



SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CLIMATE SERVICES CENTRE

MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN

Bulletin Period: AUGUST 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The monthly climate watch bulletin was prepared with products generated using Africa Rainfall Climatology version 2 data (ARC2) for rainfall and African Flood and Drought Monitor dataset (AFDM) for temperature. This bulletin provides an analysis of the climate conditions that were experienced in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) during August 2018. It reviews the total rainfall experienced together with the departure from long term average and the minimum and maximum temperatures and their respective anomalies.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

Rainfall was concentrated in the northern and some parts of the southern coastal areas of the region. Most areas of the region experienced nearly normal to normal conditions with below normal rainfall being experienced over the northern parts and south-eastern parts of the region. Some areas in the north-western and southernmost parts of the region experienced above normal rainfall conditions (Figures 1 & 2).

The areas along the coasts and south westernmost part of South Africa experienced maximum temperature which was cooler than the long-term average while the rest of the region experienced slightly warmer than long-term average maximum temperatures (Figure 4). During the month of August 2018, the bulk of the region experienced warmer than long-term average minimum temperatures as shown on (Figure 6).

3. RAINFALL ANALYSIS

REVIEW OF LAST 30 DAYS

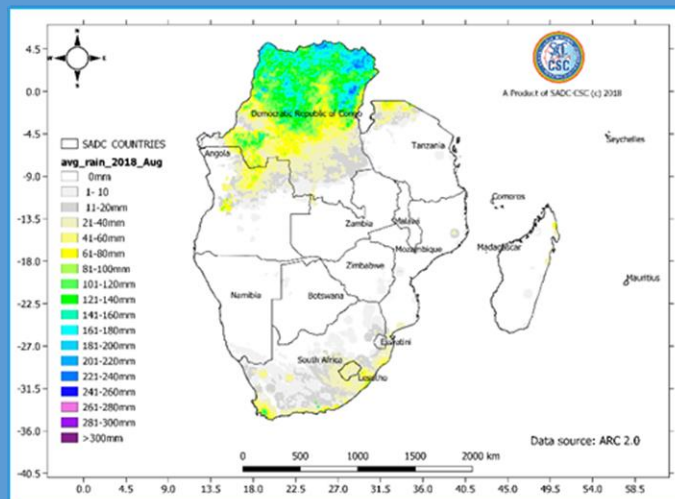


Figure 1: distribution of rainfall for August 2018 (Data source:ARC2)

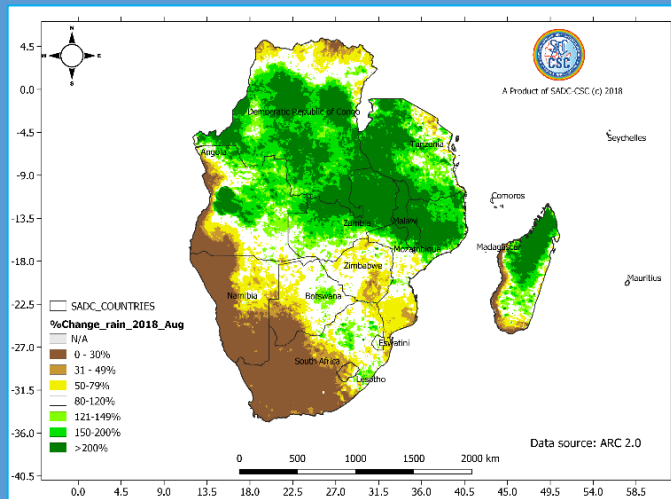


Figure 2: percentage change from long-term average (1983-2012) rainfall for August 2018 (Data source:ARC2)

The northern half of DRC recorded between 121-140 mm of rainfall with the extreme north eastern parts of DRC recording over 200 mm of rainfall. Rainfall amounts of 61-80 mm were recorded over the southern coastal areas of South Africa, several parts of Lesotho, northern parts of Angola and northernmost of Tanzania, while 11-20 mm was recorded over parts of central South Africa, parts of northern-central Angola and parts of southern DRC. The rest of the region recorded slightly low to no rainfall as depicted by (Figure 1).

Above normal rainfall conditions were experienced over south western parts of DRC, northern-central Angola, several parts of Lesotho and south western tip and south-eastern South Africa (Figure 2). These may indicate a slight sign of an early start to the rainy season.

Below normal rainfall conditions were experienced over most parts of northern half of DRC and eastern coasts of Madagascar. The rest of the region experienced near normal to normal rainfall conditions.

4. TEMPERATURE ANALYSIS

REVIEW OF LAST 30 DAYS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

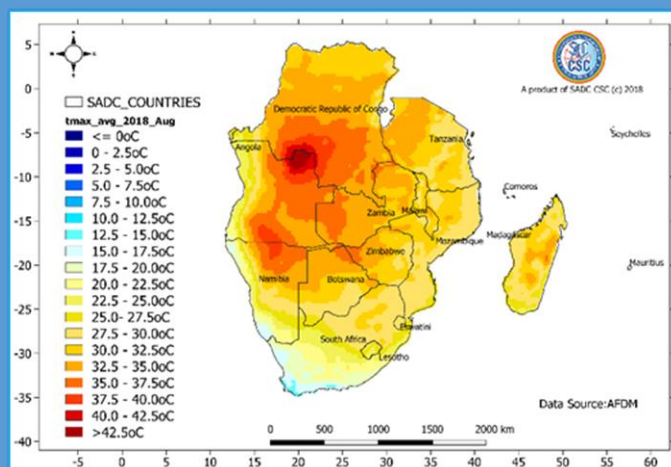


Figure 3: average maximum temperature for August 2018 (Data source AFDM)

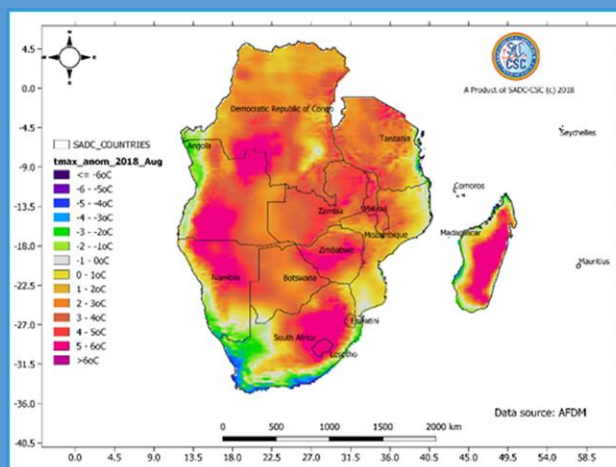


Figure 4: difference from long-term average (1981-2010) maximum temperature for August 2018 (Data source: AFDM)

Cool maximum temperatures were recorded over the south eastern most coasts of South Africa. Mild maximum temperatures were experienced over south eastern South Africa and the Namibian coastal areas while Lesotho, Eswatini, southern half of Botswana, bulk of Mozambique, north of and south Madagascar, most of Malawi, eastern Zimbabwe and Tanzania, western coast of Angola, north eastern parts of South Africa and parts of central Namibia experienced warm to very warm temperatures of about 25-30 oC (Figure 3). Hot to very hot temperatures were experienced over most of DRC, bulk of Zambia, northern most Botswana, eastern half of Angola, North eastern Namibia, western half of Zimbabwe and some central parts of Madagascar.

Warmer than long-term average maximum temperatures were experienced in most parts of the region while cooler than long-term average maximum temperatures were experienced in coastal parts of South Africa, Namibia and Angola as shown by (Figure 4).

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

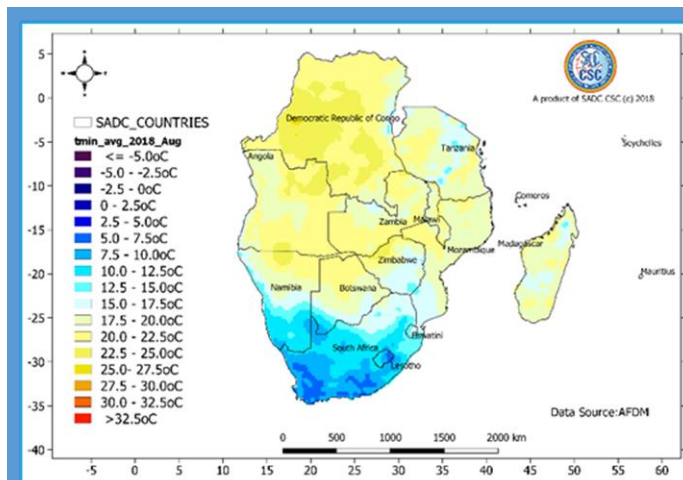


Figure 5: average minimum temperature for August 2018 (Data source AFDM)

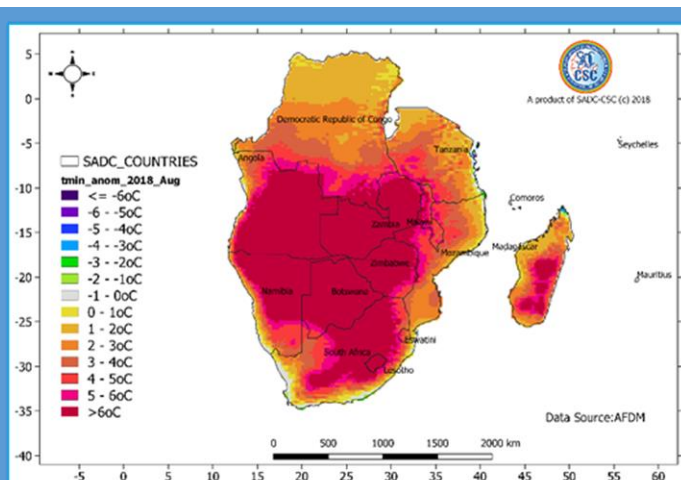


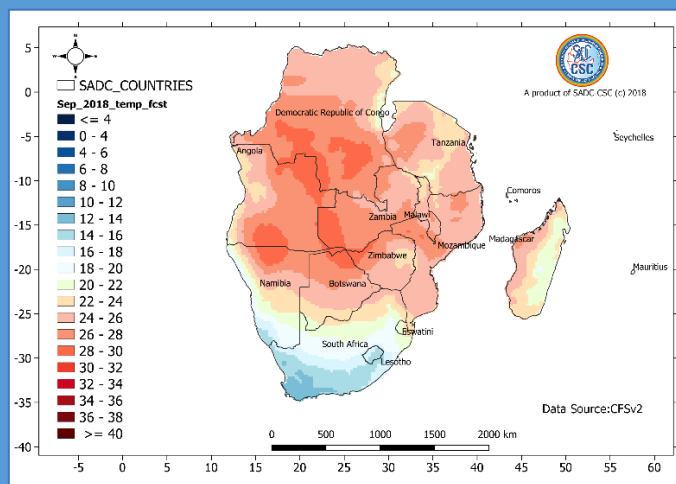
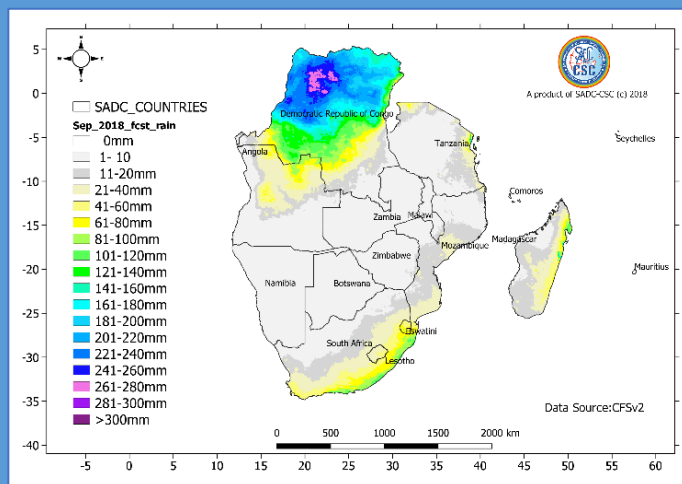
Figure 6: difference from long-term average (1981-2010) minimum temperature for August 2018 (Data source: AFDM)

Warm to very warm minimum temperatures were experienced over most parts of the region including most of Madagascar, Angola, Mozambique, and DRC, bulk of Malawi, north-western and south-eastern Tanzania, bulk of Zambia, north western parts of Zimbabwe and Namibia and northern half of Botswana (Figure 5). While the Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius island states, the bulk of South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, southern most of Botswana, bulk of the south to western Namibia, northern central parts of Tanzania, southern tip of Mozambique and eastern half of Zimbabwe experienced cool to cold minimum temperatures.

From (Figure 6) it is clear that the bulk of region experienced slightly warmer than long-term average minimum temperatures with parts of central Madagascar, bulk of Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, bulk of central South Africa experiencing warmer than long-term average minimum temperatures.

5. CLIMATE OUTLOOK

FORECAST FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS



During the month of September 2018, rainfall will be concentrated over bulk of DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, northern half of Angola, much of eastern Madagascar, much of areas in north eastern South Africa as shown by (Figure 5).

Cool average temperatures of less than 16 °C are expected over southern tip of Namibia, south of South Africa and most of Lesotho. Warm average temperatures of more than 26 °C expected over Madagascar, south of Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi and northern DRC. Most of Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia and southern DRC are expected to experience more than 30 °C.

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