

Seasonal forecasts

presented by:

Tel: +27(82)644-5304
Willem.Landman@up.ac.za



<https://tinyurl.com/ybrb3a72>



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Seasonal Forecast Worx

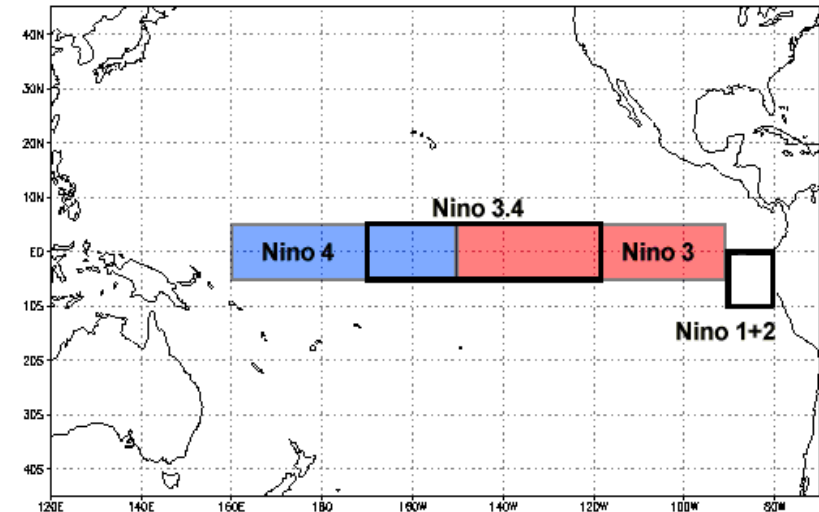
Latest Update: 16 March 2022

- The seasonal forecasts presented here by **Seasonal Forecast Worx** are based on forecast output of the coupled ocean-atmosphere models administered through the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) prediction experiment (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME/>; Kirtman et al. 2014). NMME real-time seasonal forecast and hindcast (re-forecast) data are obtained from the data library (<http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/>) of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI; <http://iri.columbia.edu/>).
- NMME forecasts are routinely produced and are statistically improved and tailored for southern Africa and for global sea-surface temperatures by employees and post-graduate students in the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology at the University of Pretoria (<http://www.up.ac.za/en/geography-geoinformatics-and-meteorology/>). Statistical post-processing is performed with the CPT software (<http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/tools/cpt/>).
- Why do we apply statistical methods to climate model forecasts?
“...**statistical correction methods treating individual locations (e.g. multiple regression or principal component regression) may be recommended for today’s coupled climate model forecasts**”. (Barnston and Tippett, 2017).
- Why do we not use just a single model in our forecasts?
“...**multi-model forecasts outperform the single model forecasts...**” (Landman and Beraki, 2012).
- For the official seasonal forecast for South Africa, visit the South African Weather Service website at <http://www.weathersa.co.za/images/data/longrange/gfcsa/scw.pdf>

ENSO and Global SST Forecasts

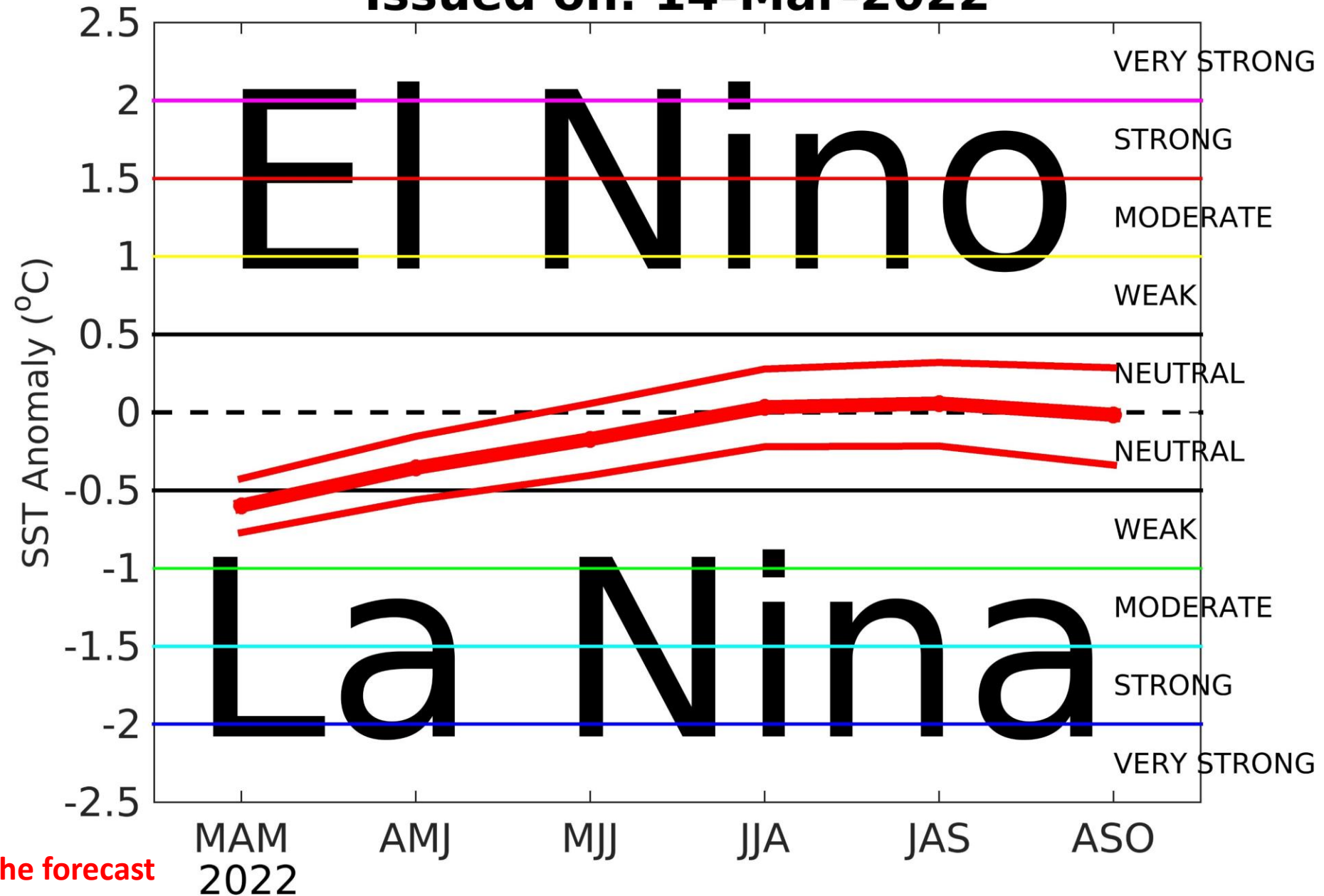
Prediction Method

- Forecasts for global sea-surface temperature (SST) fields are obtained through a combination of NMME models and a linear statistical model, that uses antecedent SST as a predictor (Landman et al. 2011). Forecasts for the Niño3.4 area (see insert) are derived from the global forecasts.
- SST forecasts from the NMME models are variance and bias corrected.
- Three-month Niño3.4 SST forecasts are produced for three categories:
 - **El Niño:** SST above the 75th percentile
 - **La Niña:** SST below the 25th percentile
 - **Neutral:** Neither El Niño nor La Niña



CSiriMM Nino3.4 SST Forecast

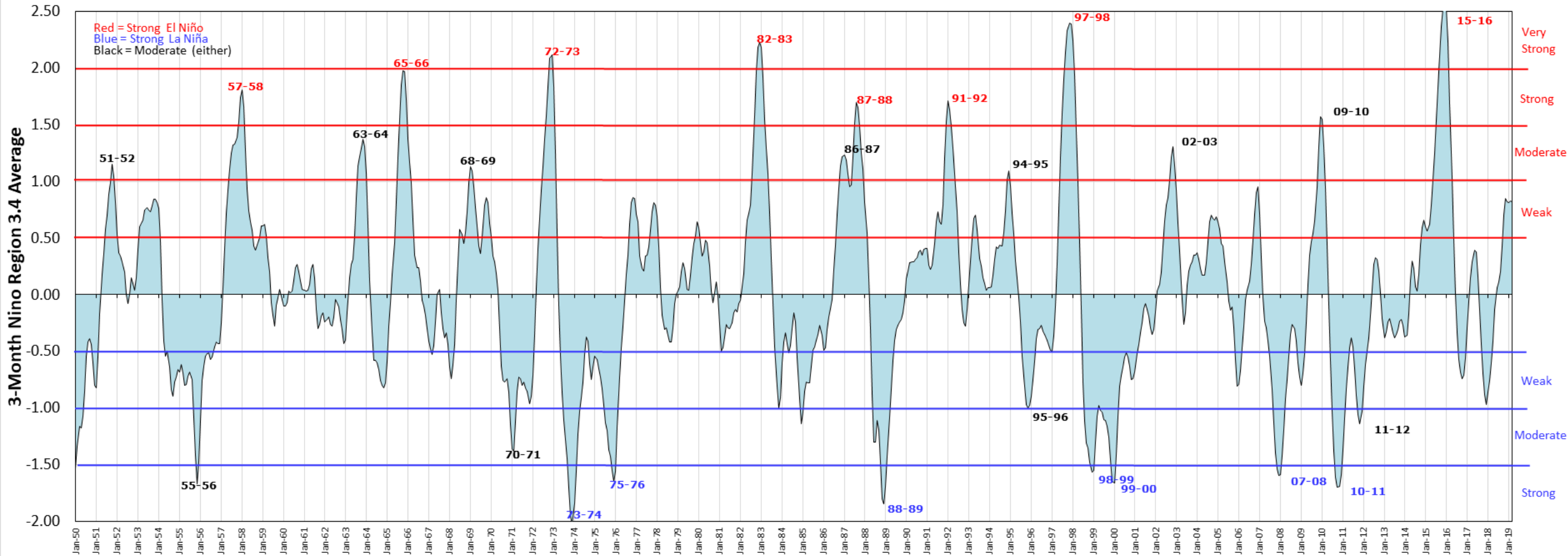
Issued on: 14-Mar-2022



Middle red line: the forecast
Thin red lines: 25% confidence levels

Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

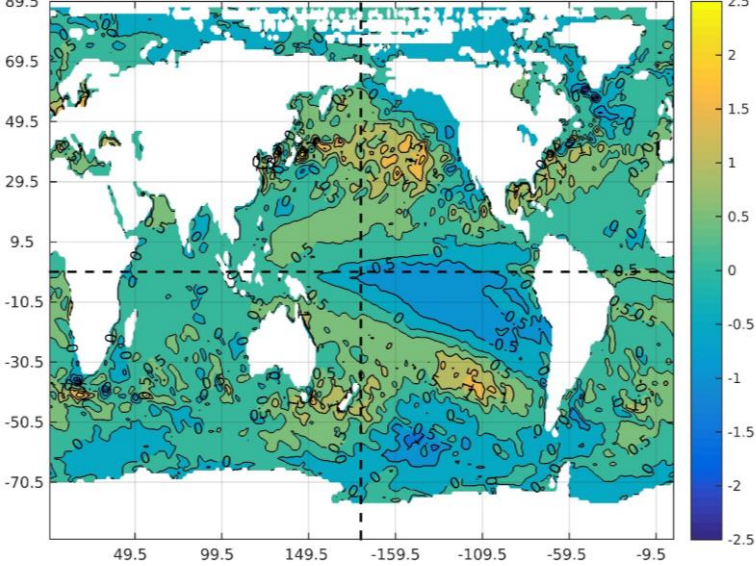
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ensoyears.shtml



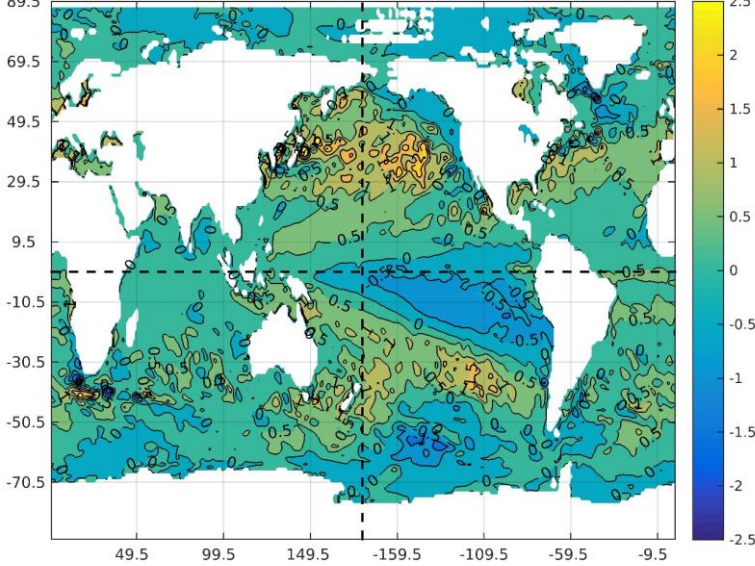
IC: the month in which the forecast was made

SST anomalies (in °C, where blue is cooler and orange is warmer)

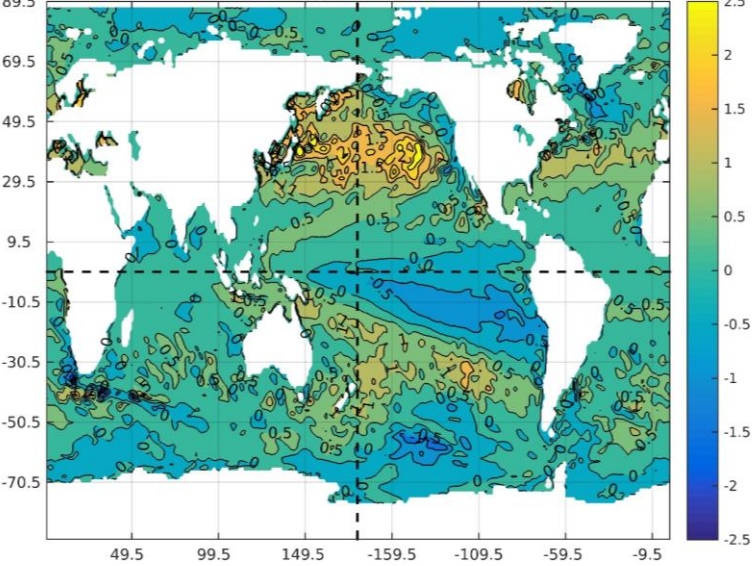
SST MAM IC:Mar2022



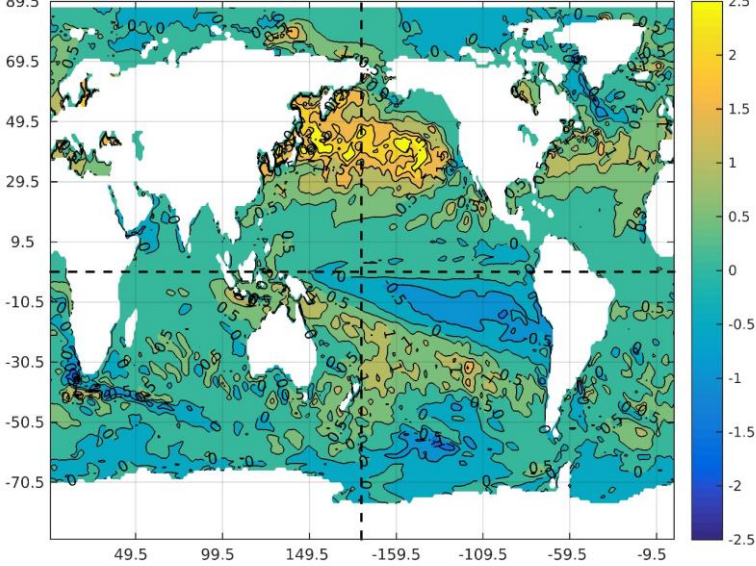
SST AMJ IC:Mar2022



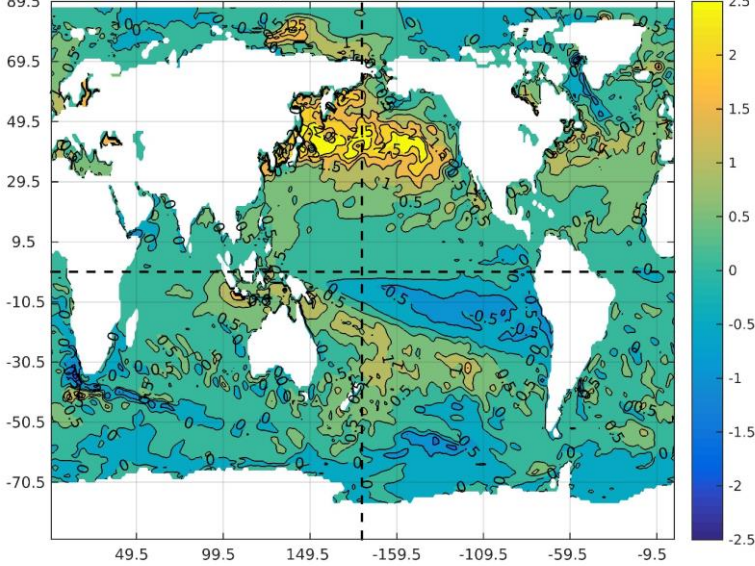
SST MJJ IC:Mar2022



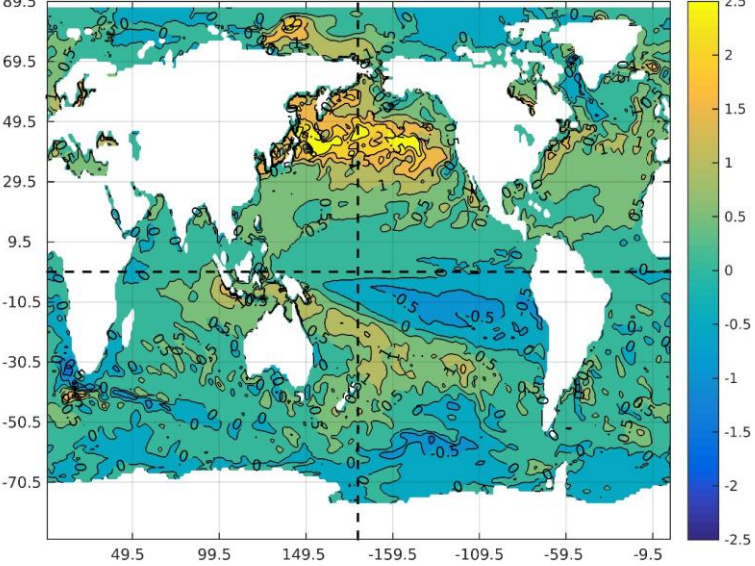
SST JJA IC:Mar2022



SST JAS IC:Mar2022



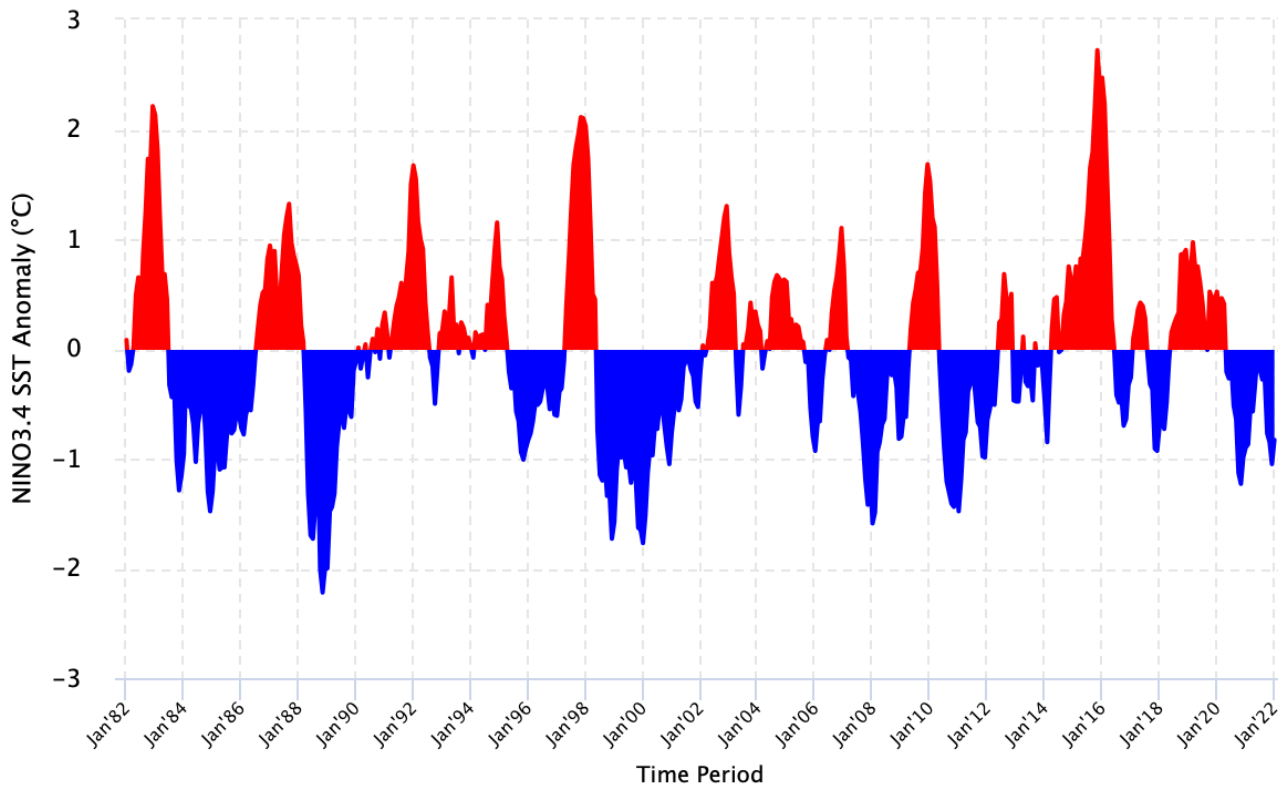
SST ASO IC:Mar2022



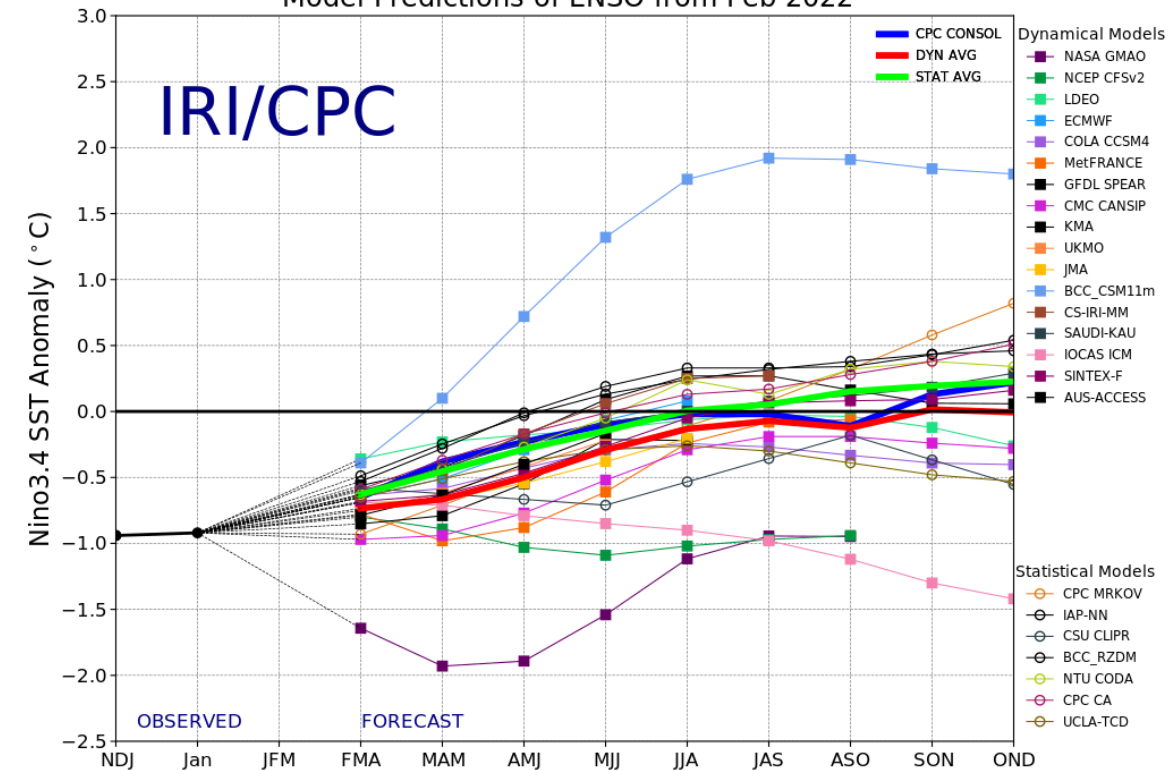
Round-up: ENSO

- The UP model predicts a transition into ENSO-neutral conditions during winter; this forecast is in agreement with most models:

Historical Nino 3.4 Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly



Model Predictions of ENSO from Feb 2022



Southern Africa Forecasts

Prediction Method

- Three-month seasons for seasonal rainfall totals and average maximum temperatures of NMME ensemble mean forecasts are interpolated to the Climatic Research Unit (CRU; Harris et al. 2014) grids ($0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$), by correcting the mean and variance biases of the NMME forecasts. Probabilistic forecasts are subsequently produced from the error variance obtained from a 5-year-out cross-validation process (Troccoli et al. 2008). Forecasts cover a 6-month period.
- Forecasts are produced for three categories:
 - **Above:** Above-normal (“wet” rainfall totals / “hot” maximum temperatures higher than the 75th percentile of the climatological record)
 - **Below:** Below-normal (“dry” rainfall totals / “cool” maximum temperatures lower than the 25th percentile of the climatological record)
 - **Normal:** Near-normal (“average” season)
- Verification of forecast skill:
 - ROC Area (Below-Normal) – The forecast system’s ability to discriminate dry or cool seasons from the rest of the seasons over a 23-year test period. ROC values should be higher than 0.5 for a forecast system to be considered skilful.
 - ROC Area (Above-Normal) – The forecast system’s ability to discriminate wet or hot seasons from the rest of the seasons over a 23-year test period. ROC values should be higher than 0.5 for a forecast system to be considered skilful.

Forecasts are probabilistic

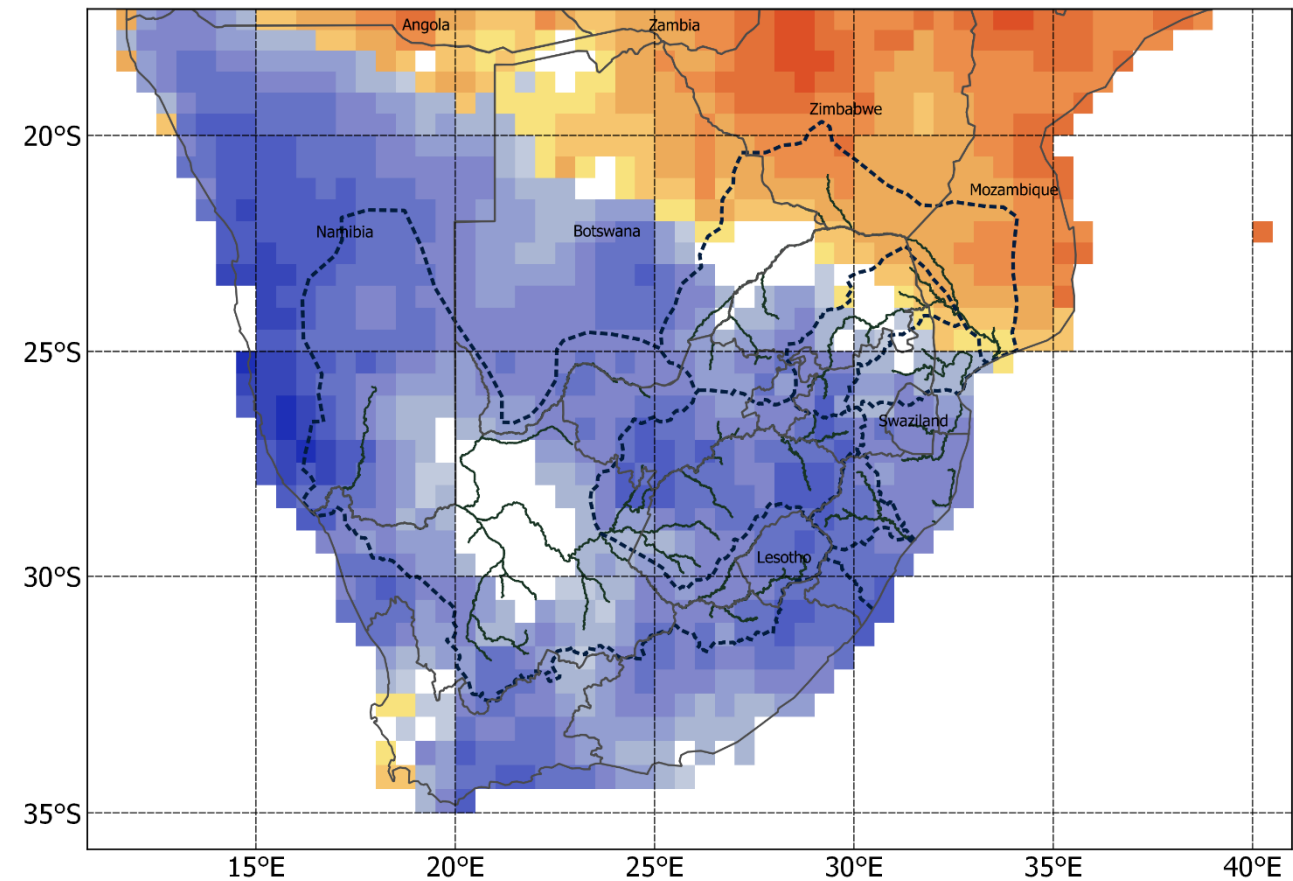
Probabilistic forecasts can help users understand risks and opportunities (forewarned is forearmed) in order to make more informed decisions.

The seasonal rainfall and maximum temperature forecasts to follow are expressed in probabilities, shown as the % chance of the most likely outcome of 3 categories. The colour of the scale reflects the most likely category and the % shows the probability of that outcome. Only ONE of the ROC area skill assessment maps should be consulted, depending on the category shown on the forecast map (Above- or Below-Normal), and the higher the value, the more skilful the forecast for that pixel is. The probabilities shown are always less than 100% - so there is no absolute certainty that the less favoured outcome will not occur. For example, if the forecast claims a 75% of below-normal rainfall totals for a season (i.e. drought), it means that 1 out of 4 times it will **not** develop into a drought.

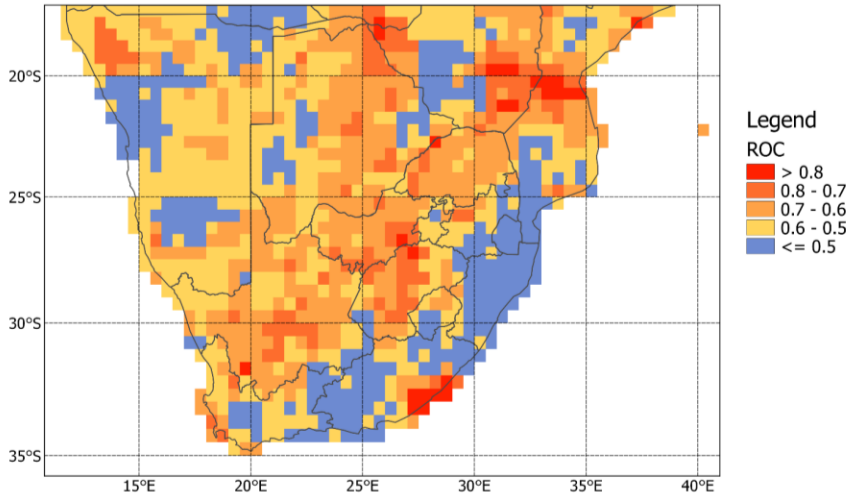
The nature of a probabilistic forecast implies that the less likely outcomes are always possible. In fact, for the probabilistic forecasts to be considered reliable, the less likely outcomes will and must occasionally occur.

Note: Probabilistic forecasts are considered reliable when the forecast probability is an accurate estimation of the relative frequency of the predicted outcome. In other words, forecasts are reliable if the observation falls within the category (Below-, Near- or Above-Normal) as frequently as the forecast implies

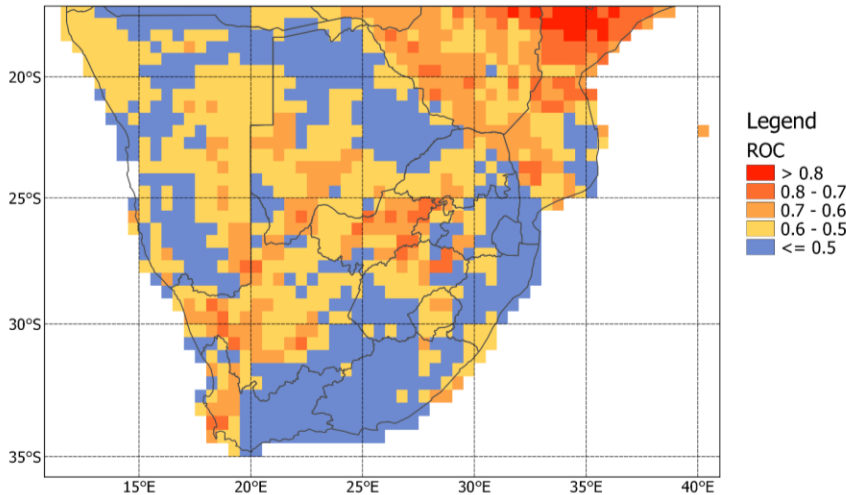
MAM 2022 Rainfall; ICs: Mar



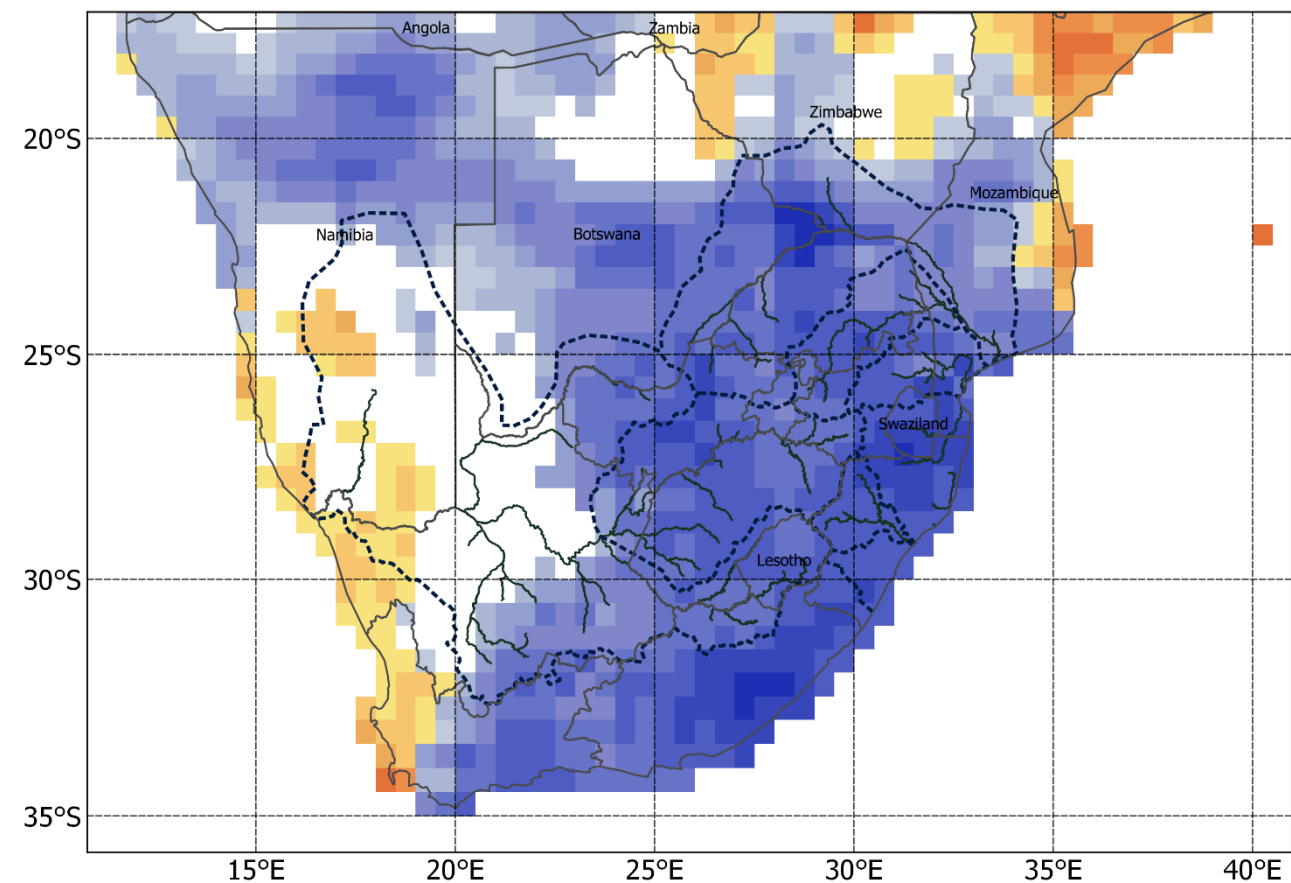
ROC Area (Above-Normal): MAM Rainfall



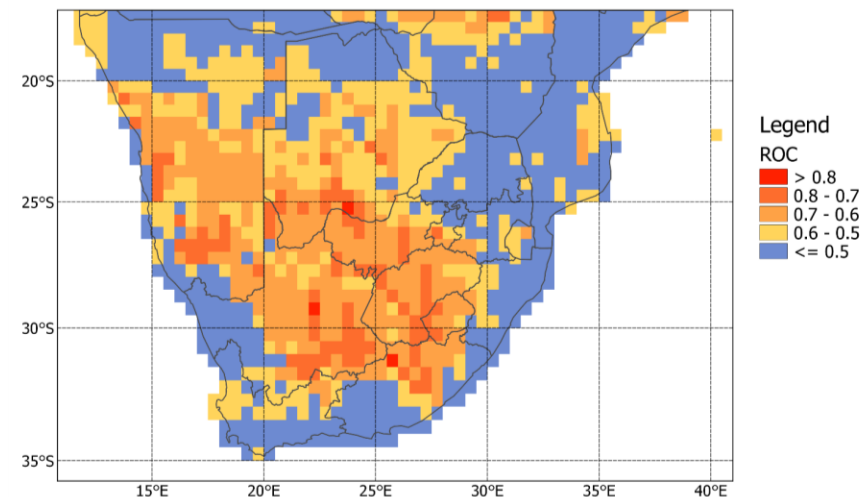
ROC Area (Below-Normal): MAM Rainfall



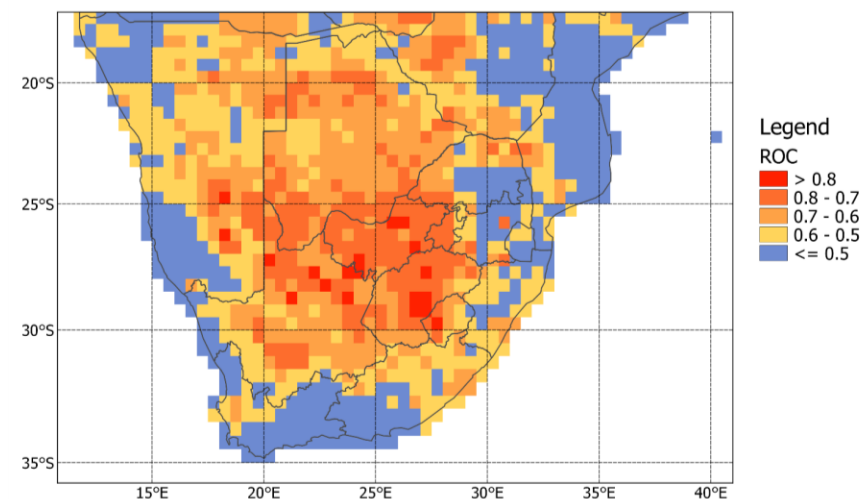
AMJ 2022 Rainfall; ICs: Mar



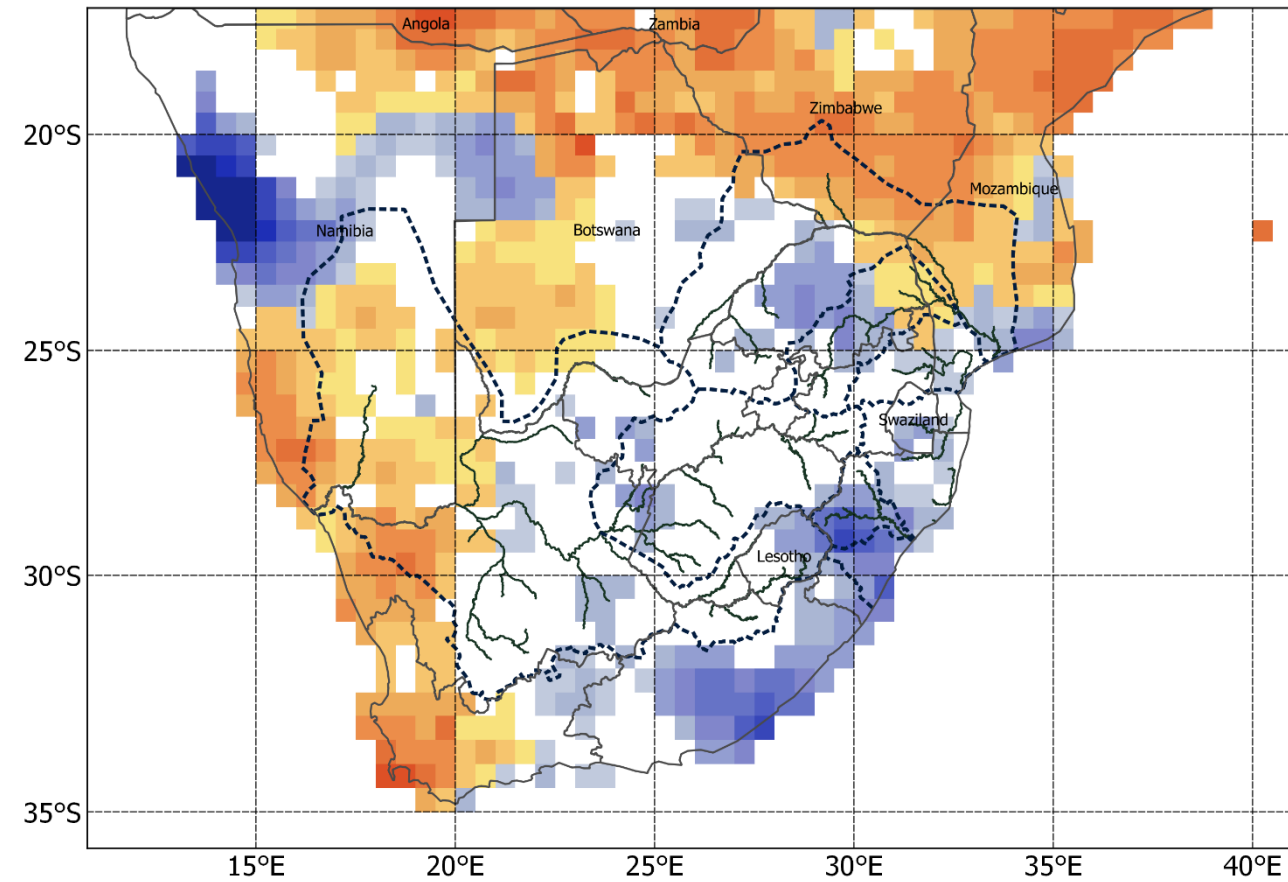
ROC Area (Above-Normal): AMJ Rainfall



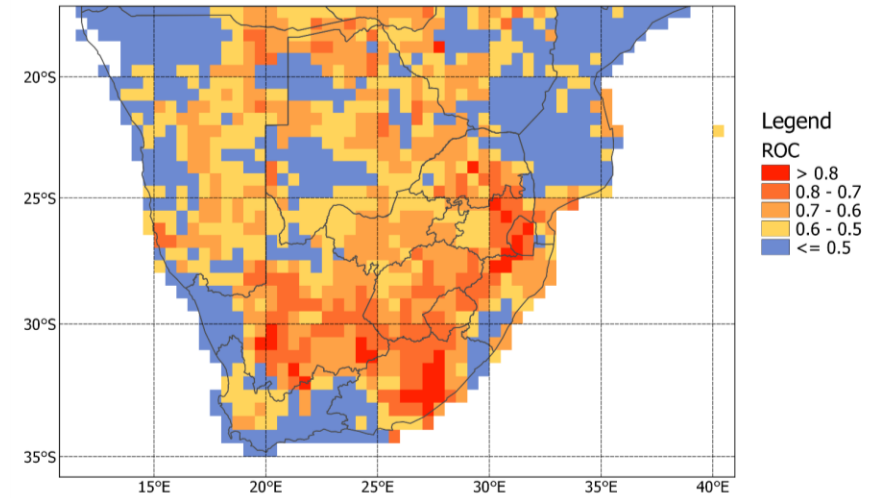
ROC Area (Below-Normal): AMJ Rainfall



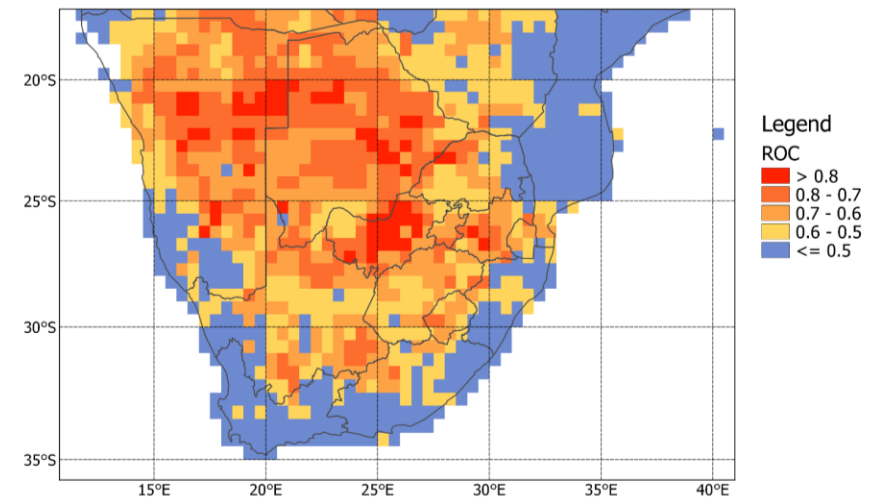
MJJ 2022 Rainfall; ICs: Mar



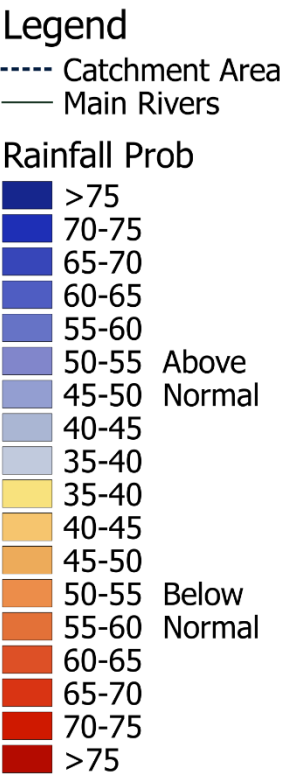
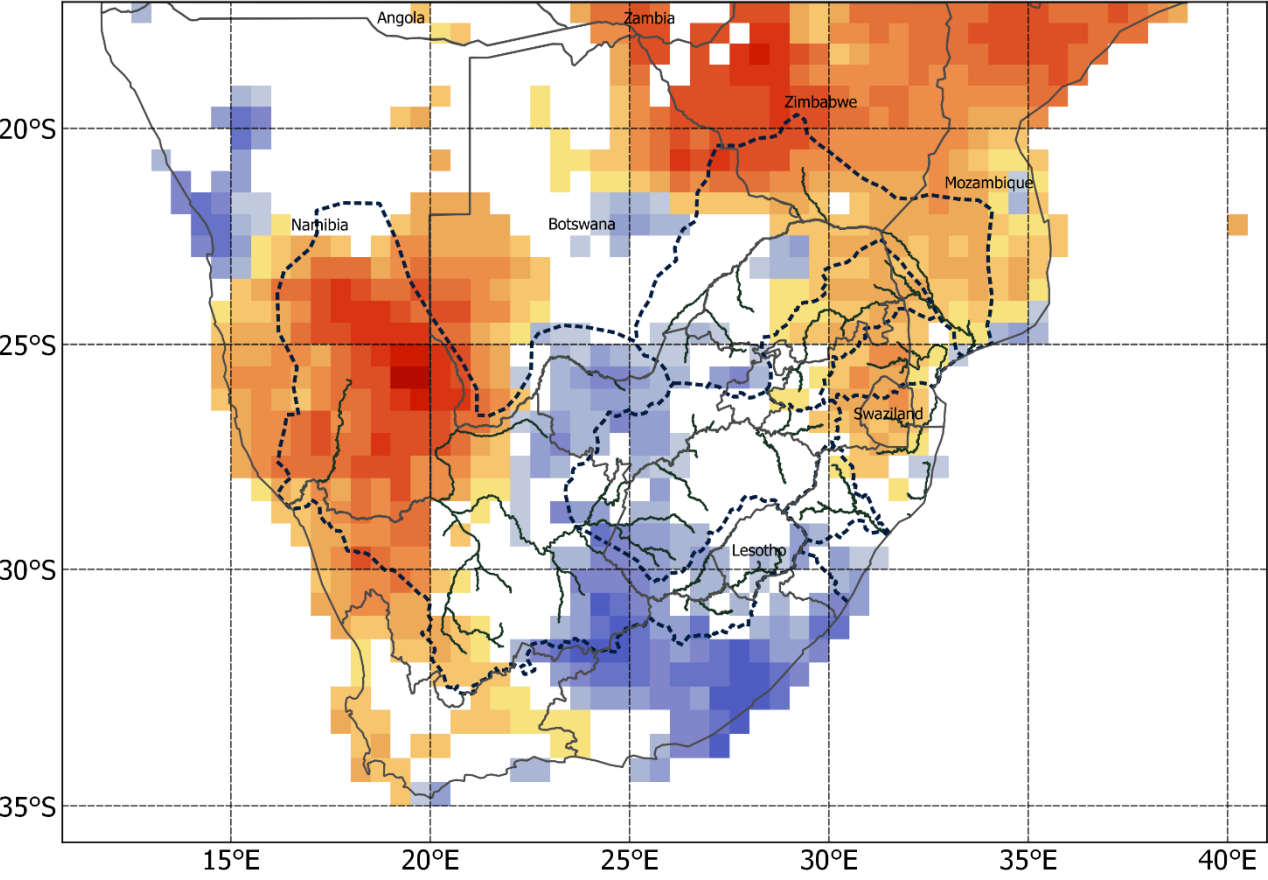
ROC Area (Above-Normal): MJJ Rainfall



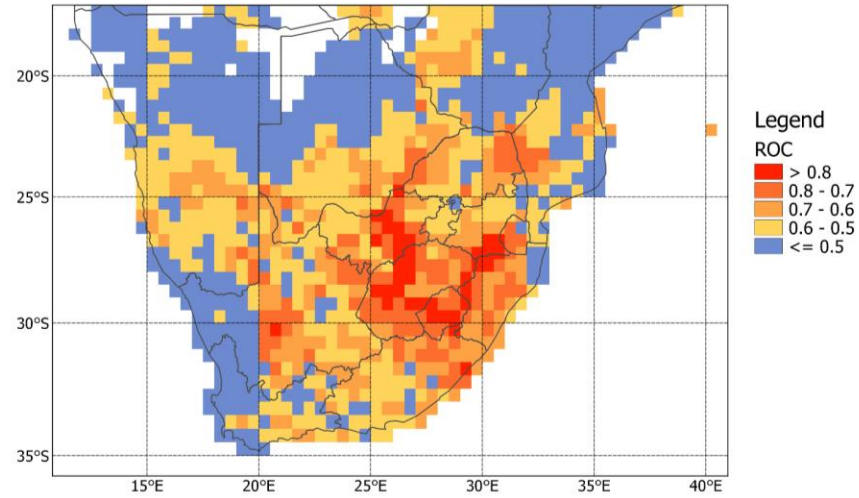
ROC Area (Below-Normal): MJJ Rainfall



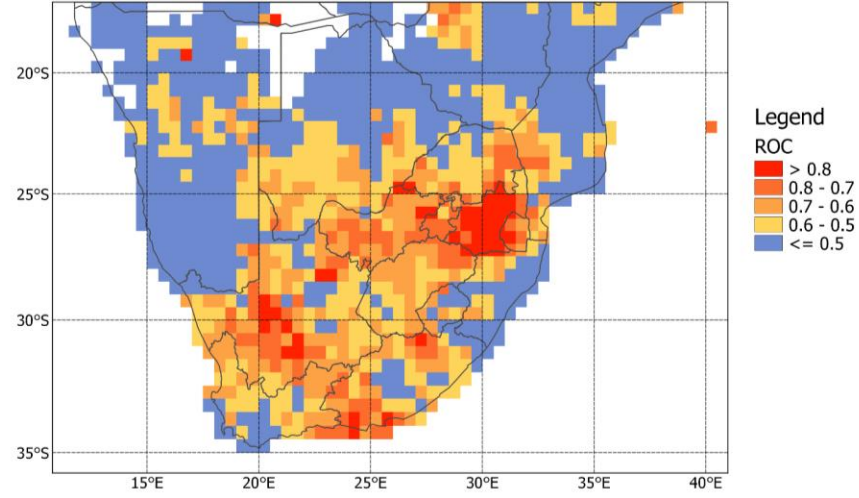
JJA 2022 Rainfall; ICs: Mar



ROC Area (Above-Normal): JJA Rainfall



ROC Area (Below-Normal): JJA Rainfall

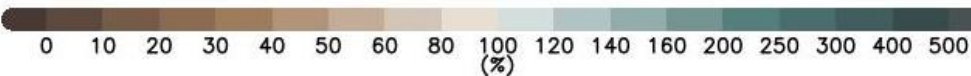
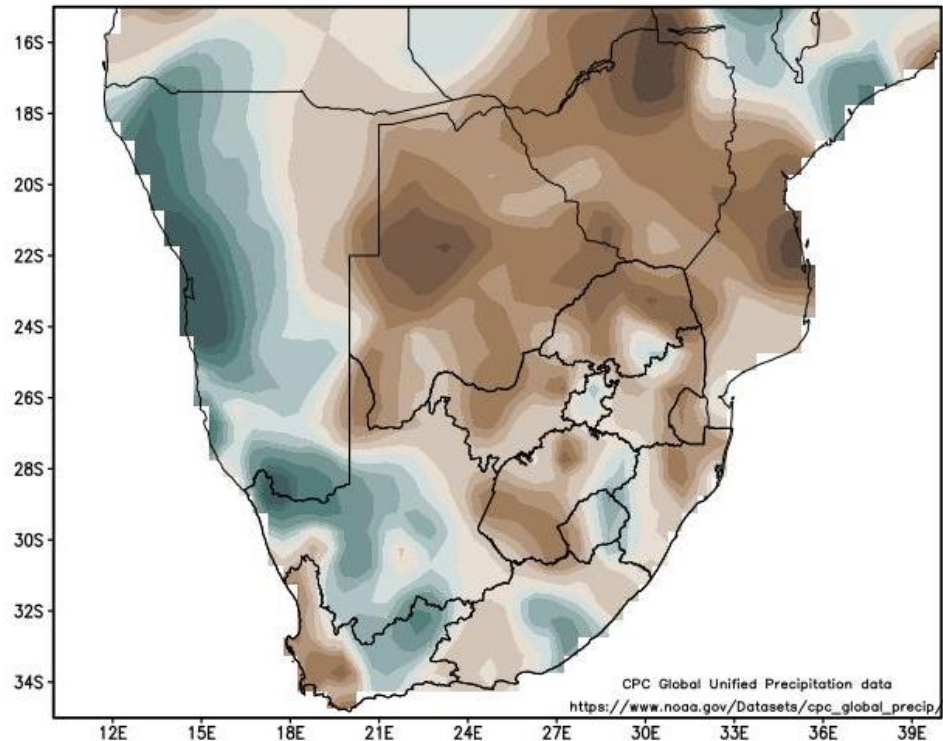


Round-up: SADC Rainfall

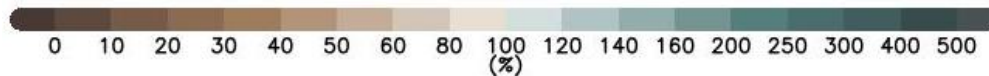
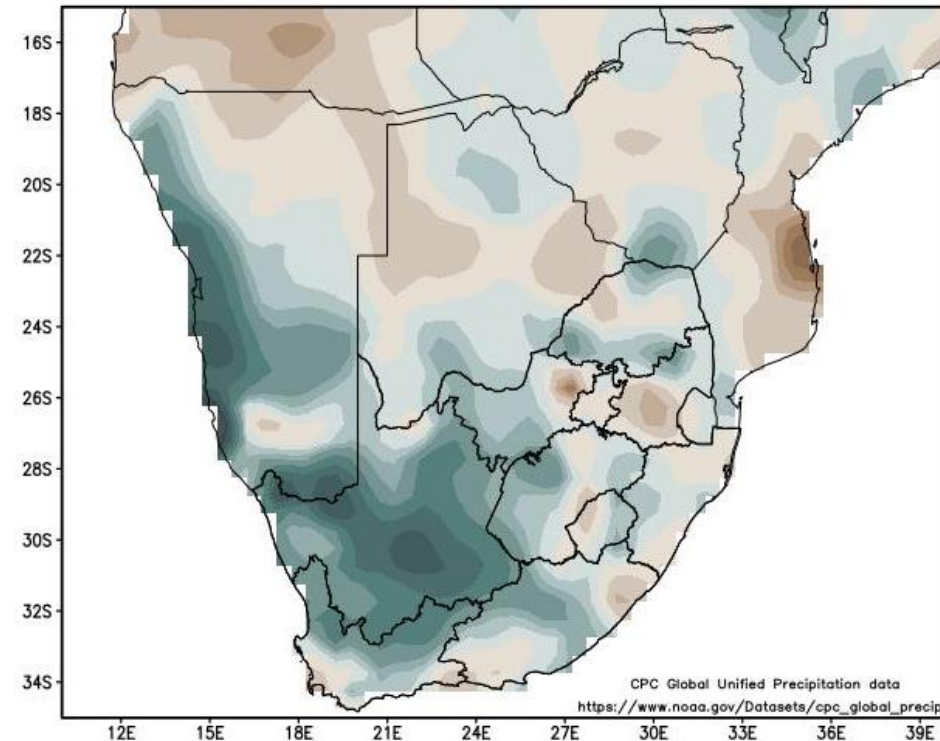
- Enhanced probabilities for wet conditions are predicted over the larger summer rainfall region during autumn, except over the northern-northeastern parts where it may be dry
- The SW Cape is expected to experience a slow start to its winter rainfall season – enhanced probabilities are predicted for below-normal rainfall during late autumn and early winter – that may continue into the main winter season

Observed SADC Rainfall

Rainfall (% of normal): February 2022
February long-term mean: 1981–2010

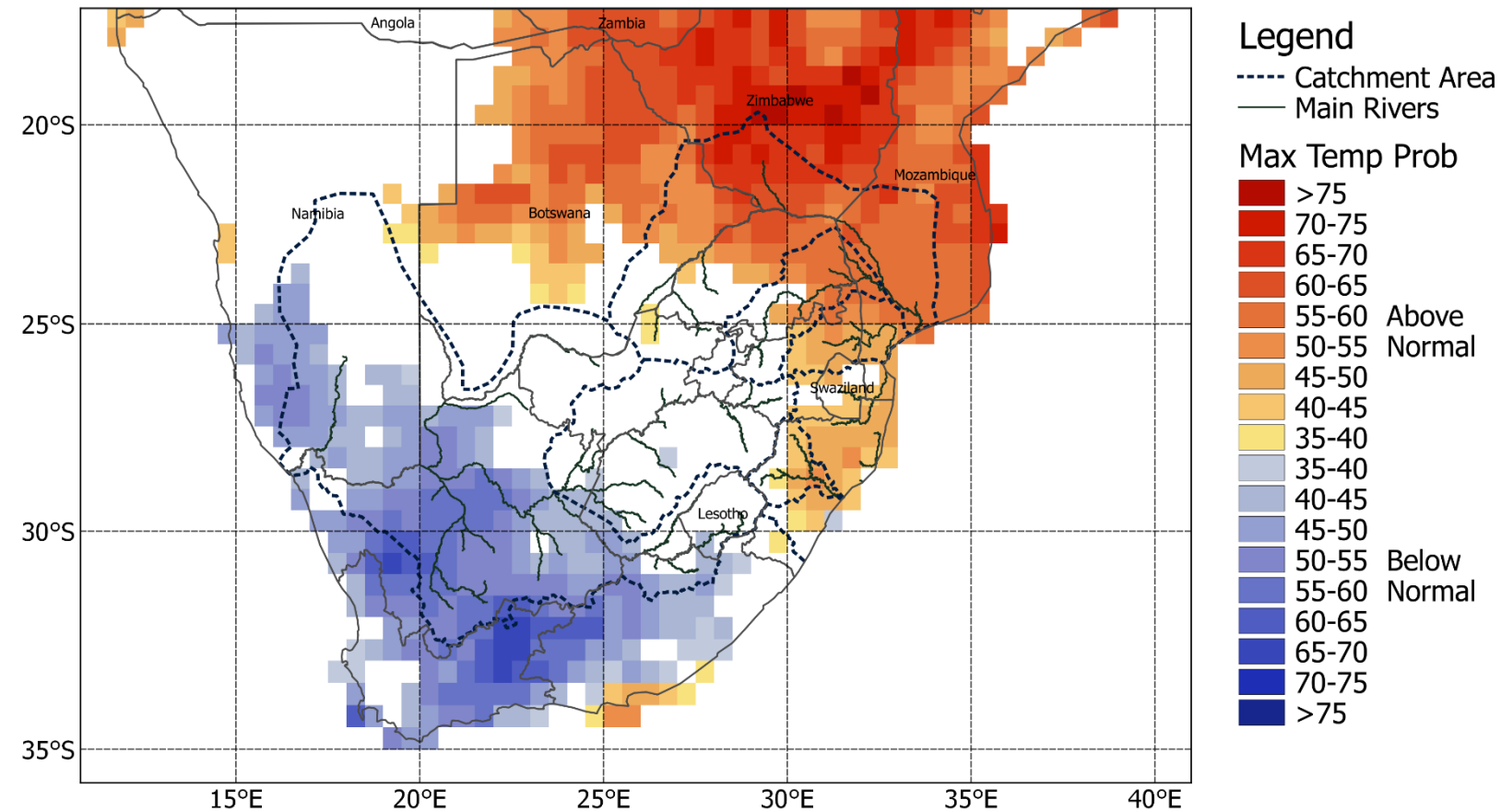


Rainfall (% of normal): DJF 2021/22
Relative to DJF 1981/82 – 2010/2011 rainfall

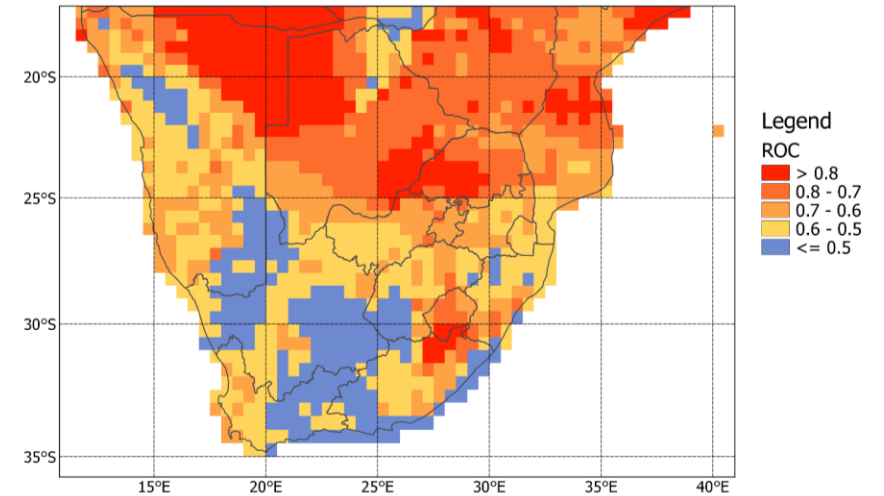


Recorded rainfall for February and the Dec-Jan-Feb season show below-normal rainfall over the brown areas and above-normal rainfall over the green areas

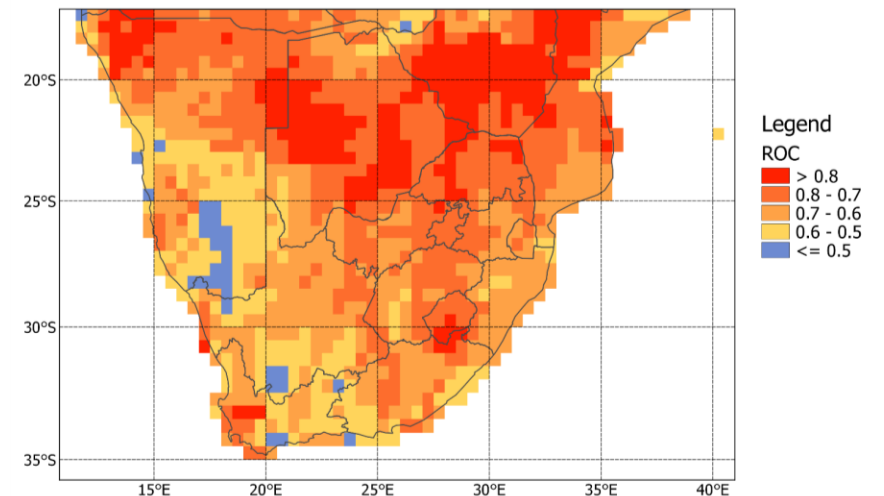
MAM 2022 Max Temp; ICs: Mar



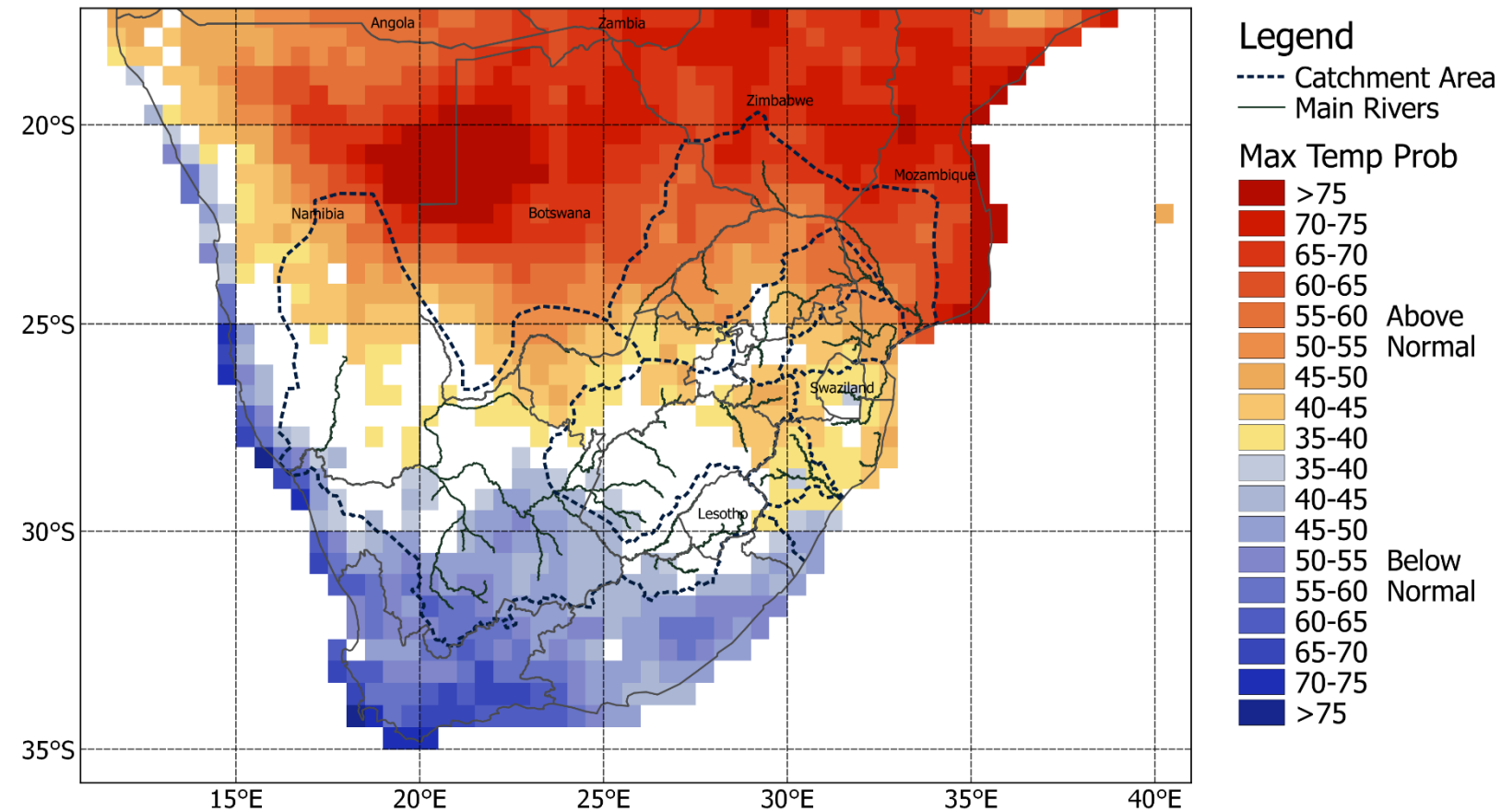
ROC Area (Above-Normal): MAM Max Temp



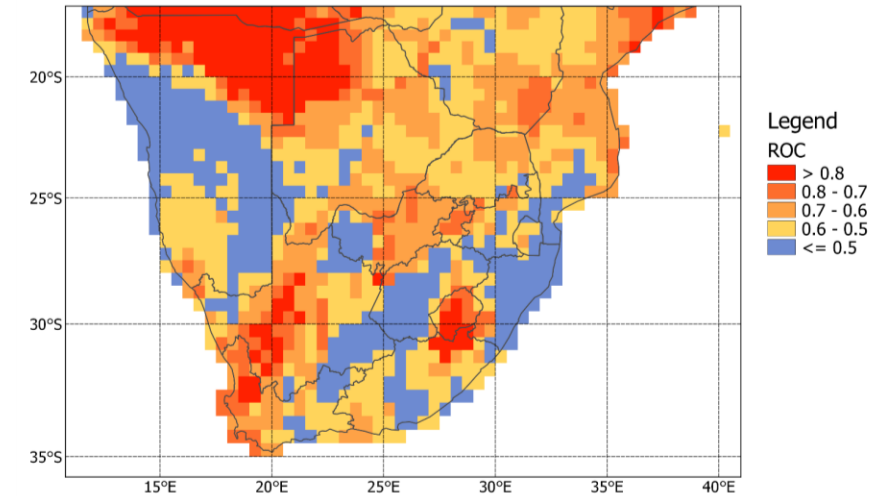
ROC Area (Below-Normal): MAM Max Temp



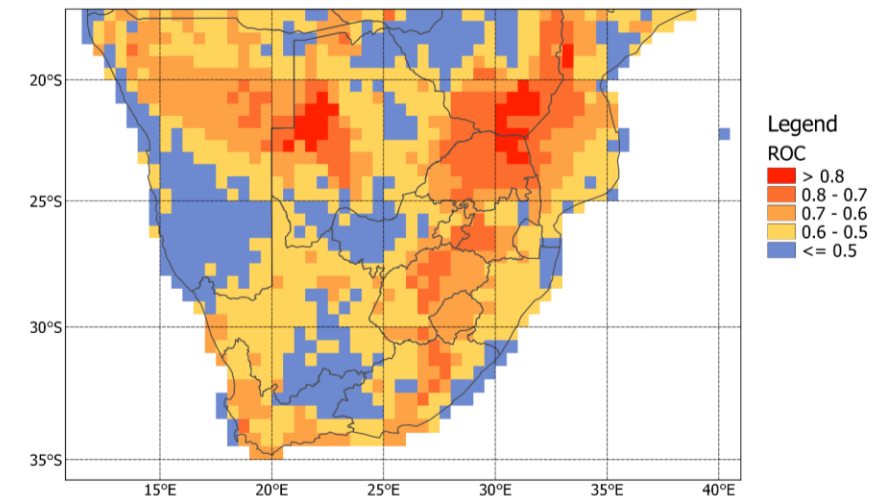
AMJ 2022 Max Temp; ICs: Mar



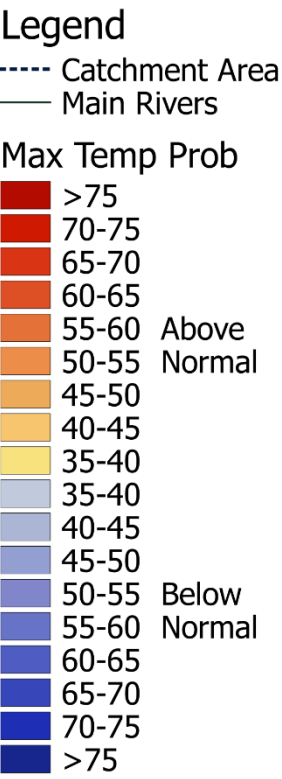
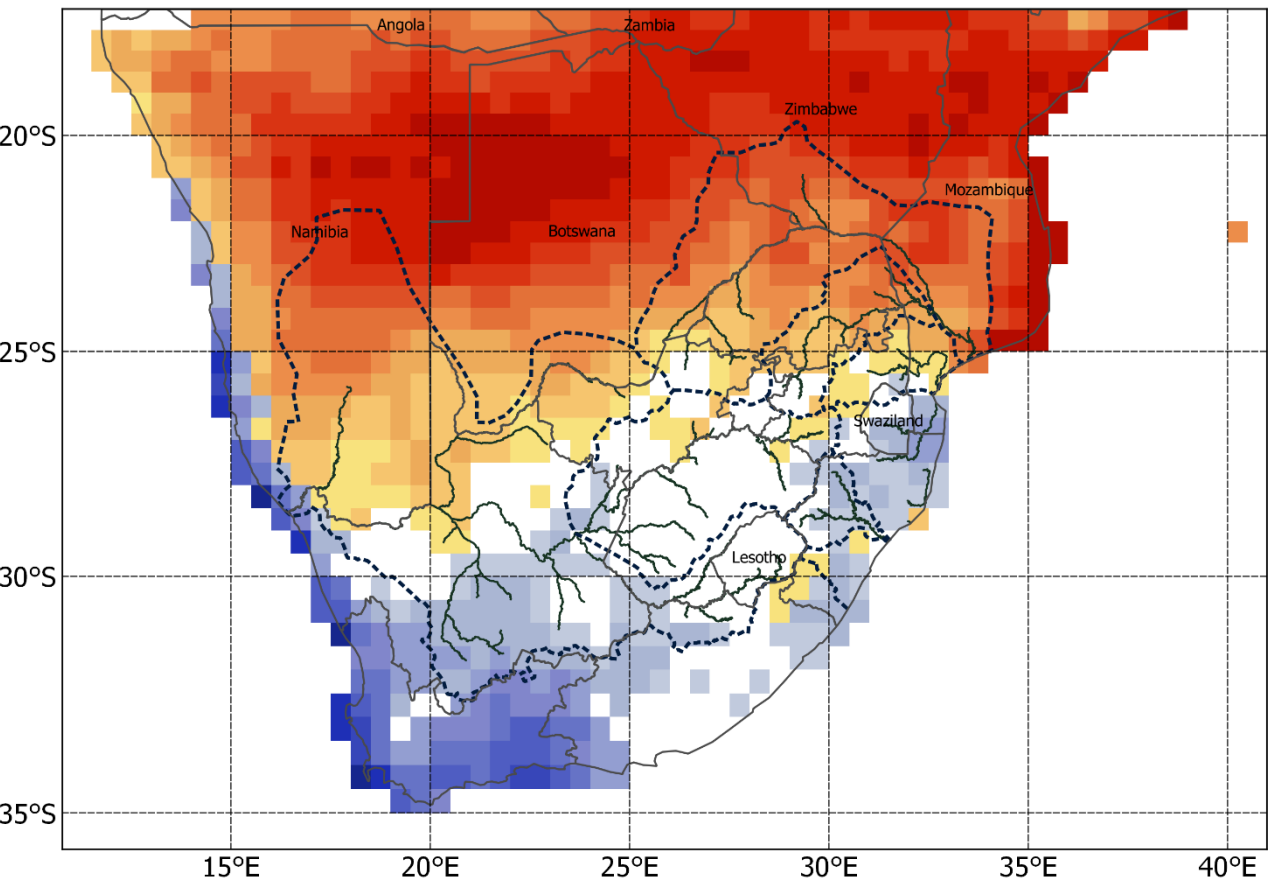
ROC Area (Above-Normal): AMJ Max Temp



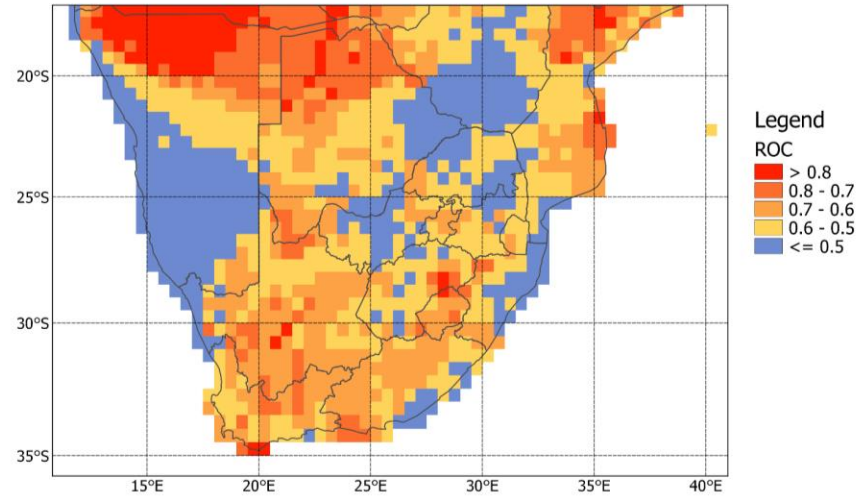
ROC Area (Below-Normal): AMJ Max Temp



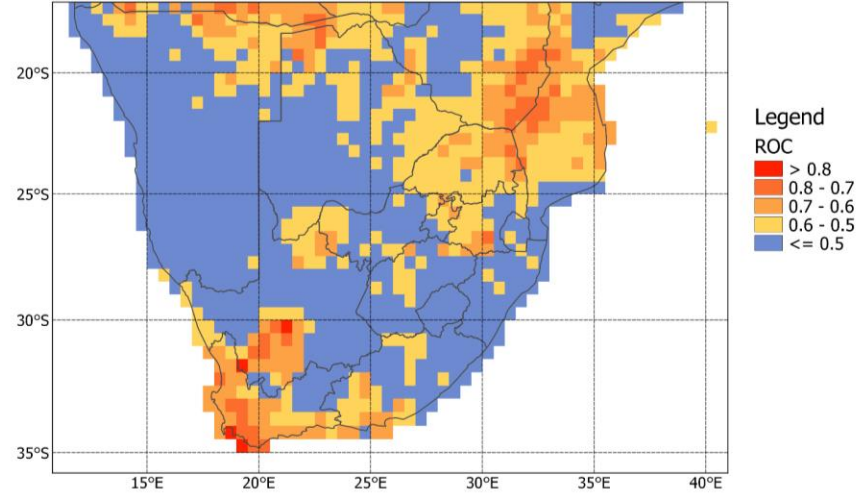
MJJ 2022 Max Temp; ICs: Mar



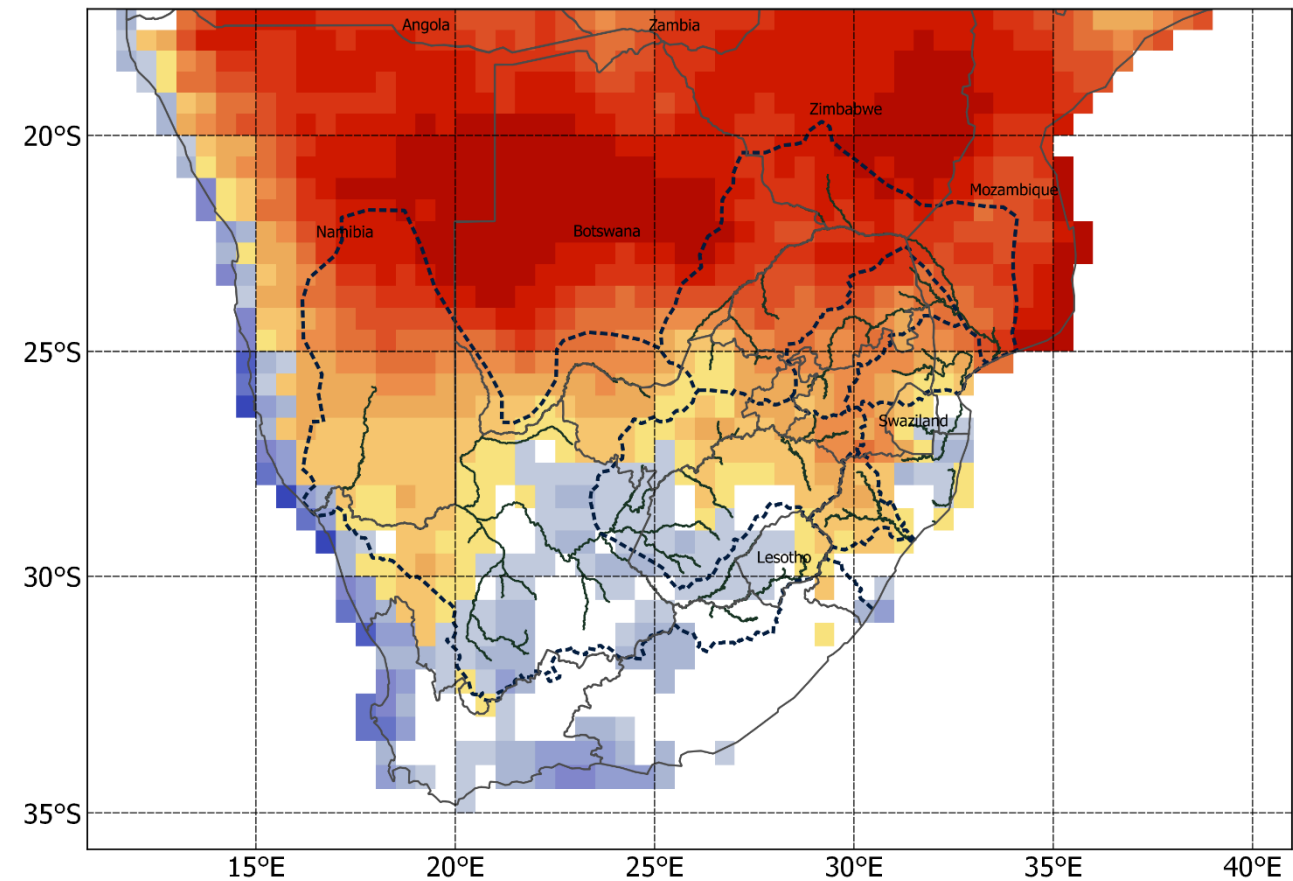
ROC Area (Above-Normal): MJJ Max Temp



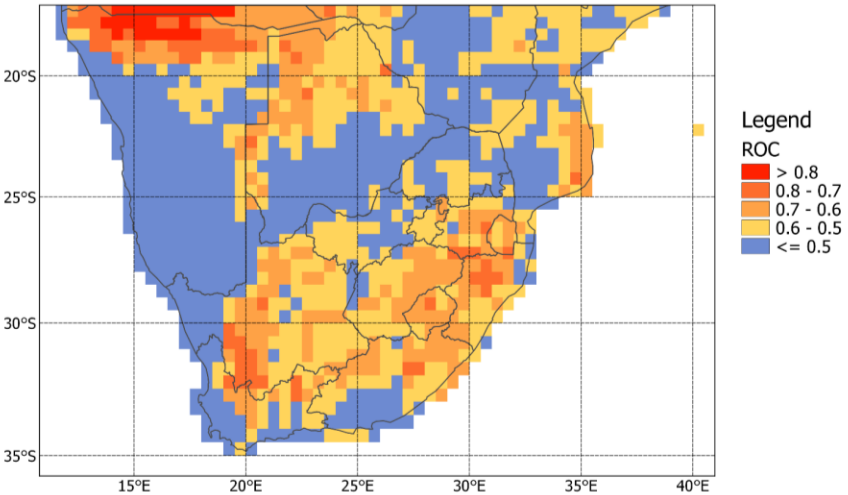
ROC Area (Below-Normal): MJJ Max Temp



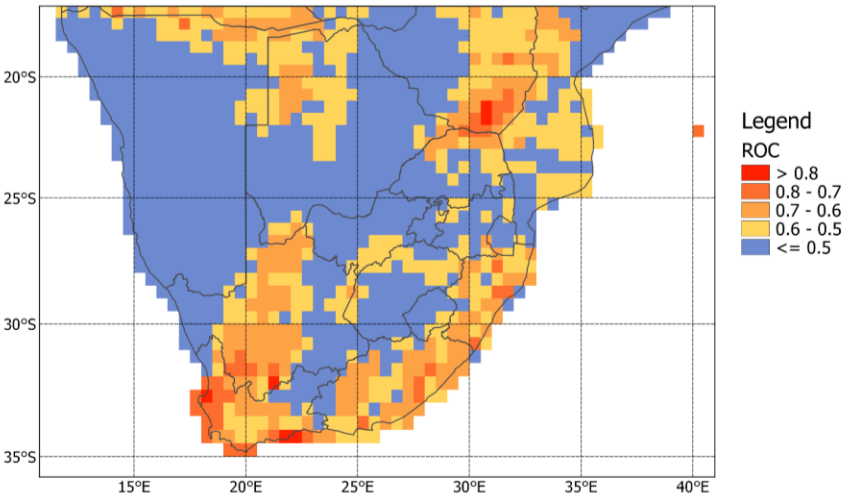
JJA 2022 Max Temp; ICs: Mar



ROC Area (Above-Normal): JJA Max Temp



ROC Area (Below-Normal): JJA Max Temp



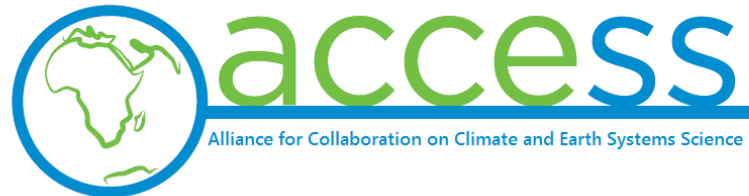
Round-up: SADC Max Temp

- Cooler and near-normal maximum temperatures are expected over the central and western parts of the region at the beginning of the forecast period
- Warmer than average conditions are likely to be found later in the forecast period, but mainly over the northern half of the region

- Barnston, A.G. and Tippett, M.K., 2017: Do statistical pattern corrections improve seasonal climate predictions in the North American Multimodel Ensemble models? *Journal of Climate*, 30: 8335-8355. doi: 10.1175/JCLI-D-17-0054.1
- Harris, I., Jones, P. D., Osborn, T. J., and Lister, D. H., 2014: Updated high-resolution grids of monthly climatic observations - the CRU TS3.10 Dataset. *International Journal of Climatology*, 34: 623-642. doi: 10.1002/joc.3711
- Kirtman, B. P. and Co-authors 2014: The North American Multimodel Ensemble: Phase-1 seasonal-to-interannual prediction; Phase-2 toward developing intraseasonal prediction. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. 95, 585–601. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-12-00050.1>
- Landman, W.A., and Beraki, A., 2012: Multi-model forecast skill for midsummer rainfall over southern Africa. *International Journal of Climatology*, 32: 303-314. doi: 10.1002/joc.2273.
- Landman, W.A., Archer, E. and Tadross, M., 2016: Decision-relevant information on seasonal time scales – the case of a farm in northern Namibia. *Conference Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference of the South African Society for Atmospheric Science*, Cape Town, 31 October to 1 November 2016, pp 69-72. ISBN 978-0-620-72974-1.
- Landman, W.A., Archer, E. and Tadross, M. (2019): How costly are poor seasonal forecasts? Peer reviewed abstracts, 35th Annual conference of the South African Society for Atmospheric Science, Vanderbijlpark, 8 to 9 October 2019, pp 60-63. ISBN 978-0-6398442-0-6.
- Landman, W.A., Archer, E.R.M and Tadross, M.A (2020a). Citizen science for the prediction of climate extremes in South Africa and Namibia. *Frontiers in Climate*, 2:5, doi: 10.3389/fclim.2020.00005
- Landman, W.A., DeWitt, D., and Lee, D.-E., 2011: The high-resolution global SST forecast set of the CSIR. *Conference Proceedings of the 27th Annual Conference of South African Society for Atmospheric Sciences*, 22-23 September 2011, Hartbeespoort, North-West Province, South Africa. ISBN 978-0-620-50849-0
- Landman, W.A., Sweijd, N., Masedi, N. Minakawa, N. (2020b). The development and prudent application of climate-based forecasts of seasonal malaria in the Limpopo province in South Africa. *Environmental Development*, 35, 100522, doi: 10.1016/j.envdev.2020.100522.
- Landman, W.A., DeWitt, D. Lee, D.-E., Beraki, A. and Lötter, D., 2012: Seasonal rainfall prediction skill over South Africa: 1- vs. 2-tiered forecasting systems. *Weather and Forecasting*, 27: 489-501. DOI: 10.1175/WAF-D-11-00078.1
- Muchuru, S., Landman, W.A. and DeWitt, D., 2016: Prediction of inflows into Lake Kariba using a combination of physical and empirical models. *International Journal of Climatology*, 36: 2570–2581, DOI: 10.1002/joc.4513.
- Troccoli, A., Harrison, M., Anderson, D.L.T. and Mason, S.J., 2008: *Seasonal Climate: Forecasting and Managing Risk*. NATO Science Series on Earth and Environmental Sciences, Vol. 82, Springer, 467 pp.

Financial support from...

- The National Research Foundation through the Incentive Funding for Rated Researchers (since 2017)
- ACCESS (Alliance for Collaboration on Climate and Earth System Science) through the project “Investigating predictability of seasonal anomalies for societal benefit” (2018 to 2021)
- Water Research Commission through administering the international project “Research-based Assessment of Integrated approaches to Nature-based SOLUTIONS (RainSolutions)” (2020 to 2022)



The forecast is produced by Prof Willem Landman of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and issued on or around the 15th of each month. Please feel free to contact me at WALandman1981@gmail.com

Acknowledgments to Dr Peter Johnston of the University of Cape Town for professional comments and advice

Disclaimer: The author has compiled this forecast guidance as a service to users for application in appropriate sectors, but cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies contained therein

Student participation in forecast system development



Stephanie Hinze, BSc (Honours)(Meteorology):

Statistical downscaling using large and high-resolution data sets, forecast displays for SADC rainfall and maximum temperatures, forecast verification



Surprise Mhlongo, BSc (Honours)(Meteorology):

Improving on SST forecast system through pattern correction, correlation vs covariance approaches, forecast output combination (multi-model approaches), mean and bias correction, and correct for skill



Shepherd Muchuru, PhD (Meteorology):

Statistical modelling to relate large-scale features to seasonal inflows into Lake Kariba in southern Africa. Two predictions systems: 1) using antecedent seasonal rainfall totals over the upper Zambezi catchment as predictor in a baseline model, and 2) using predicted low-level atmospheric circulation of a coupled ocean–atmosphere general circulation model as predictor.



Pearl Gosiame, BSc (Honours)(Meteorology):

Development of hydro-climate predictions models for dam levels and downstream flows of the Vaal Dam. Predictors considered include historical rainfall over the catchment, SST and output from global climate models.