecasted in the outlook period.



Legend

Difference to LTA



Legend

ASI (%)

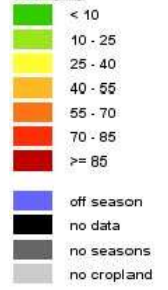


Image 1: Vegetation Health Index image (3rd Dekad February 2017) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*

Image 2: Agriculture Stress Index image (3rd Dekad February 2017) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*