

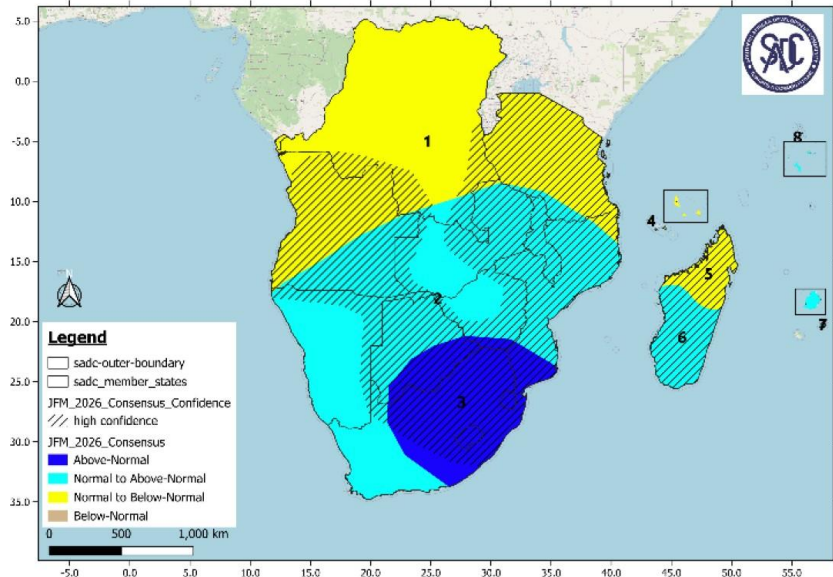
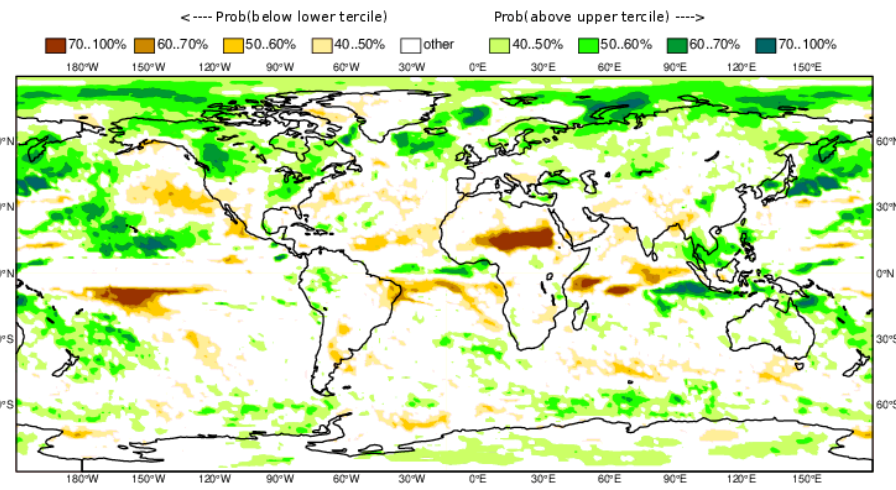
SASSCAL Seasonal Forecast Assimilation

Rainfall period January-February-March (JFM) 2026

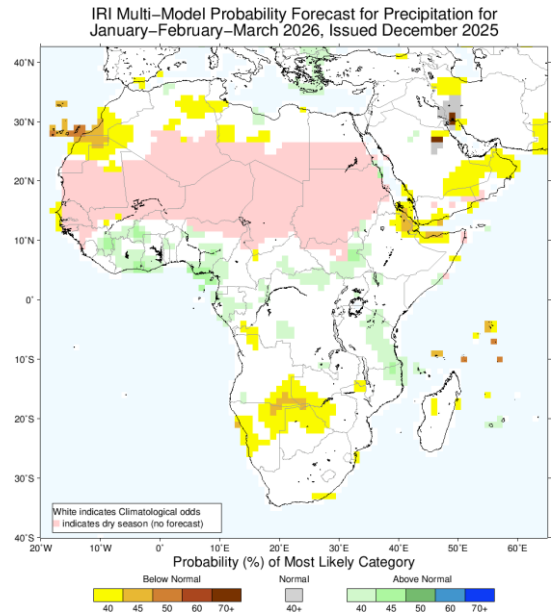
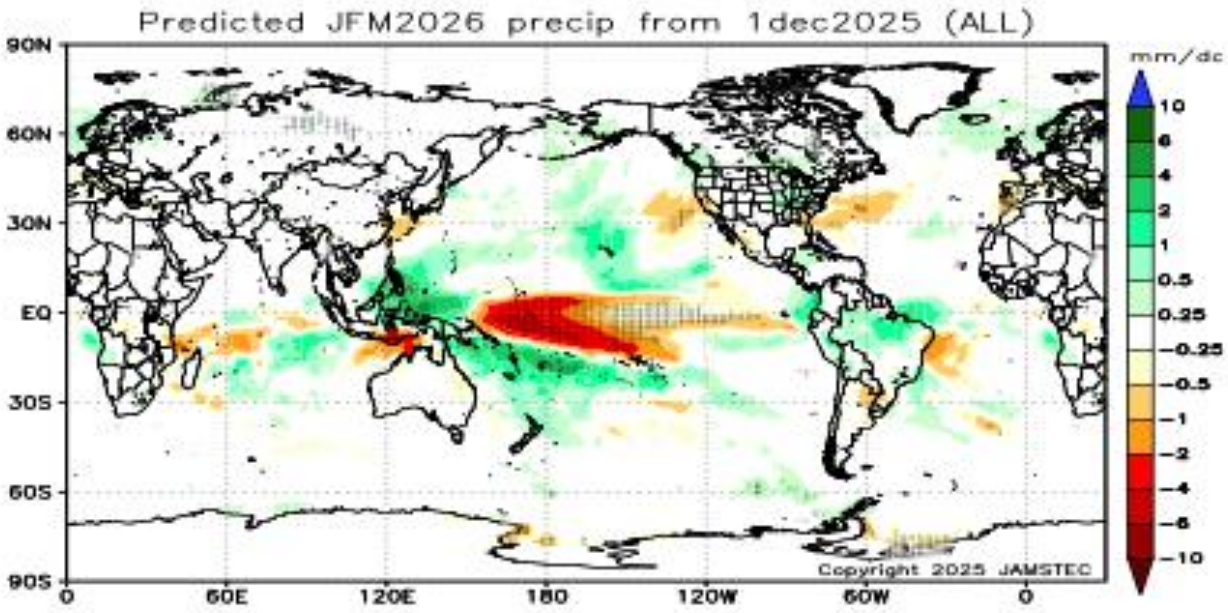
European Centre for Medium-Range
Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

ECMWF Seasonal Forecast
Prob(most likely category of precipitation)
Forecast start is 01/12/25, climate period is 1993-2016
Ensemble size = 51, climate size = 600

System 5
JFM 2026



Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and
Technology (JAMSTEC)

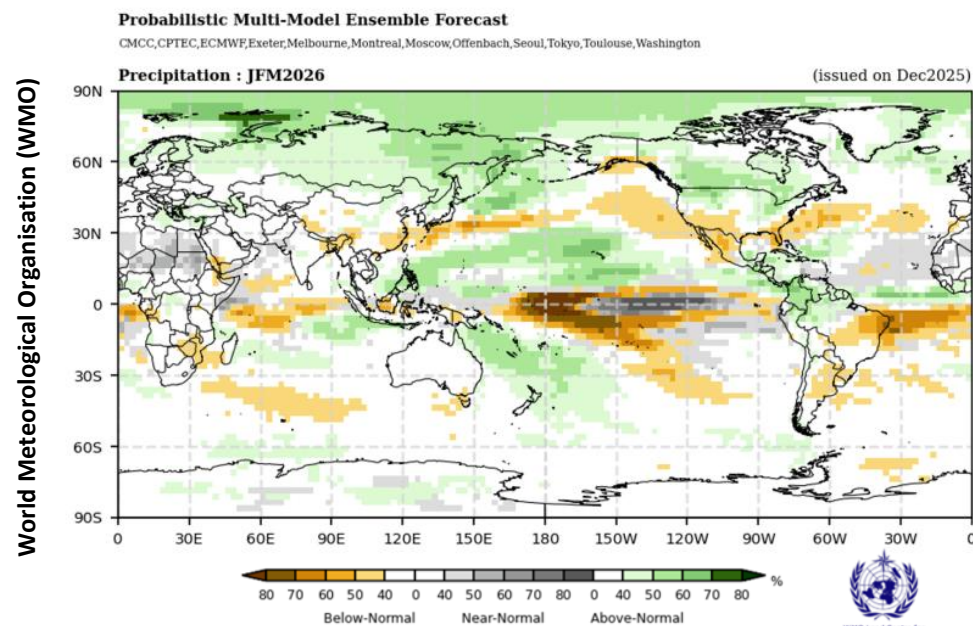


31st Southern African Regional Climate Outlook
Forum (SARCOF-31)

International Research Institute (IRI)

SASSCAL Seasonal Forecast Assimilation

Rainfall period January-February-March (JFM) 2026



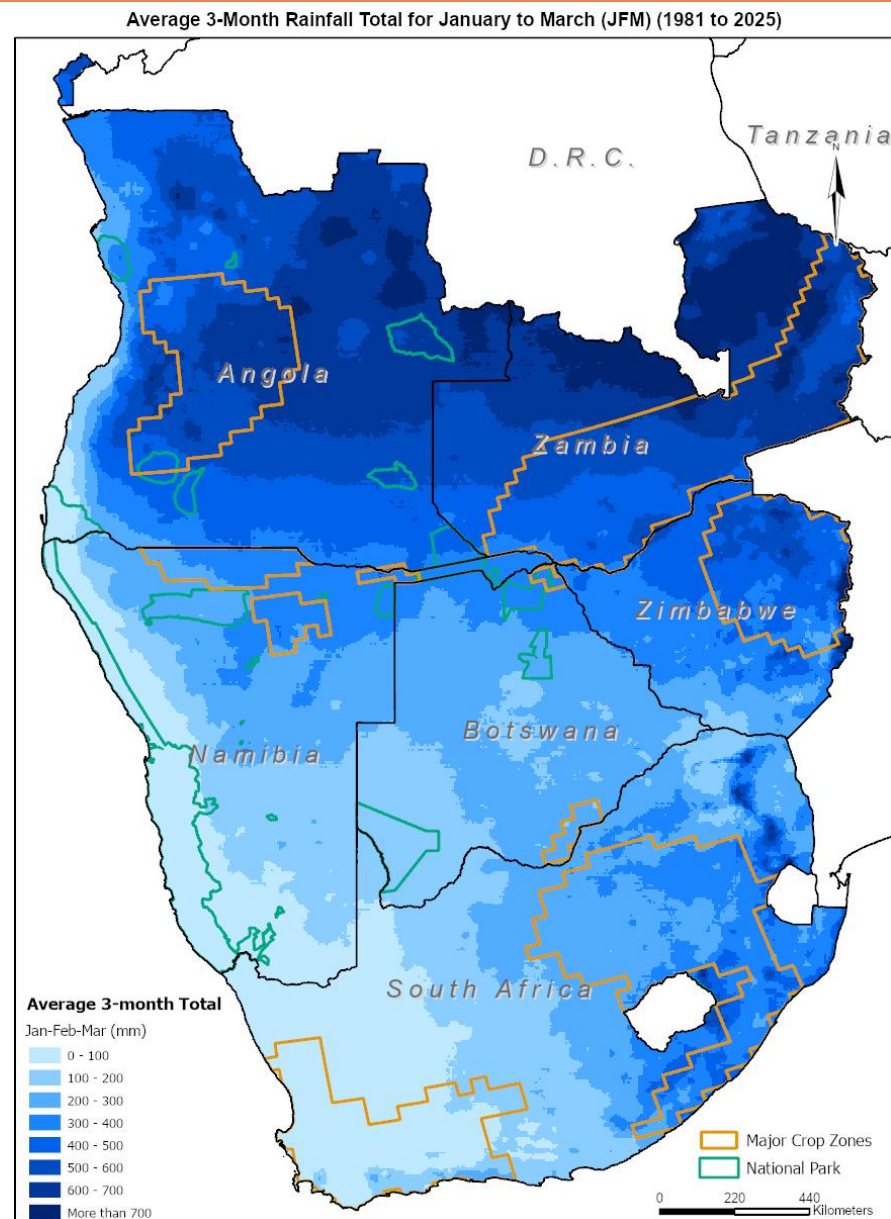
For most of southern Africa, the January to March quarter corresponds to the main rainfall period and has the highest rainfall of the year (with the exception of the winter rainfall areas.)

Five seasonal forecasts have been consulted for the rainfall period starting 1 January 2026 and ending 31 March 2026. While WMO, JAMSTEC and ECMWF generally predict normal precipitation for the JFM quarter, IRI predicts below average conditions for larger parts of southern Africa, while the SADC outlook predicts generally above average conditions, except for the north-western part of Angola.

The NOAA publication “EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION” of 8 January 2026 reports that La Niña conditions are prevailing, but declares a wide temporal window for when conditions will again transition to an ENSO-neutral state, ranging between January and March 2026.

Generally, for southern Africa, La Niña conditions foreshadow wetter rainfall conditions. However, in light of the uncertainty, as to when the ENSO-neutral state will return and in light of not all seasonal forecasts agreeing, prudence is advised in heeding the forecasts.

The SASSCAL historical map (1981-2025) for the average 3-month rainfall total for the January-February-March quarter provides a useful baseline, offering a broader perspective on what can typically be expected during this period of the year.



Data Source: CHC CHIRPS 3.0 precipitation data from 1981 to 2025