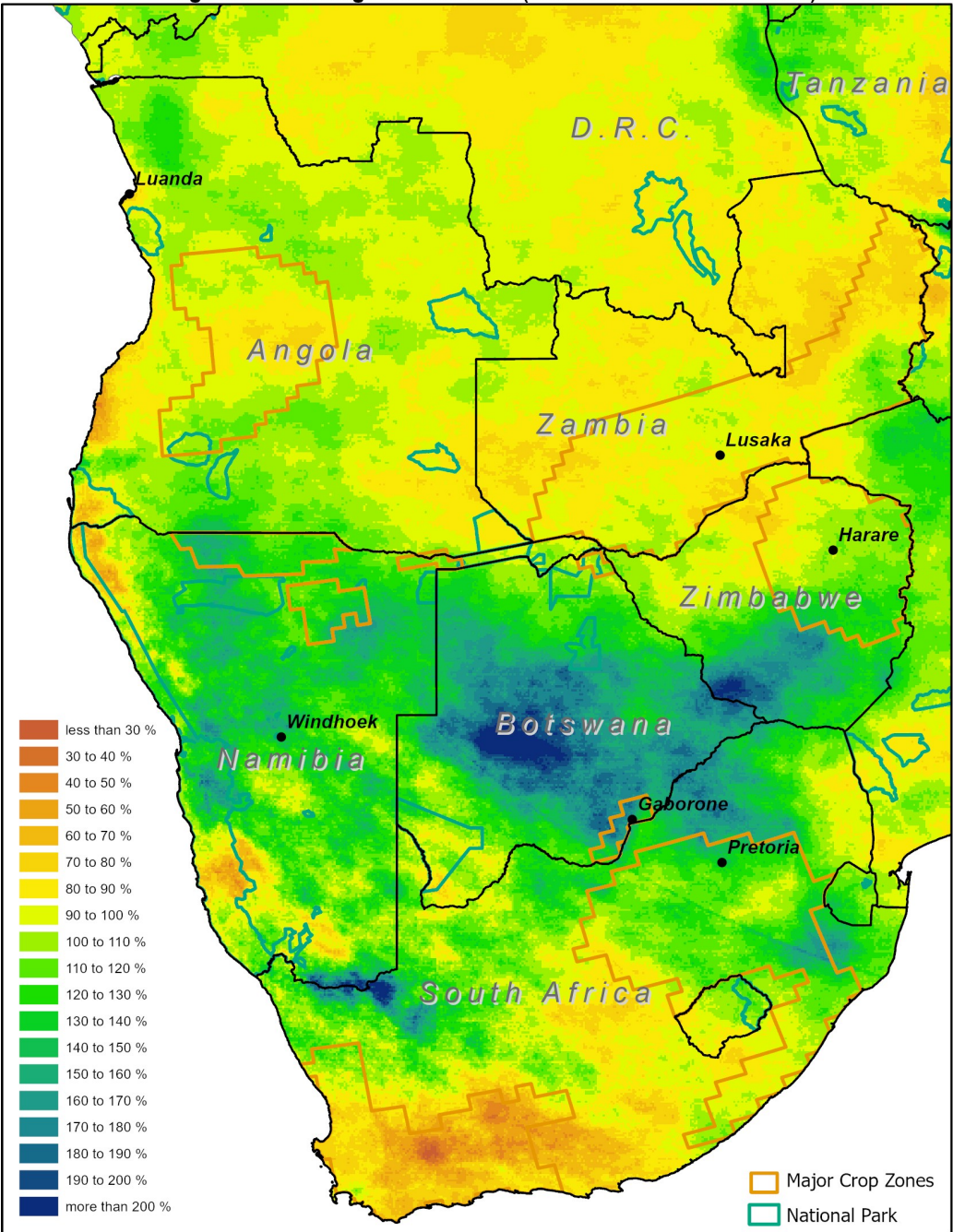


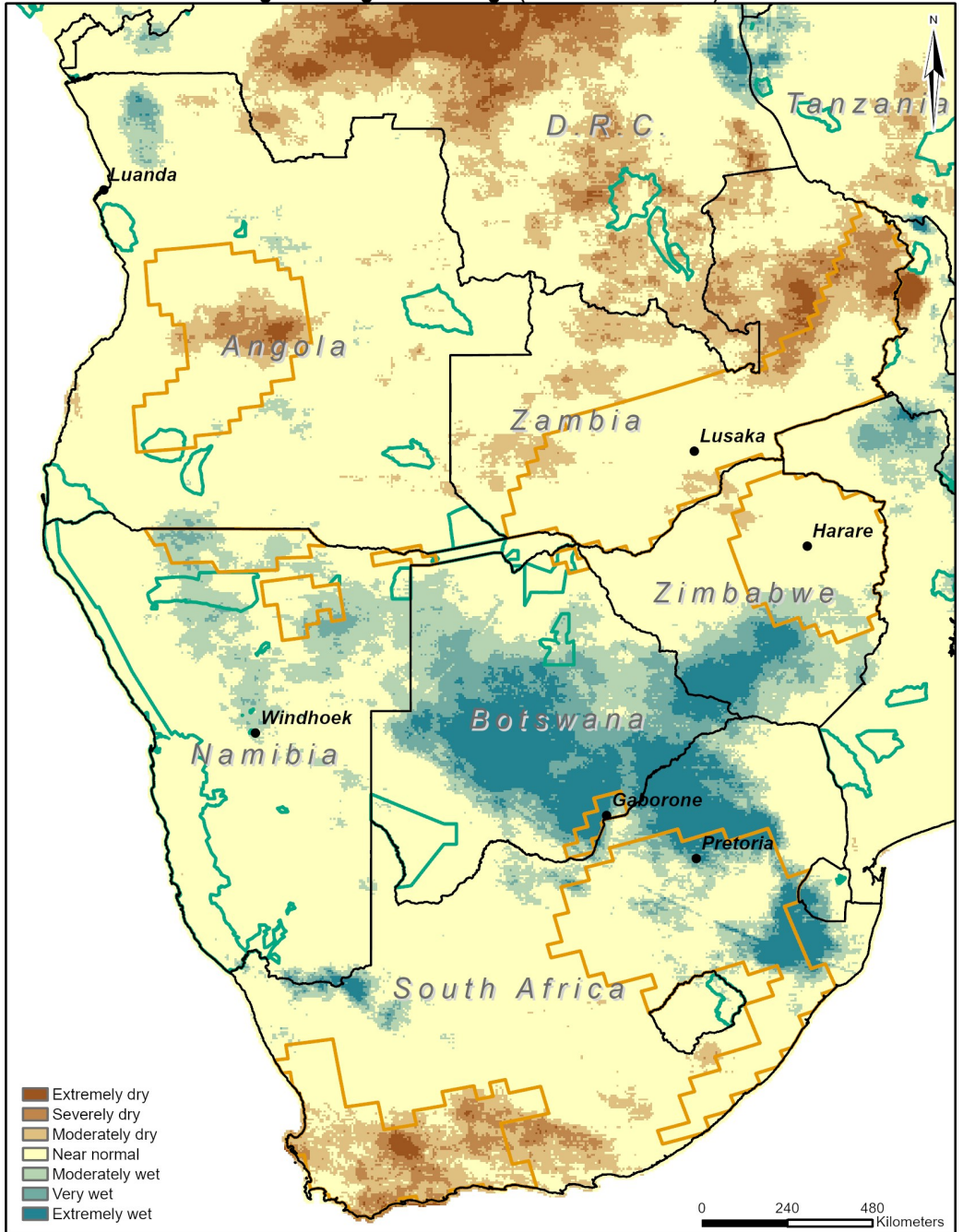
SASSCAL Info Map

Rainfall Year of southern Africa in 2024/25

Percentage of Rainfall Total (October 2024 to September 2025)
against the average Rainfall Total (Seasons 1981/82 to 2023/24)

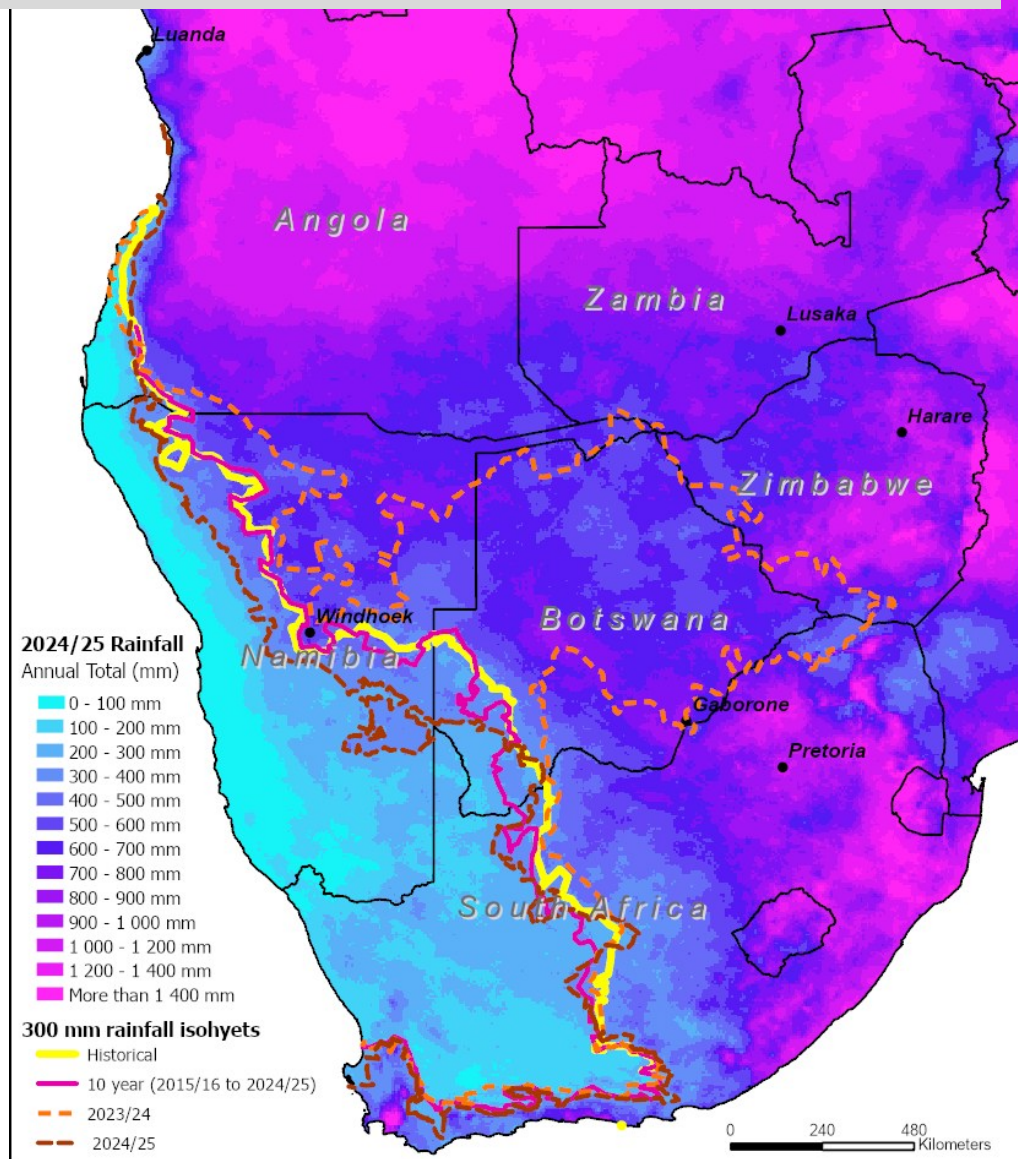


Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) from October 2024 to September 2025
against long term average (1981/82 to 2023/24)



Annual Rainfall Total (mm) (October 2024 to September 2025)
against 300 mm Rainfall Isohyet

The 300 mm total annual rainfall isohyet is an indicator, in particularly in the drier countries of southern Africa, for viable cattle farming areas. An total annual rainfall of above 300 mm is generally considered viable for cattle farming.



The 2024/25 rainfall year was highly anticipated after a prolonged drought in much of southern Africa (SASSCAL 2024). By the end of December 2024, the Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) suggested that much of southern Africa, was still suffering from continued drought conditions, despite generally normal rainfall conditions for the first quarter of the rainfall year (WMO 2012) (SASSCAL 2024).

By February 2025, La Niña conditions brought much needed relief to Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. In February 2025, according to the CHIRPS 3.0 satellite data product, Botswana had the highest February rainfall recorded since 1981, causing heavy flooding and the tragic loss of life. At least 5 000 people were displaced in Botswana and KwaZulu-Natal of South Africa by the flooding, caused by heavy downpours.

The 2024/25 rainfall year started in October 2024 and ended at the end of September 2025. The SPI of the rainfall year suggests that, despite the La Niña conditions and heavy periodical downpours, most of southern Africa experienced normal rainfall conditions for the rainfall year. Most of Botswana, southern Zimbabwe and parts of north-eastern South Africa had a very wet to extremely wet year, while northern Namibia experienced a moderately wet year.

In comparison to the historic average annual rainfall, almost all of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe had above average rainfall for the year. Northern-western, northern and north-eastern parts of South Africa also experienced above average rainfall.

While central and south-eastern parts of Angola had below average rainfall, much of the country had average or slightly above average rainfall. Larger parts of Zambia have experienced below average conditions.

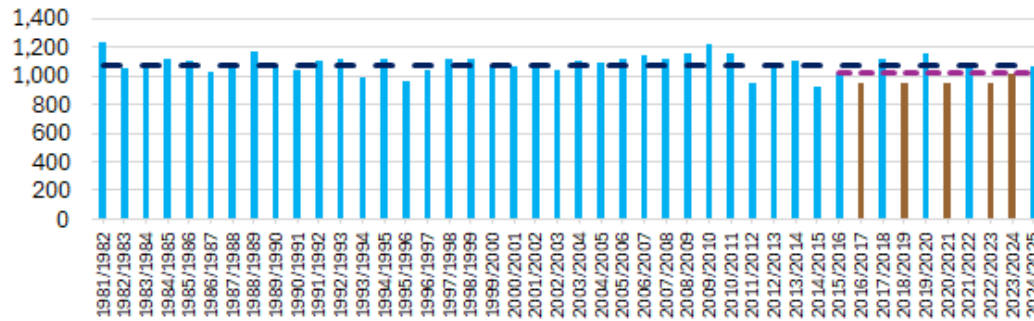
On average, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe had above average rainfall, while Angola and South Africa had an average rainfall year and Zambia had a below average rainfall year.

In the past ten years, Namibia had the most dry years, with 6 out of 10 years being dry. Zambia had the least dry years, with only 3 out of 10 years dry, but notably four consecutive below average years.

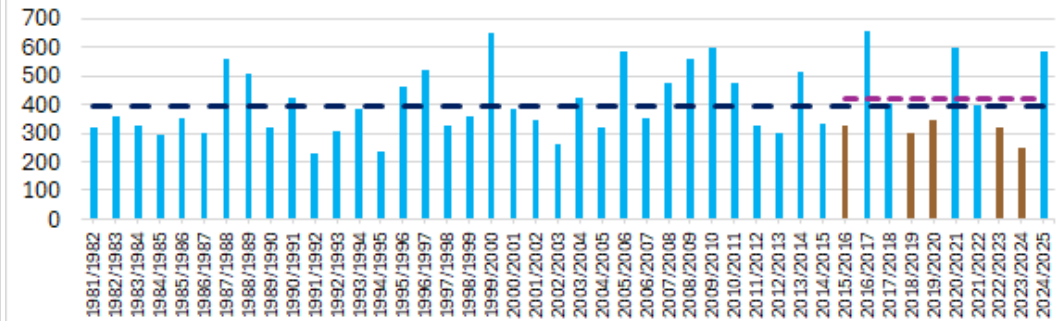
Angola, Namibia and Zambia's past ten year annual average rainfall is notably below the historical annual average, starting in 1981/82. Botswana's ten year average is above the historic average of the past 43 years.

A mapping of the 300 mm total annual rainfall isohyet for the past years, in relation to the historic 300 mm rainfall isohyet, has suggested notable spatial and temporal variation in the rainfall distribution of southern Africa, from year to year (SASSCAL 2025). In this line, the 2024/25 isohyet suggests that the area delineating 300 mm or above was larger than normal. In comparison, the rainfall isohyet of the previous rainfall year, 2023/24, delineated a much smaller viable cattle area than normal, due to a prolonged drought. A ten-year average isohyet suggests subtle shifts, in comparison to the historic 43-year isohyet. But shifts are not consistently towards a reduction of rainfall.

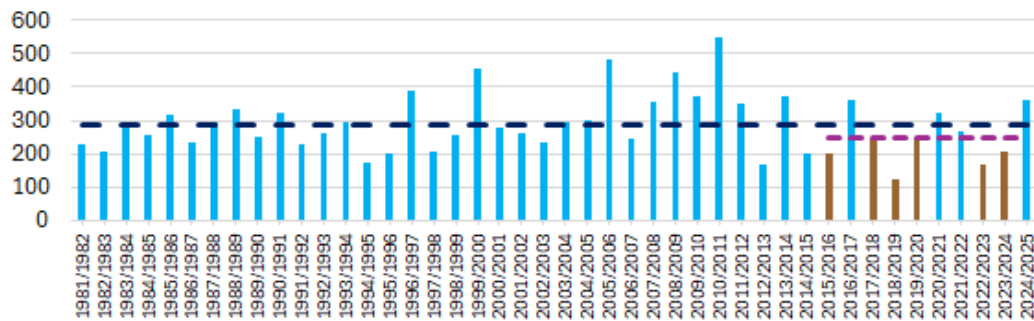
Angola Annual Rainfall (mm)



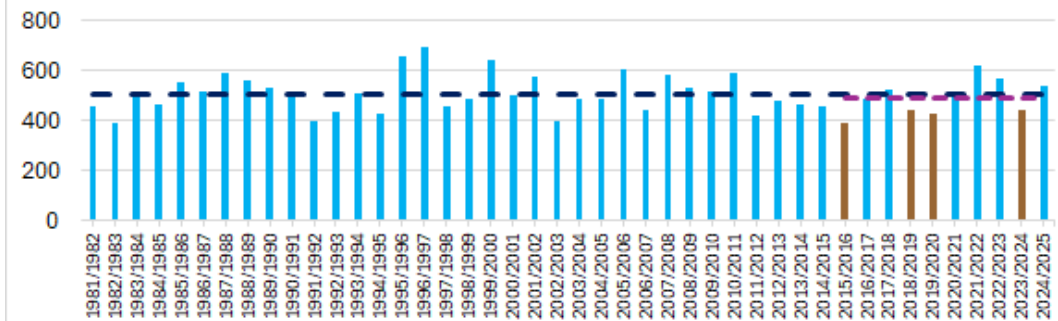
Botswana Annual Rainfall (mm)



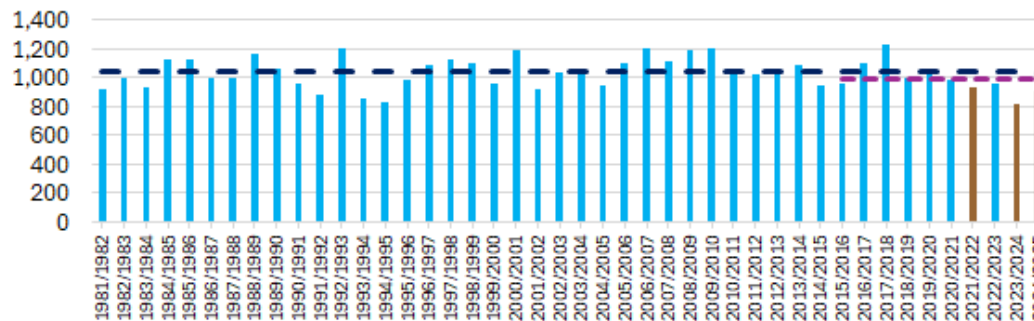
Namibia Annual Rainfall (mm)



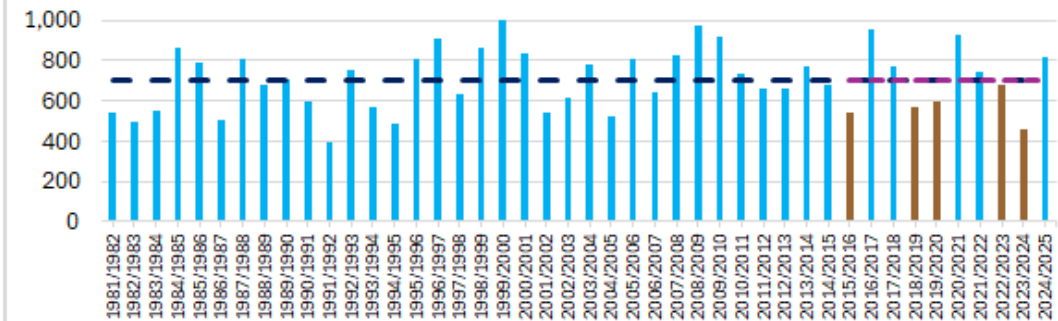
South Africa Annual Rainfall (mm)



Zambia Annual Rainfall (mm)



Zimbabwe Annual Rainfall (mm)



■ Annual Average Total (mm) ■ Historical Average ■ Average Past Decade

■ Annual Average Total (mm) ■ Historical Average ■ Average Past Decade

References:

1. Funk, C., Peterson, P., Landsfeld, M. et al. The climate hazards infrared precipitation with stations—a new environmental record for monitoring extremes. *Sci Data* 2, 150066 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2015.66>
2. WMO. 2012. Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide

3. SASSCAL. 2024. Drought in southern Africa in 2023/24.
 4. SASSCAL. 2025. Extreme Rainfall Event for Botswana in February 2025.
 5. SASSCAL. 2025. Drought impact on rainfed agriculture (2020/21 to 2023/24)
- Data Source: CHC CHIRPS 3.0 precipitation data from 1981 to September 2025