

**ESWATINI GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE**



PRESS STATEMENT

Global Climate Drivers

Most atmospheric and oceanic indicators of El Niño southern Oscillation (ENSO) are at neutral levels. All international climate models surveyed suggest that sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific will continue to rise, but remain ENSO neutral for the remainder of the southern hemisphere winter. By September-October-November (SON), two of the eight models suggest ocean temperatures may approach El Niño thresholds with a 50% chance of El Niño developing in 2018.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. Most models indicate a neutral IOD is likely early winter. However, most of the models indicate a negative IOD is possible during winter.

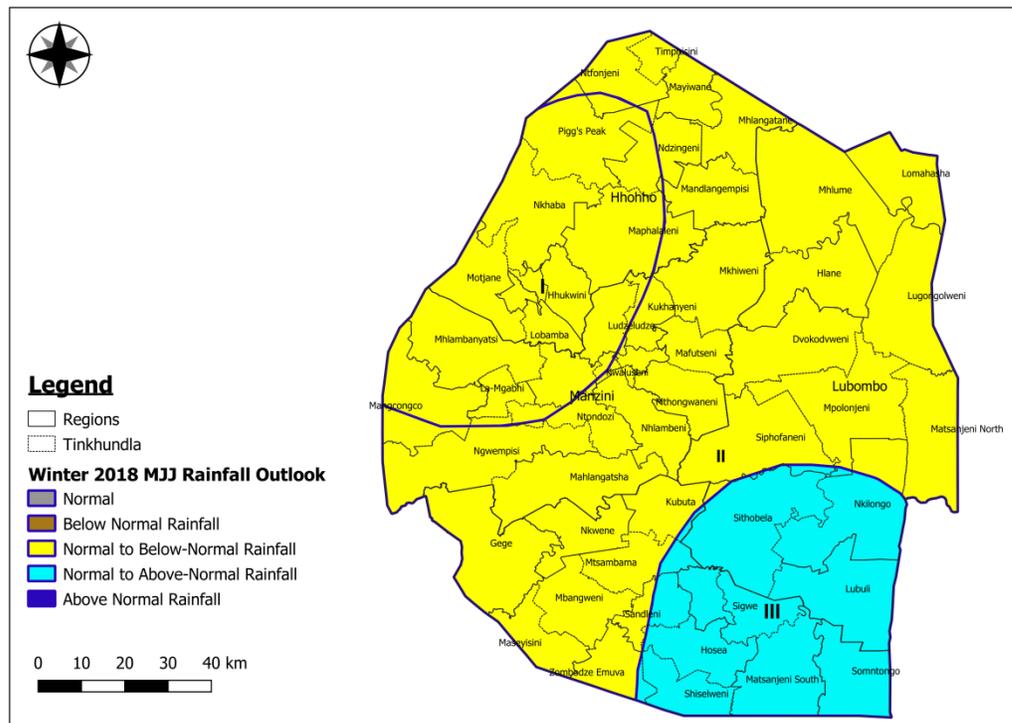
SWAZILAND SEASONAL FORECAST

Overview

The country's seasonal rainfall forecast update for winter 2018 show a generally normal forecast with a bias of Normal-to-Below-Normal Rainfall over most parts of the country, with rains ranging between 10 to 75mm during the May - July 2018 period. Temperatures for the same period are likely to be Normal-to-Above-Normal at night (Minimum) ranging between 5 to 15°C and Normal-to-Below during the day (Maximum) ranging between averages of 18 to 24°C. A National perspective forecast is presented below for the May-June-July (MJJ) period;

May – June - July 2018 (MJJ) Rainfall

The predictors used put most of the country in *Normal-to-Below* rainfall over the forecast period. Total seasonal rains will range between 10 and 25mm. The National breakdown of the predicted May-June-July (MJJ) 2018 rainfall probabilities are as presented below:



Map 1: Rainfall outlook for May-June-July 2018

Zone I

There is a chance of Normal-to-Below to Normal rainfall, with rains ranging between 5 and 10 mm over most areas within the region during the MJJ 2018 period.

Zone II

There is a chance of Normal-to-Below to Normal rainfall over most parts of the region, with rains ranging between 5 and 15 mm during the forecast period, MJJ 2018.

Zone III

There is a chance of Normal-to-Above to Normal rainfall over most parts of the region, with rains ranging between 15 and 20mm during the forecast period, MJJ 2018

May – June - July 2018 (MJJ) Temperatures

The predictors used put most of the country in *Normal to Below-Normal* temperatures during the day (*Maximum*) and *Normal to Above-Normal* temperatures during the night (*Minimum*) over the forecast period, with temperatures ranging between 5°C and 24°C. The national breakdown of the predicted April-May-June (MJJ) 2018 temperature probabilities are as presented below

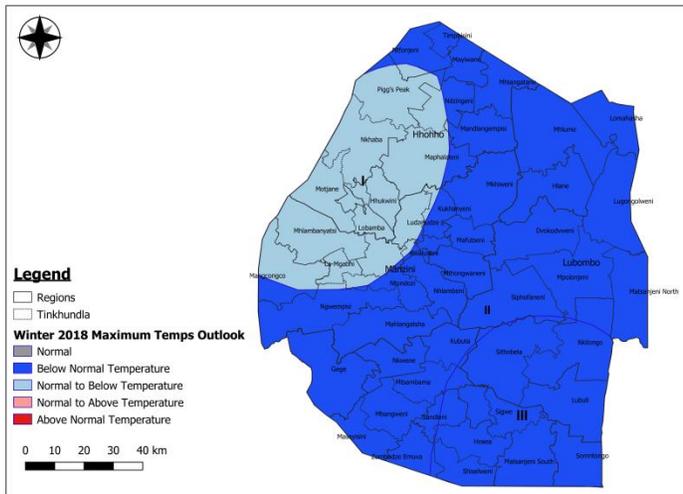


Figure 2: Maximum temperature outlook for MJJ 2018

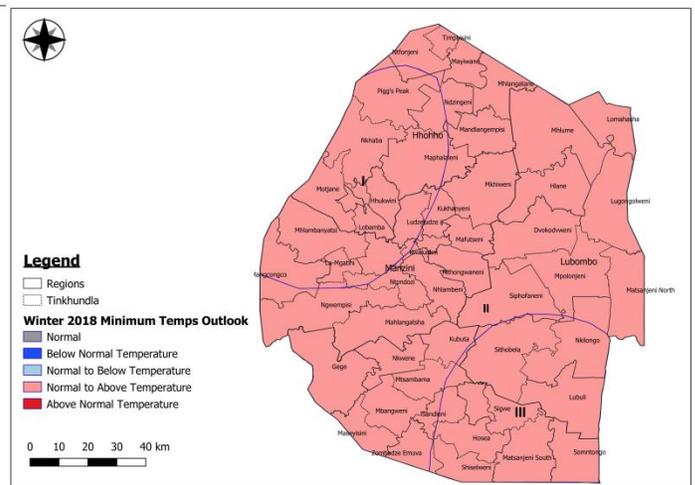


Figure 1: Minimum temperatures outlook for MJJ 2018

Zone I

There is a chance of Normal to Below-Normal maximum temperatures over most areas within the region, with temperatures ranging between 16 and 22°C during the MJJ 2018 period. While minimum temperatures have a *chance of Normal to Above-Normal* temperatures with temperatures varying between 5 and 15°C.

Zone II

There is a chance of Below-Normal maximum, with temperatures ranging between 18 and 24°C and *Normal to Above-Normal minimum temperatures* over most parts of the region, with temperatures ranging between 8 and 17°C during the forecast period, MJJ 2018.

Zone III

There is a chance of Below-Normal maximum, with temperatures ranging between 18 and 24°C, while *minimum temperatures* have a *chance of Normal to Above-Normal* I temperatures, with temperatures ranging between 10 and 17°C during the forecast period, MJJ 2018.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the forecast shows that we out of El Nino and the country will generally have normal rains throughout the entire first part of the winter season (May -July), ranging between 5 to 30mm, and temperatures normal, ranging between 5 to 25°C. Shorter timescale climate variations may occur, which can be determined through our daily and ten-day weather forecasts. The Swaziland Meteorological Service will continuously provide updates monthly during the winter season.

Jabulani Hlatshwayo
Acting Director of Meteorology
27th April 2018