

## Eastern Cape Forecasting Desk

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### SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE EASTERN CAPE: March to July 2025

## Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has recently crossed the La Niña threshold and is predicted to remain on the boundary of this threshold for the next few months. Current predictions are still uncertain, with multiple global models predicting different direction (either strengthening the La Niña state or moving back to a Neutral state). For South Africa caution is still advised in using the ENSO in any important planning decisions as it seems to be currently very volatile and unpredictable. For South Africa time is running out as well for a potential La Niña to affect us as summer is coming to an end.

Current predictions indicate above-normal rainfall for most of the north-eastern parts of the country during autumn, however this is expected to change to only above-normal rainfall for the interior and eastern coastal areas during late autumn and eventually mostly below-normal during early winter. However, due to significant reduction in rainfall over the central and north-eastern parts of the country during late autumn and early winter climatologically, the most important forecast is for the south-western parts of the country, where below-normal rainfall is expected during these seasons.

Minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period. However, the southern coastal areas indicate that below-normal temperatures are more likely throughout the summer period.

## LOCAL Overview

There were pockets of good rainfall in January and February with some areas experiencing above normal rainfall for the period, especially along the coast and over the eastern interior. Other areas were dry and hot.

***The Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo districts are at high risk for flooding and flash flooding with the associated impacts. Disaster Management and the public should be on constant alert and preparedness. While drier conditions are expected as we move into winter, the Alfred Nzo district may continue to receive above normal rainfall.***

### **WATER AND ENERGY**

The expected above-normal rainfall conditions in the north-eastern parts of the country, particularly the KwaZulu-Natal Province are likely to increase water levels during the forecasted period. These conditions may result in flash floods in flood-prone regions of the province. Furthermore, maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be mostly above normal countrywide during the forecast period and are likely to result in increased demand for cooling, except for the southern coastal areas where the anticipated below-normal maximum and minimum temperatures are expected. Relevant decision-makers are encouraged to take note of these possible outcomes and communicate with affected businesses and communities accordingly.

### **WINTERBERG and SURROUNDING AREAS**

Latest models generally favour above normal rainfall for the period March and April but then drier than normal conditions prevail as we move into the winter months. This would normally be a dry period anyway.

### **GAMTOOS / Kouga Region / Nelson Mandela Bay Metro**

A fairly wet period to start off with (March and April) but drier conditions are expected as we approach winter. With the reduction of cloud cover and cooling of temperatures we could experience above normal occurrences of frost over the interior. Max and Min temperatures are expected to be cooler than normal towards the coastal areas.

### **Gariep Dam (Nooitgedacht System)**

Models are now indicating higher than normal rainfall for the period but a dry winter. The dam capacity will be sufficient to maintain a flow through the Nooitgedacht Scheme.

### **Klein Karoo (Small Karoo- Steytlerville/Jansenville and surrounds)**

Although some rain is expected to start with (March / April), conditions generally remain dry to very dry over this region as we move from Autumn into winter. With the reduction of cloud cover a higher-than-normal occurrence of frost is expected.

### Health Sector

The predicted higher temperatures in most parts of the country, except for the southern coastal areas, are expected to greatly increase the risk of heat exposure, potentially leading to heat stress and other heat-related health problems. Furthermore, this rise in temperatures may increase the risk of prolonged UV exposure, which may exceed level 3 on the World Meteorological Organization's UV Index. Such heightened UV exposure could result in a higher incidence of sunburn and other UV-related health issues.

Additionally, elevated temperatures may accelerate the growth of food-borne pathogens, raising the risk of foodborne illnesses. The public is advised to maintain good food hygiene, adhere to local health guidelines under these conditions, and take necessary precautions to manage heat exposure. The predicted above-normal rainfall for most of the north-eastern parts of the country is likely to result in flash floods, particularly in flood-prone areas and regions with inadequate drainage systems.

These conditions may increase the incidence of waterborne infections, water-related injuries, and drowning accidents, heightened by recreational water activities. It is recommended that the public take precautions and follow the advice and recommendations of local authorities. Local authorities are encouraged to monitor these risks, develop mitigation strategies, and enhance public health surveillance.

### Agriculture Sector

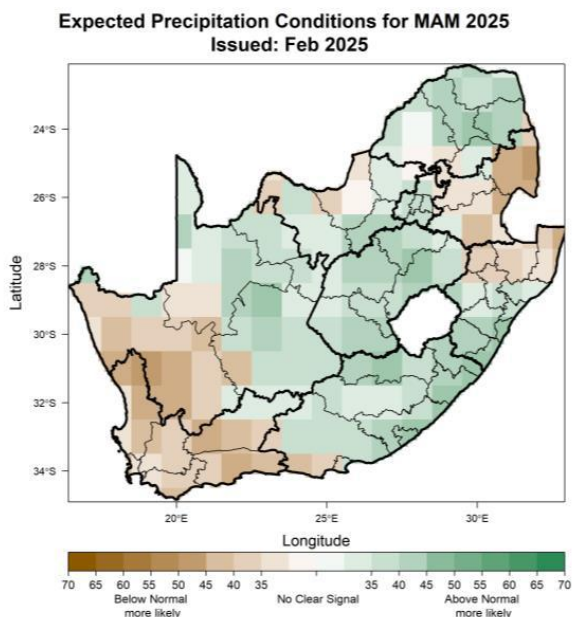
Above-normal rainfall is expected over most parts of the summer rainfall region, especially in the north-eastern parts of the country during autumn. These above-normal rainfall forecasts are likely to have a positive impact on crop and livestock production in these areas.

However, there is an increased risk of water logging that can cause crop damage in areas receiving excessive rainfall. The south-western part, which normally receives significant rainfall during early-winter, is expected to receive mostly below-normal rainfall during this period. Therefore, the relevant decision-makers are encouraged to advise farmers in these regions to implement soil and water conservation measures, establish effective drainage systems, proper water harvesting and storage techniques, and other appropriate farming practices.

## Eastern Cape Rainfall outlook

### RAINFALL FORECAST MAPS

Figure 1: Rainfall (March 2025 to May 2025)

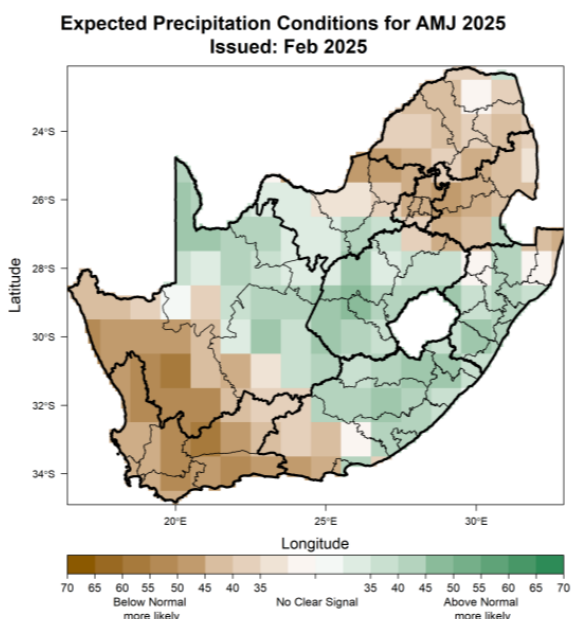


The latest forecast indicates above normal rainfall for the province except over the Kouga region where drier than normal rainfall is anticipated.

The drier conditions encroach from the west as we move closer to towards May.

Members of the public and disaster management should be prepared for flooding from March to mid-May over the eastern parts, especially the Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo districts. The associated impacts also need to be considered such as mud and rockslides, swollen rivers, damaged roads and infrastructure etc.

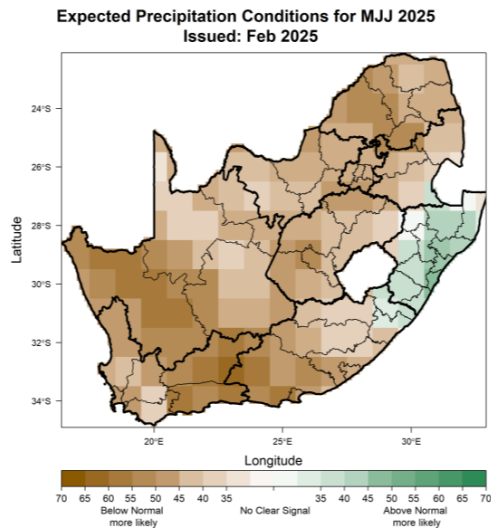
Figure 2: Rainfall (April to June 2025)



Drier than normal conditions are expected over Sarah Baartman and western parts of Nelson Mandela Bay. While the rest of the province will experience above normal rainfall.

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Figure 3: Rainfall (May to July 2025)



Drier than normal conditions are expected throughout the province from about mid-May through until July except over the Alfred Nzo district where above normal rainfall can still be expected.

## Day & Night Temperatures

Cooler overnight temperatures are expected along the southern coastal areas and adjacent interior while warmer conditions are expected over the remainder of the area.

Generally warmer than normal maximum temperatures are expected except over the Kouga coastal areas and Nelson Mandela Bay where cooler conditions are expected.



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