

Climate information: Seasonal prediction

July 12, 2026

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SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE EASTERN CAPE: July to November 2026

1 Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has just moved into a weak El Niño state; current predictions indicate that it will rapidly strengthen towards a Strong El Niño state within the next couple of months and continue to strengthen up to early summer and last at least until the end of the 2026/27 summer season. Current seasonal predictions for South Africa extend towards the transition from late winter to spring, so the impact on South Africa for the coming summer can only be estimated from typical El Niño events, which is for a drier and warmer summer season. During the winter seasons, it is only the south-western, southern and eastern coastal areas that receive significant rainfall. The eastern coastal areas are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during late winter and spring, whilst below-normal rainfall is expected for the south-western and southern coastal areas during this late winter and the spring period. Minimum and maximum temperatures are largely expected to be above-normal for most parts of South Africa during the winter seasons. The SAWS will continue to monitor the weather and climate conditions and provide updates on any future assessments that may provide more clarity on the current expectations for the coming season.

2 Local Overview

2.1 Eastern Cape Dam Levels (Latest weekly data)

Dam Name	This Week (%)	Last Year (%)
Belfort Dam	100.0	100.0
Binfield Dam	98.7	99.9
Bridle Drift Dam	87.3	103.2
Darlington Dam	50.5	39.7
Elands Drift Dam	54.9	66.1
Groendal Dam	101.0	97.6
Impofu Dam	100.4	50.8
Kromrivier Dam	100.5	79.4
Katrivier Dam	100.3	100.0
Kommandodrift Dam	99.1	82.9
Kouga Dam	100.6	79.0
Loerie Dam	100.2	69.9
Lubisi Dam	66.5	46.6
Nahoon Dam	76.8	99.3
Ncora Dam	95.9	100.8
Nqweba Dam	101.4	91.6
Waterdown Dam	100.0	100.4
Wriggleswade Dam	97.3	100.6
Xonxa Dam	99.6	99.0
Umtata Dam	96.6	100.7
Gariep Dam	99.0	98.4

Table 1: Gariep Dam and Eastern Cape Dam Levels - Weekly Data

2.2 Winterberg and surrounding areas

A strong signal for above-normal precipitation, however this is a summer rainfall region, hence might see limited impact.

2.3 Gamtoos / Kouga Region / Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

Below-normal precipitation which indicate it might be a drier Autumn.

2.4 Gariep Dam / Nooitgedacht System)

Above-normal precipitation, but this is a summer rainfall region, hence might see limited impact.

2.5 Klein Karoo (Small Karoo-, Steytlerville / Jansenville and surrounds)

Above-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures are expected.

3 Water and Energy

The anticipated above-normal rainfall conditions in the eastern coastal areas during late winter and spring are likely to boost surface runoff into dams and reservoirs, substantially increasing water storage capacity and availability for purposes such as household, industrial, and agricultural use. Such conditions are likely to benefit water-scarce regions, bringing relief to areas that receive rainfall during winter seasons. However, intensive rainfall may overwhelm stormwater and sewage systems, resulting in flash floods and flooding in areas prone to floods, including low-lying bridges. In addition, during this period, below-normal rainfall conditions are expected in the south-western

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and southern coastal areas. Such conditions, coupled with mostly forecasted above-normal temperatures for most parts of the country during the winter seasons, are likely to increase water loss, adding pressure on water -scarce regions. Additionally, the anticipated above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures across the country are likely to increase the cooling demand during the forecast period. Decision-makers should note these possible outcomes and communicate with affected businesses and communities.

4 Health Sector

The July to November 2026 seasonal forecast indicates potential health risks associated with rainfall variability and above-normal temperatures across much of South Africa. Above-normal rainfall in parts of the eastern coastal areas during late winter and spring may increase the risk of localised flooding, poor drainage, contamination of water sources, waterborne disease, and water-related injuries, particularly in low-lying and flood-prone communities. Below-normal rainfall across parts of the south-western and southern coastal areas may place pressure on water availability, hygiene and sanitation if dry conditions persist. Above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures across most of the country may contribute to increased ultraviolet exposure during clear-sky periods, with associated risks including sunburn and longer-term skin damage. authorities, municipalities and disaster management structures are encouraged to strengthen floodrisk communication in wetter eastern coastal areas, reinforce safe water, sanitation and hygiene messaging where dry or wet conditions may affect public health, and continue public awareness efforts on ultraviolet exposure. Communities are encouraged to avoid flood-prone areas, maintain safe water and sanitation practices, and use appropriate sun protection during periods of increased ultraviolet exposure.

5 Agriculture Sector

During late winter and spring seasons, only the southern, south-western, and eastern coastal regions of the country receive significant rainfall. The forecast indicates that above-normal rainfall is anticipated in the eastern coastal areas, which is likely to bring positive impacts for crop and livestock production. However, the south-western and southern coastal areas of the country, which normally receive significant rainfall during winter and spring, are expected to receive below-normal rainfall during this period. Below-normal rainfall conditions in these areas are expected to have a significant impact on crop and livestock production. Therefore, the relevant decision-makers are encouraged to advise farmers in these regions to practice soil and water conservation, proper water harvesting and storage, and other appropriate farming practices.

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6 Eastern Cape Rainfall Outlook

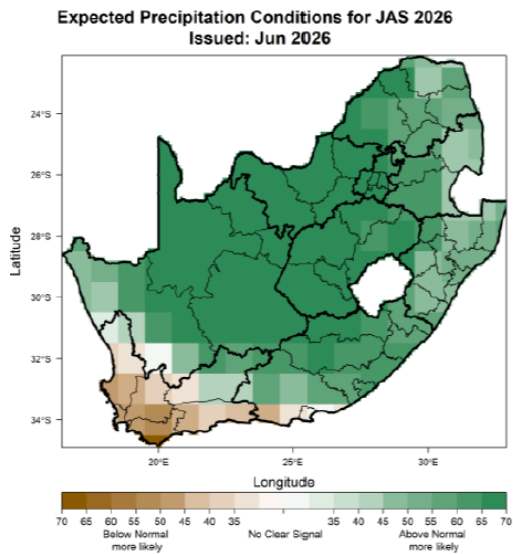


Figure 1: Rainfall for Jul to Sep (JAS)

Precipitation is expected to be above-normal, with exception of the South Coast. Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal.

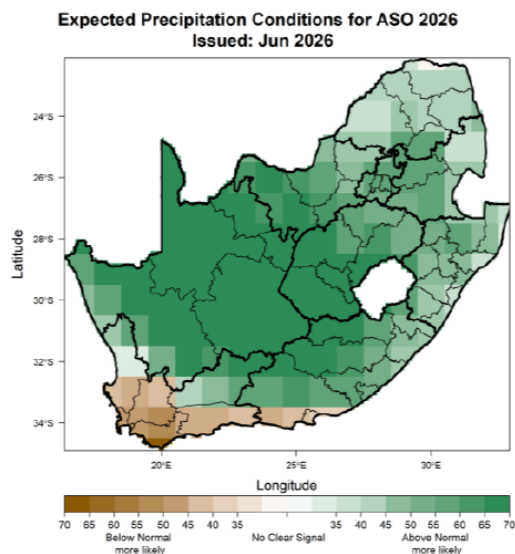


Figure 2: Rainfall for Aug to Oct (ASO)

Rainfall is expected to be above-normal with exception of the south-western corner that will be below-normal rainfall. Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal.

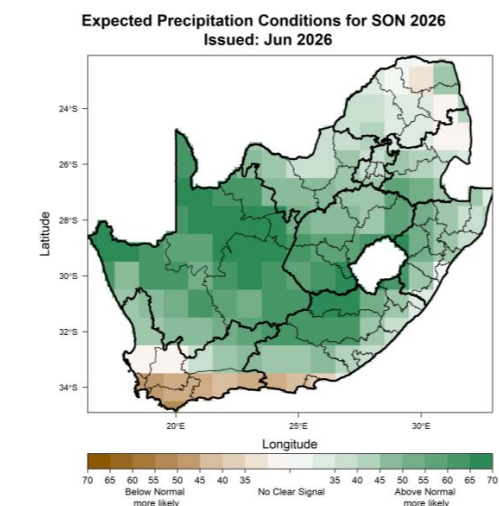


Figure 3: Rainfall for Sep to Nov (SON)

Rainfall is expected to be above-normal with exception of the south-western corner that will be below-normal rainfall. Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal.

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7 Day Temperatures

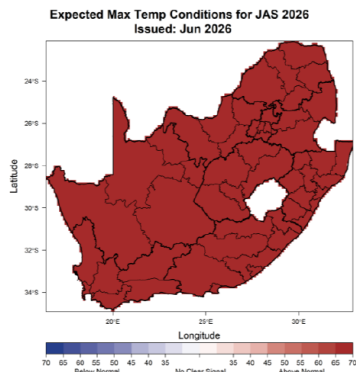


Figure 4
Daytime temperatures for Jul
to Sep (JAS)

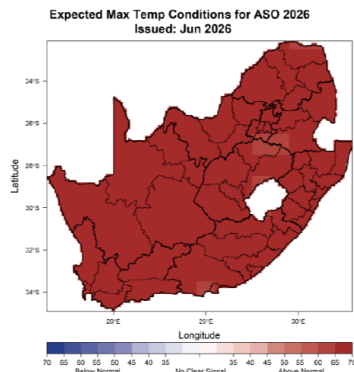


Figure 5
Daytime temperatures for
Aug to Oct (ASO)

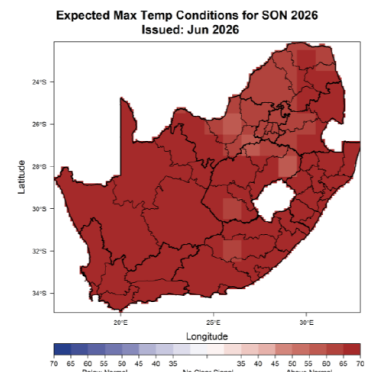


Figure 6
Daytime temperatures for Sep
to Nov (SON)

8 Night Temperatures

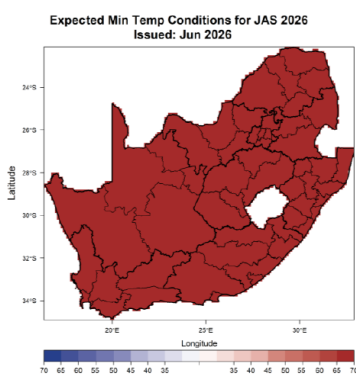


Figure 4
Daytime temperatures for Jul
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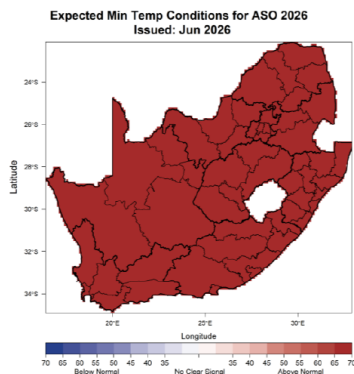


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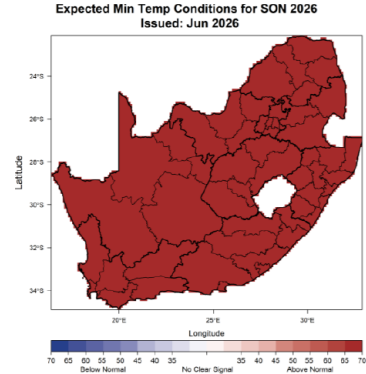


Figure 6
Daytime temperatures for Sep
to Nov (SON)

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