

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

Revision No: 1

Effective Date: 01.07.2017

Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
21 – 31 MARCH 2018**



ISSUE No.: 18

SEASON: 2017/18

RELEASED: 06/04/2018

CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	1
CONTENTS	1
RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS	1
RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES	2
RAINFALL	2
TEMPERATURES	2
MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS.....	3
MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION..	3
OTHER CROPS	3
CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY	3
LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES	3
WATER SITUATION	3
MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK.....	4
RAINFALL	4
TEMPERATURE.....	4
SOIL MOISTURE	4
WIND SPEED	4

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Above average rainfall received...**
- **Improvement in vegetation...**
- **Early harvesting activities observed...**
- **Reduced rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated...**
- **Decrease in soil moisture expected...**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS

The past ten days recorded above average rainfall due to the continued strengthening of the rain bearing systems over the country. Temperatures observed were below average in most parts of the country.

➤ PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS

Due to the Tropical air system some drizzle will be observed in some parts in during the outlook period and then the Surface High will take over resulting in cloudy, sunny conditions. Temperatures will be mostly warm in the Highveld and hot in the rest of the country.

Compiled and Issued by: Agrometeorological Unit,
Swaziland Meteorological Service, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

Box 2652, Mbabane, Swaziland. ☎ (+268) 2404 8859 / 2404 6274. Fax: 2404 1530

E-mail: dudu@swazimet.gov.sz

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004
 Revision No: 1
 Effective Date: 01.07.2017
 Page No: 2 of 4
 Approved by:

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Much improved above average rainfall was received throughout the country during dekad (Figure 1). Most parts of the country observed above 100mm save for the South-Eastern part which received about 60mm (Map 1).

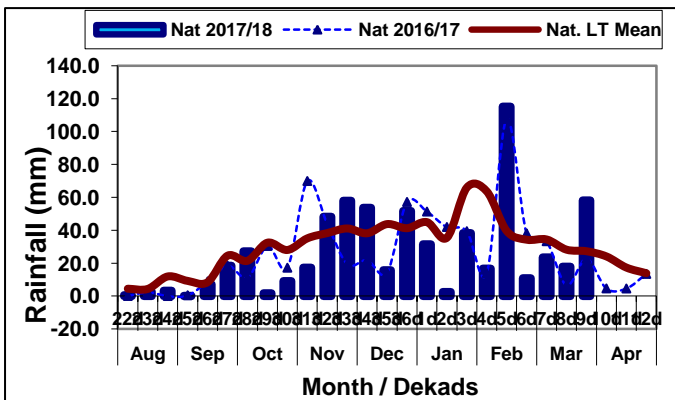
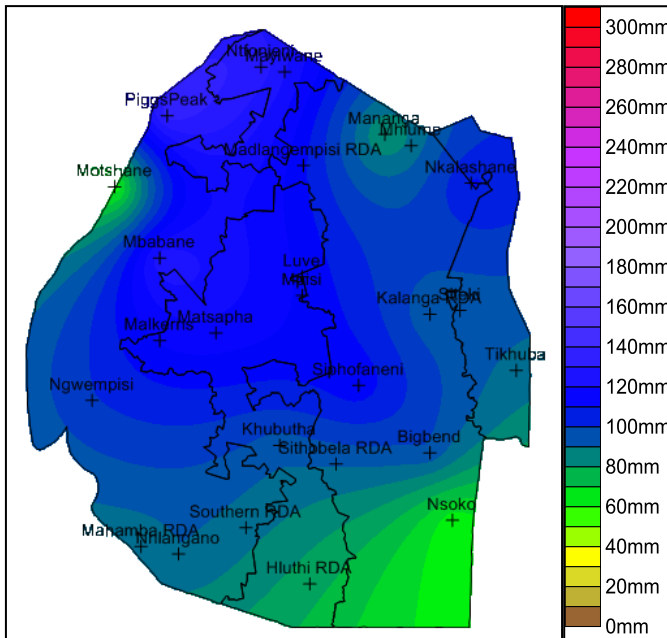


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 3rd dekad of March 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 3rd dekad March 2018

Most of the Agroecological zones observed above average rainfall except for the Middleveld which fell short of the long term average (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 3rd dekad March 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	30	11	20	30
Average	36	28	22	24
2017/18	103	15	70	44
Anomaly	67	-12	48	20

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures were mostly cold to warm during the reporting period, as most stations recorded below average maximum temperatures (Figure 2) and about average minimum temperatures (Figure 3).

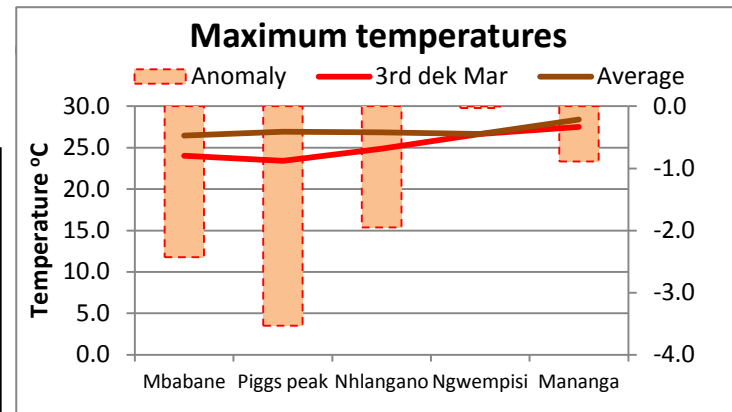


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 3rd dekad of March 2018

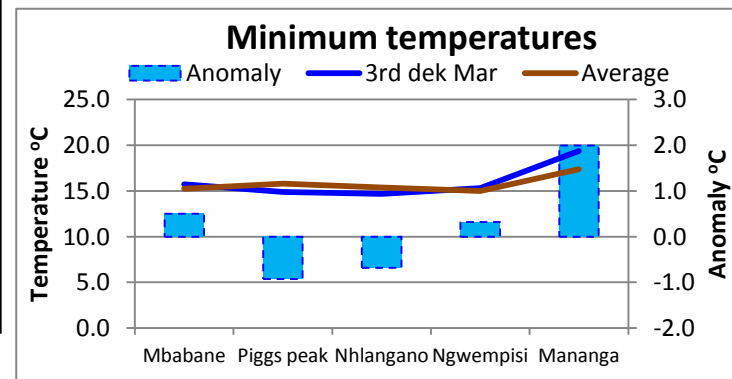


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 3rd dekad of March 2018

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

Revision No: 1

Effective Date: 01.07.2017

Page No: 3 of 4

Approved by:

MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Most maize crops are at reproductive and maturity stages. The condition of the crop is good (**Picture 1**) and most have recovered from the season shocks hailstorms, dry spells (**Picture 2**) and Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation.



Picture 1: Maize intercropped with beans



Picture 2: Maize affected by dry spell at Luhlokohla in the Manzini region

OTHER CROPS

Other crops are reported to be in vegetative to reproductive stages and in good condition (**Picture 3**).



Picture 3: Sweet potatoes growing at Motshane in the Hhohho region

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Farmers who planted early have started harvesting their maize crops.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock and pastures are reported to be in good condition in most parts of the country (**Picture 3**).



Picture 3: Cattle grazing at Ngculwini in the Manzini region

WATER SITUATION

Water flows slightly improved in some water sources due to recent improved rains. Major Dam reservoirs and rivers are reported to be in moderate levels.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

Revision No: 1

Effective Date: 01.07.2017

Page No: 4 of 4

Approved by:

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Reduced rainfall is forecasted for the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures will be warm to hot in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

A decrease in soil moisture is expected in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Light breeze wind between 2-5m/s is anticipated in the outlook period.

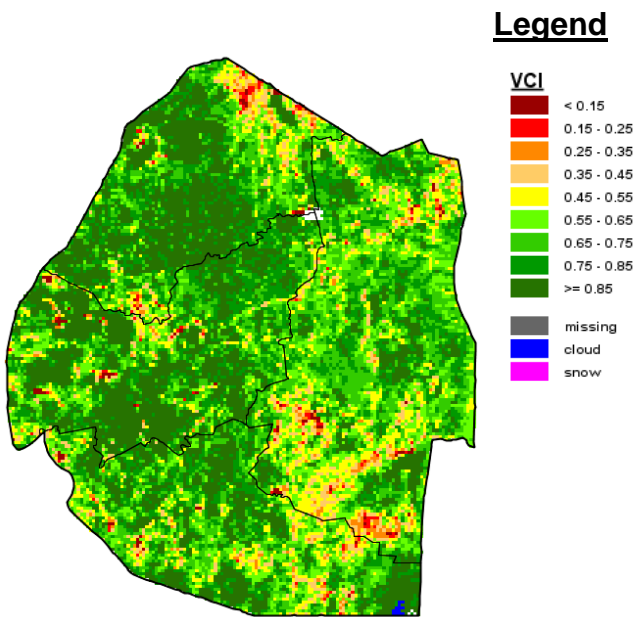


Image 1: Vegetation Condition Index image (3rd Dekad March 2018) Source: FAO-GIEWS

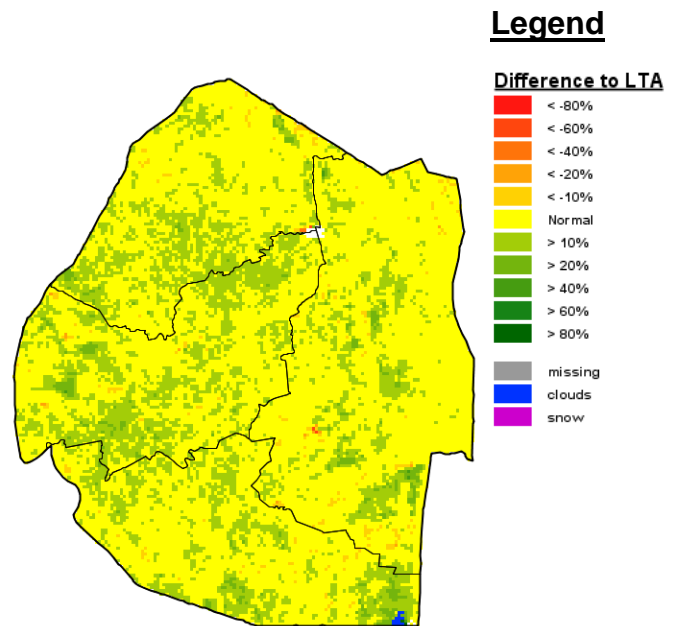


Image 2: Vegetation Anomaly image (3rd Dekad March 2018) Source: FAO-GIEWS