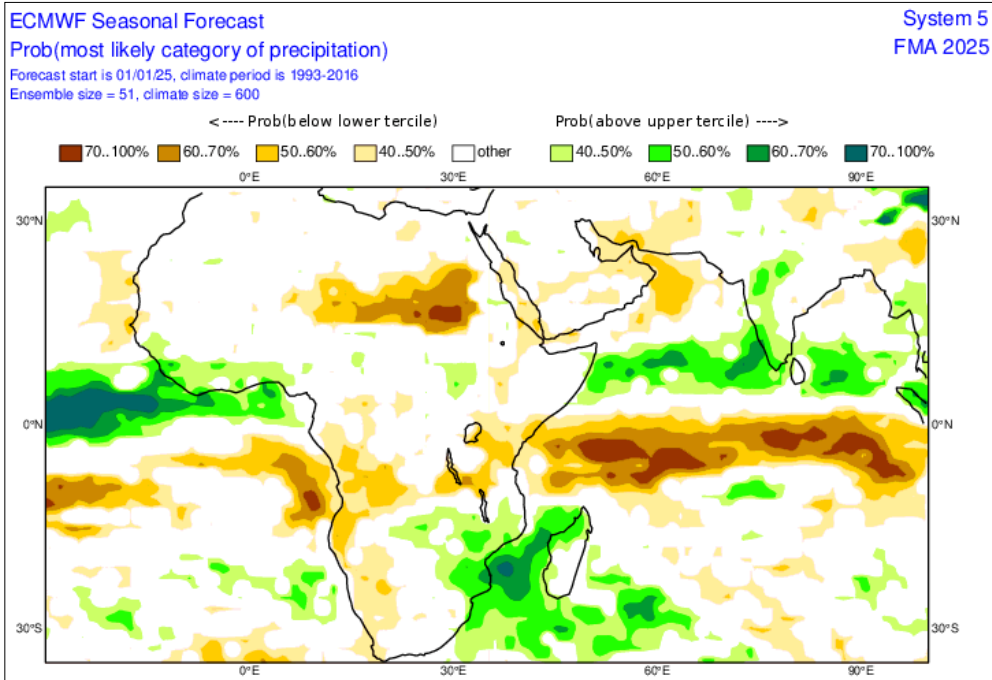


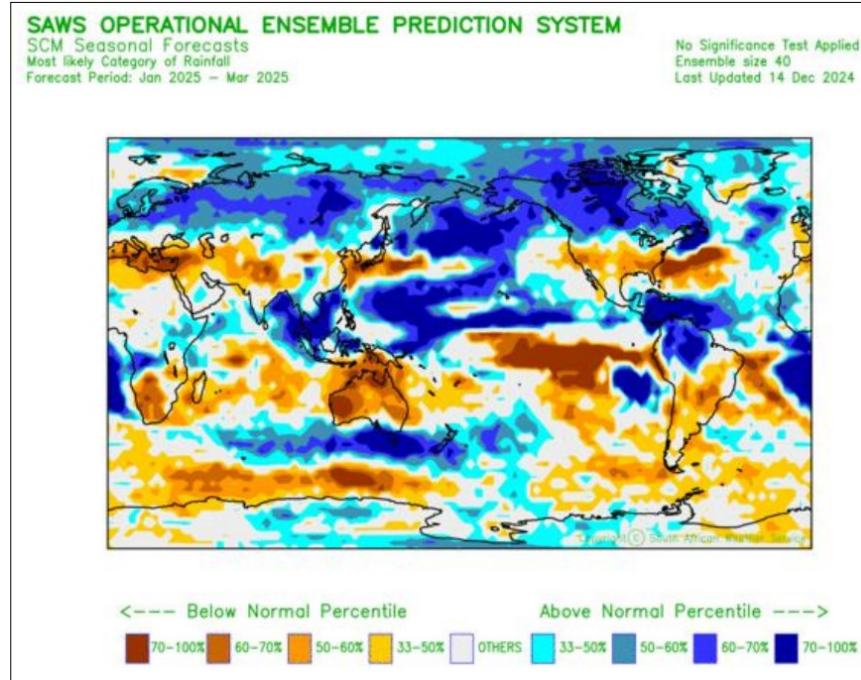
SASSCAL Seasonal Forecast Assimilation

Rainfall period February, March, April (FMA) 2025

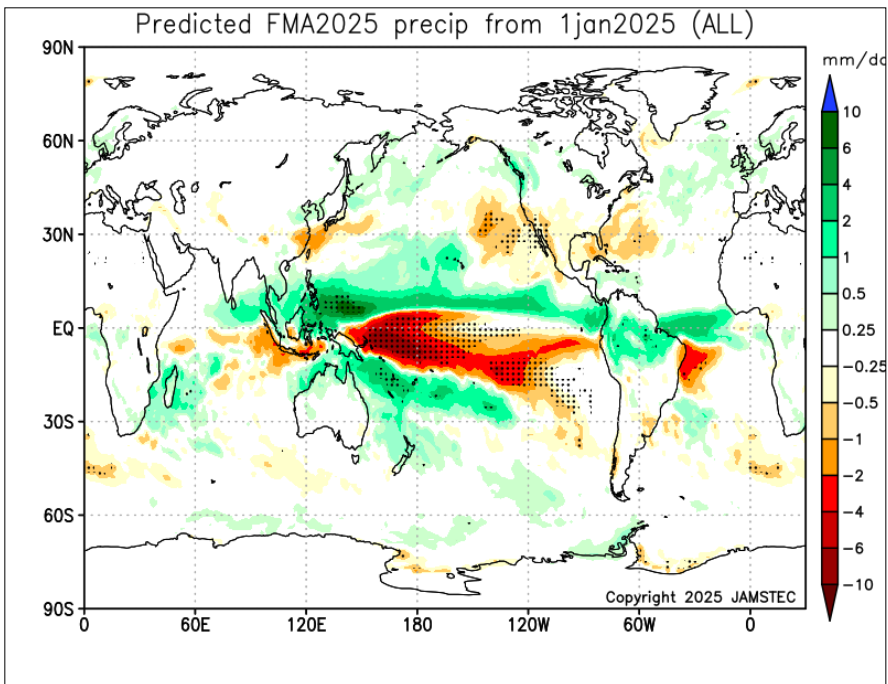
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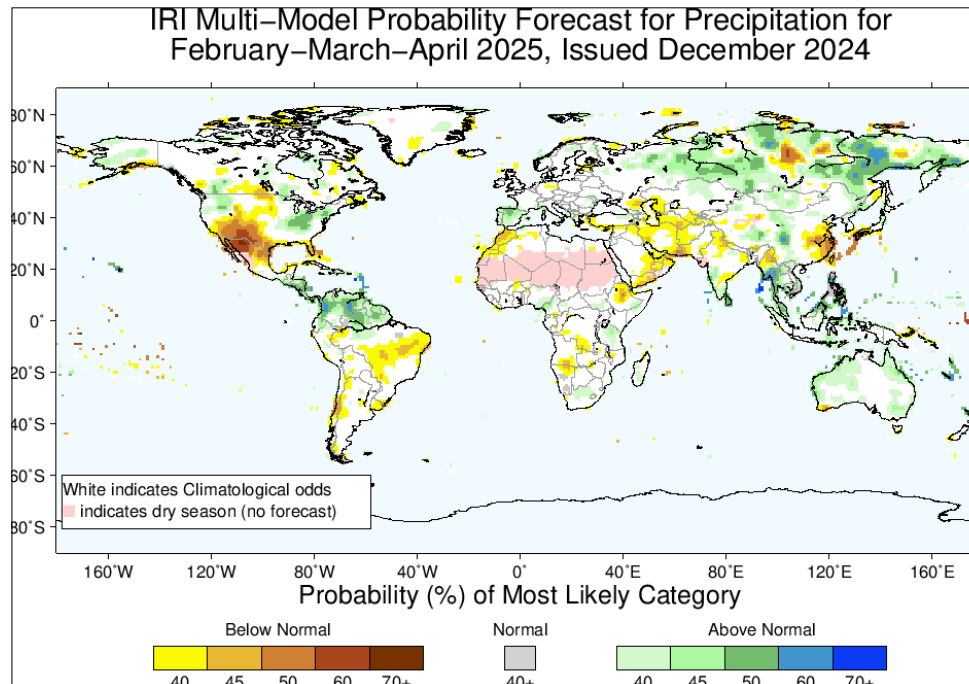
South African Weather Service
 (SAWS)



Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Sci-
 ence and Technology (JAMSTEC)



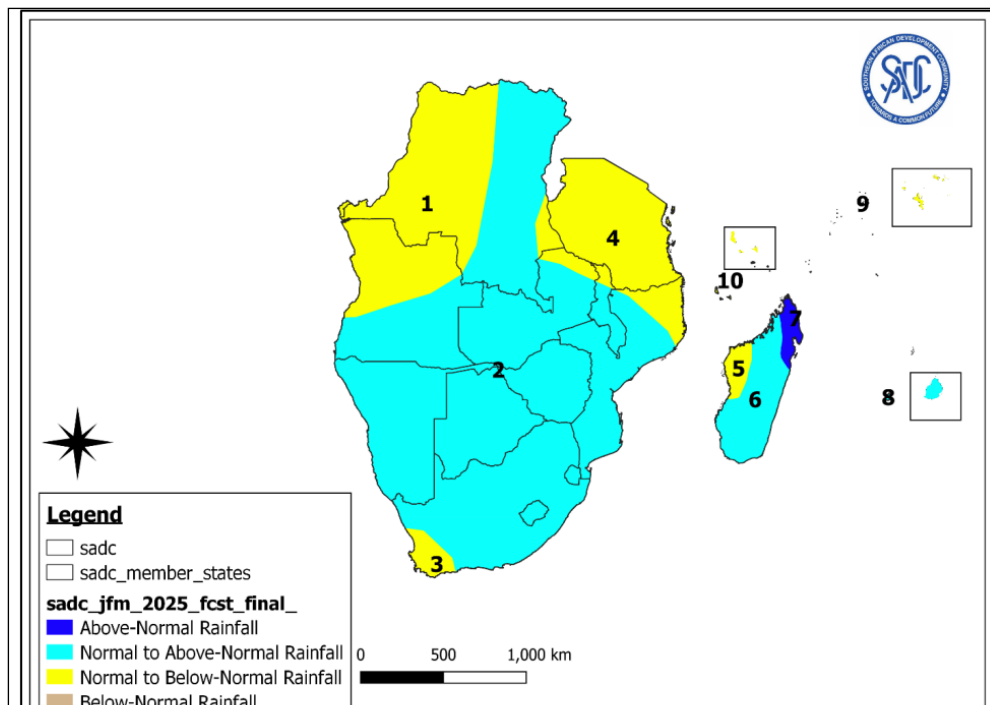
International Research Institute (IRI)



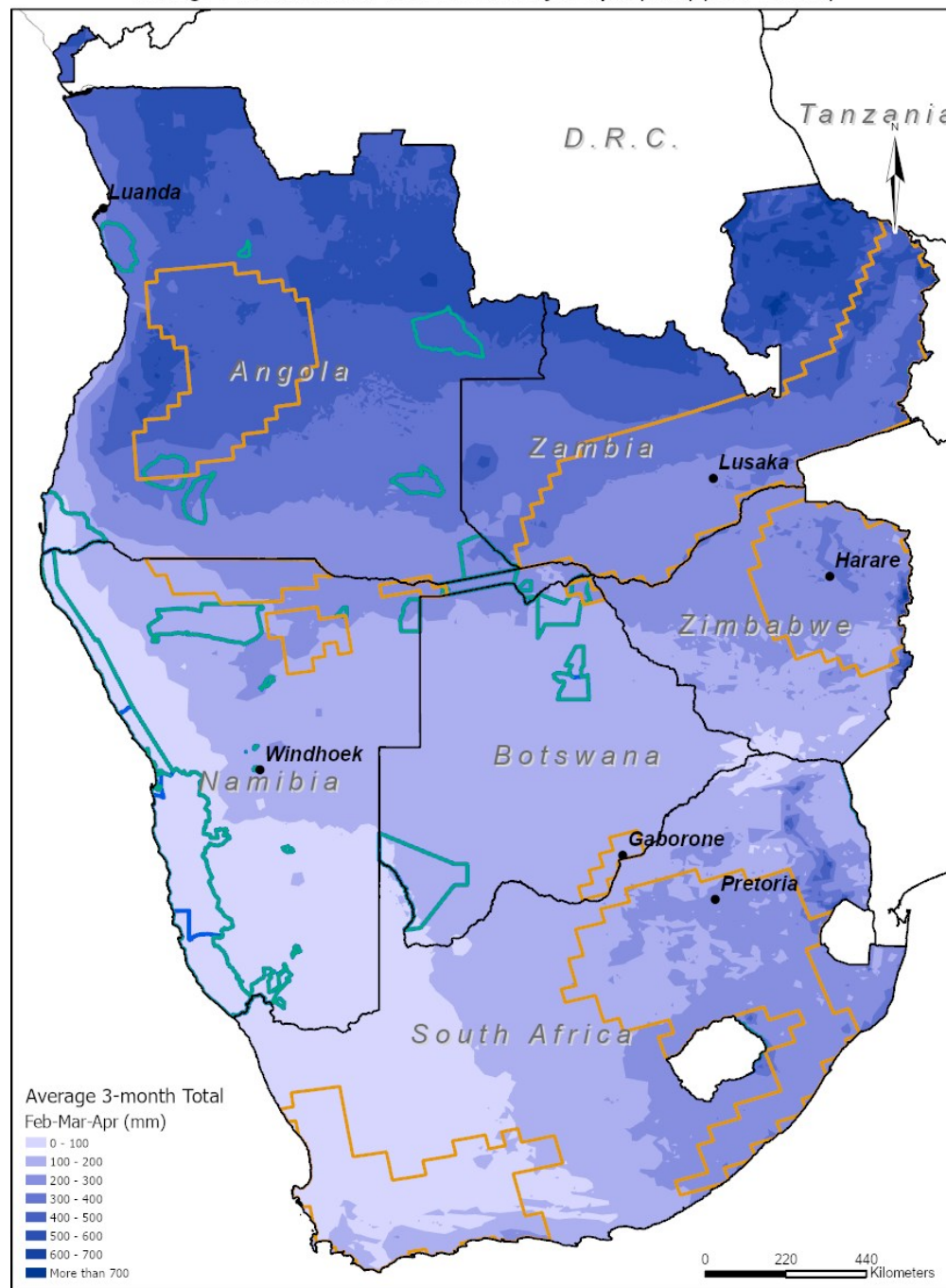
SASSCAL Seasonal Forecast Assimilation

Rainfall period February, March, April (FMA) 2025

29th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-29)



Average 3-Month Rainfall Total for February to April (FMA) (1981 to 2024)



As most of southern Africa has been suffering from a prolonged drought (SASSCAL 2024), water security, food security for subsistence farmers, grazing and crop successes will rely heavily on the rainfall for the coming months of the 2025 rainfall period. Five long-term forecasts have been consulted for the upcoming rainfall period between 1 February and 30 April 2025. Notably, for SARCOF-29 and SAWS, only the period of January to March 2025 was available.

Differences between these five forecasts' for southern Africa should instill a strong sense of prudence in heeding these forecasts or in only considering one of these forecasts in isolation. In particular as no two forecasts agree on the period from February to April. NOAA, in their January 2025 update reported a 59% chance that La Niña will persist through February to April, which may favor the positive predictions for above normal rainfall.

The SASSCAL historical map (1981-2024) for the average 3-month rainfall total provides a useful baseline, offering a broader perspective on what can typically be expected during this period of the year.

For all six countries, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the forecasts vary between normal to above normal and normal to below normal.

References

1. SASSCAL. Drought in southern Africa in 2023/24. 2024 (<https://sasscal.org/map-of-the-month/>)
2. NOAA. January 2025 update: La Niña is here. 2025 (<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/january-2025-update-la-nina-here>)