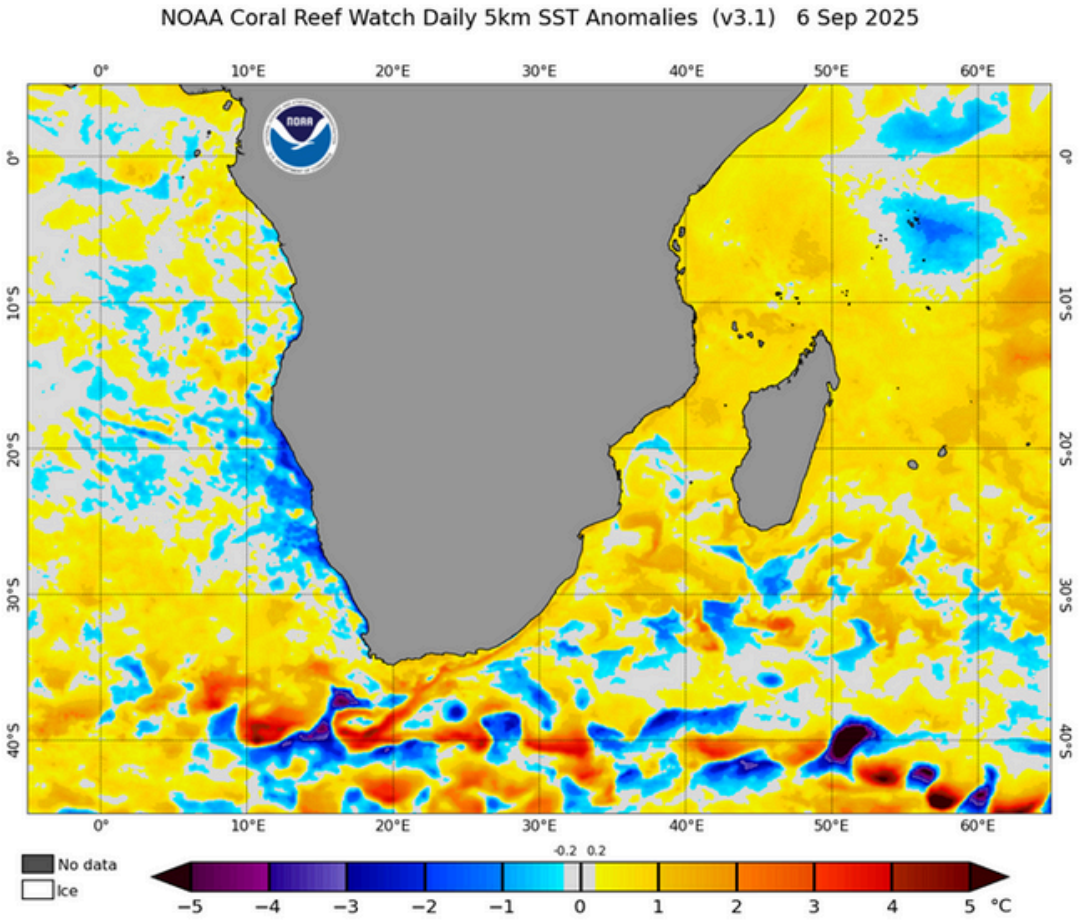
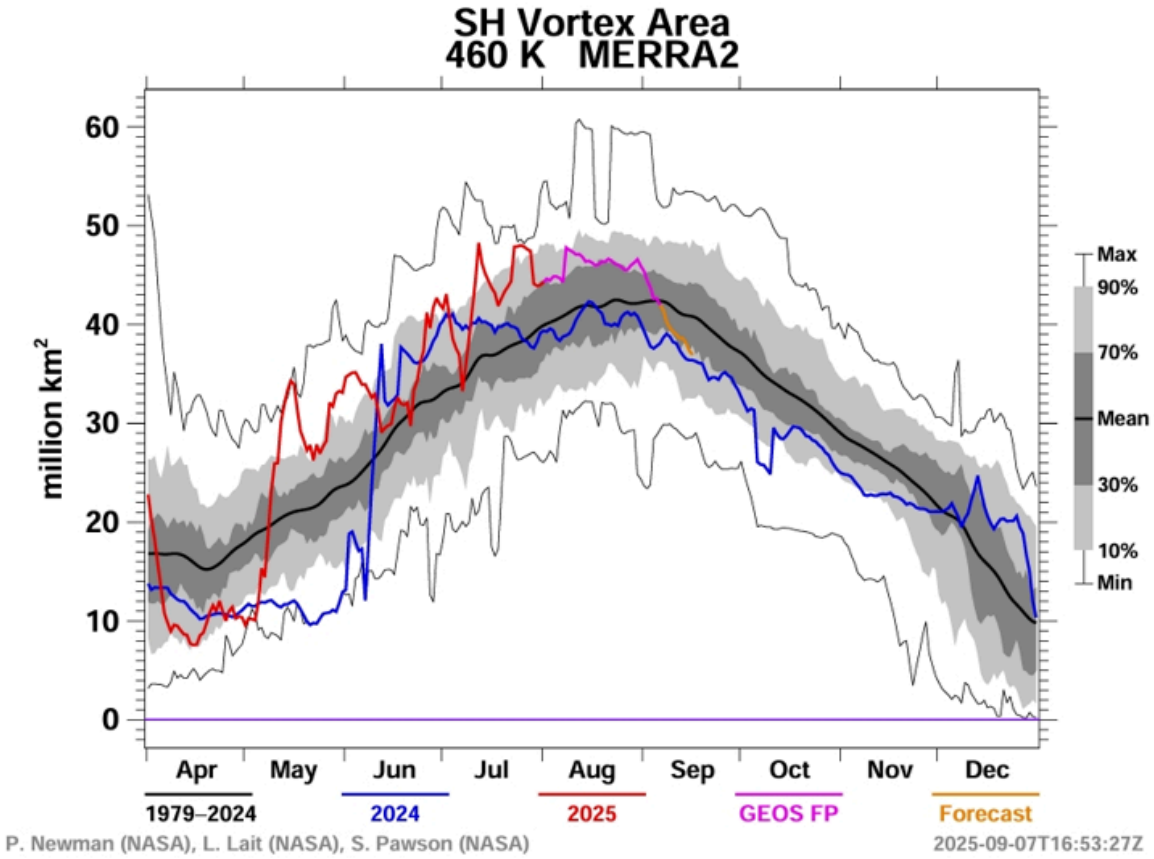
WEATHER FORECAST FOR 2025

(October 2025 – March 2026) – compiled in Sep 2025



- Regarding the past winter, we predicted that warm water from the Indian Ocean would reach the Benguela current and influence cold fronts coming over land. We also mentioned that the polar vortex had spun up three months earlier, which suggested that cold fronts would be strong at the beginning of winter, but we expected that the vortex would slow down earlier, especially in the latter part of winter, which would then gradually become drier.
- Based on this, the West Coast would receive less rain, while the Overberg and Southern Cape would get more. This statement was both correct and incorrect, but for a reason different from what we predicted. The reason was that the polar vortex, which had spun up earlier, produced more ice at the poles. As a result, seawater at the poles became denser and colder than expected.
- This colder and denser seawater entered the Benguela current during early winter, causing the expected warm patches in the Benguela current to be overwhelmed, resulting in the West Coast receiving more than normal rainfall, while the forecast for the Southern Coast was accurate.
- As expected, cut-off low-pressure systems did influence winter and spring weather, but they developed in locations outside the usual expected window.
- In the previous medium-term forecast, we mentioned that it seemed as if nature was beginning to create new rules, with cut-off low-pressure systems developing further south than 30° south latitude. However, during the last summer, one such system developed north of De Aar at one point, causing the Vaal River to flood.

- The same happened during winter, with a closed low-pressure system developing at the same location in the atmosphere as during summer, pulling cold air from the atmosphere and causing biting cold over the north-eastern part of the country.
- After that, another system developed west of Namibia, moving quickly over land toward the Eastern Cape.
- The reason such development occurs is that the polar vortex begins to slow its rotation, with high-pressure systems developing further south and then pinching systems in the atmosphere.
- This is still relevant as of this stage (September 2025), because the polar vortex has already started to slow down... see the chart below.



- The blue line is for 2024, and the red line, which changes color, is for 2025, where we can clearly see how changes started occurring from August to September.
- Therefore, the expectation remains that this will continue to be the case until the end of the year, meaning that cut-off low-pressure systems will still cause deviations from the normal trend of what we expect or predict.
- We have mentioned this before... The function of the Polar Vortex is to keep cold air at the poles. When it is strong, it retains cold air at the pole, but once it weakens, cold air from the pole starts to spill away, while high-pressure systems develop further south simultaneously.
- The recipe is simple. The stronger the Polar Vortex, the stronger cold fronts will be—fewer but more intense. The weaker the Polar Vortex, the more cold air escapes from the pole, resulting in many more cold fronts, but with fronts accompanied by more wind and less rainfall.

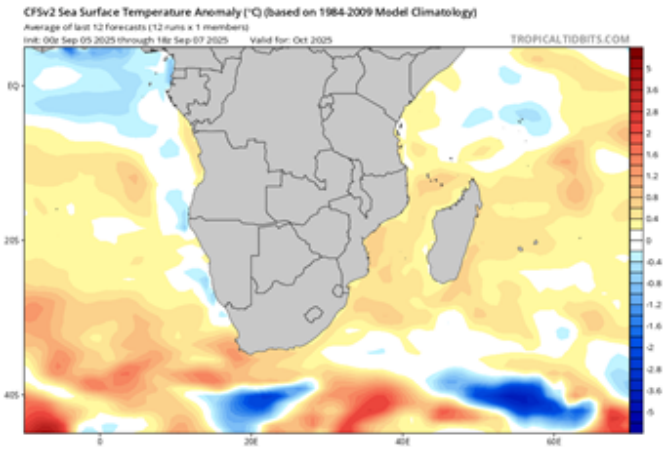
- Based on this, the forecast for the past winter was as follows:

    1. We are definitely not going to get as much rain from cold fronts as in 2024.
    2. The scale is more towards the drier than the wet side at this stage.
    3. If precipitation is less, it will not be far below average.
    4. Unfortunately, there are also greater chances that we will get cut-off low type systems during the harvest season, but a lot has to happen before we can really predict this.

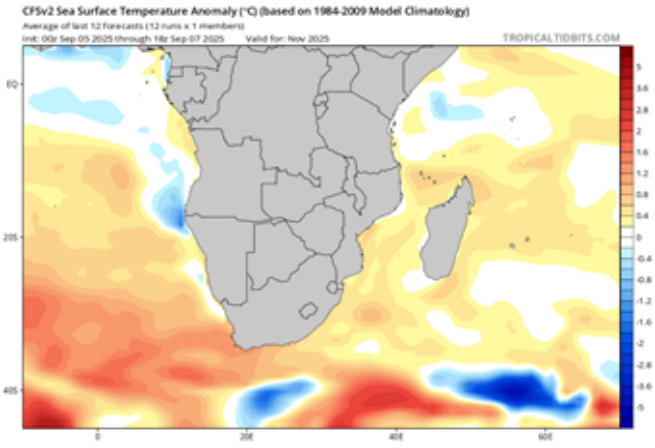
- As far as the latter part of the winter is concerned, this still applies, but it seems more possible than what we predicted in May 2025.
- As far as the interior and northeast of the country are concerned, there were, however, very few cold fronts that really had an influence because the Indian Ocean High Pressure remained dominant.
- During the winter, it brought cloudless, windless nights at stages where terrestrial radiation contributed to morning temperatures dropping so low that places like Barberton, for example, had to do frost protection every night for more than a month.
- Later in the winter and at the beginning of Spring, the same high pressure then also brought drier and warmer weather over the Lowveld, northeastern escarpment as well as the Highveld.
- However, we expect this to continue for the rest of September except of course for the deviations that may occur due to cut-off low pressure systems.

Sea Temperatures from October to January

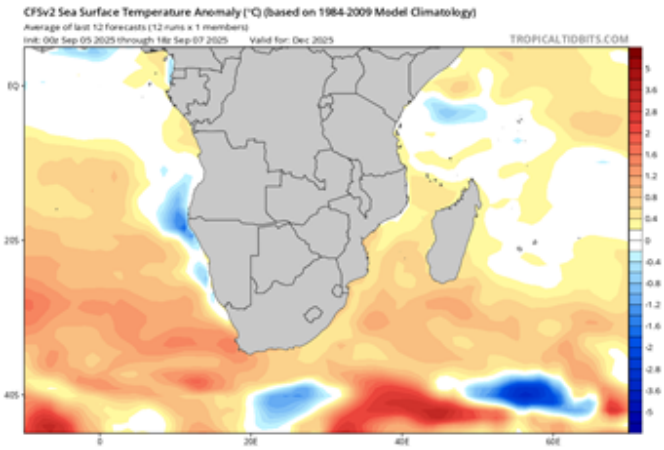
October



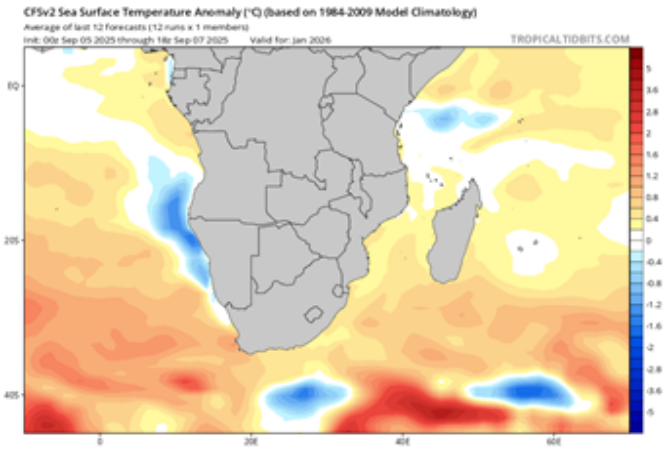
November



December



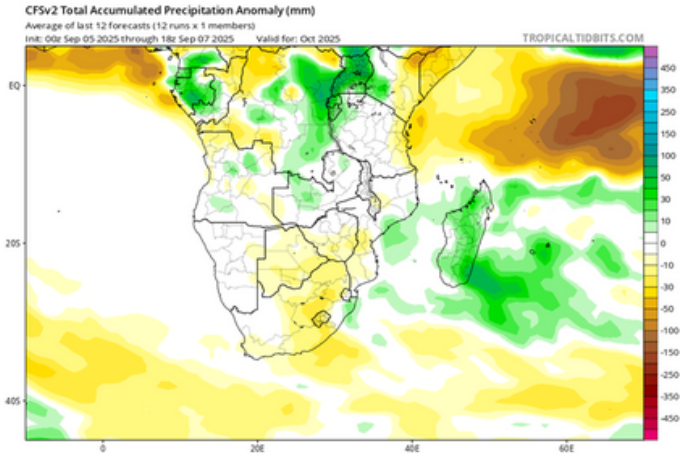
January



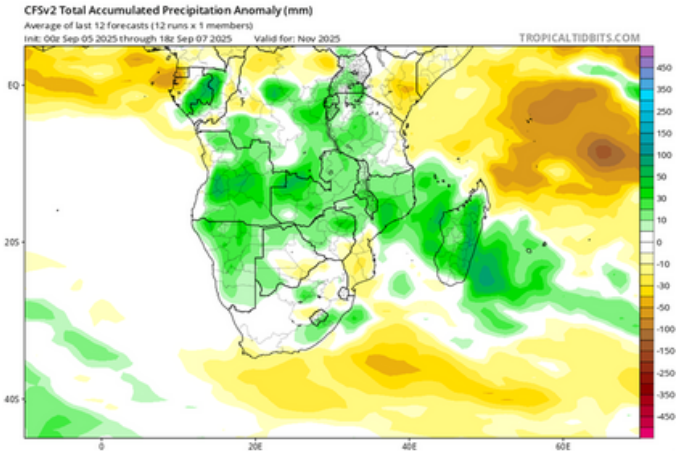
- South Africa's weather is more influenced by sea temperatures on either side of the country. This statement goes against the mainstream scientific idea that El-Nino is the basis that dictates summer weather over South Africa.
- Because of this: -- The El Nino phenomenon is currently in a La Nina phase (-0.4°C) and will gradually change to a neutral phase from now until January 2026.
- The other phenomenon that is also sometimes used as a measure to predict summer weather for South Africa is the IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) and this is currently also negative (-0.9°C) and will gradually change to -0.2°C from now until January, which is tending towards normal.
- So, as far as the El Nino and IOD phenomena are concerned, it actually predicts wetter than normal weather over the summer rainfall region but that is not exactly what sea temperatures on either side of the country say.
- To get good summer rains we actually want a trough of low pressure along the entire length of southern Africa, from the equator to the south, to carry moisture from the tropics to the south. But since sea temperatures from now until mid-summer in the Tanzania – Congo line on both sides tend to remain lower than normal while sea temperatures on either side of South Africa on both sides (Atlantic and Indian Ocean) will remain warmer than normal, there is a problem.
- This will contribute to the air pressure in the Tanzania – Congo line being slightly higher than normal while air pressure over the south will be slightly lower than normal.
- So, even if we have perfect conditions in the south to bring rain, there will be a buffer between us and the equator that will block moisture that needs to come in from the north.
- Directly south of the Tanzania – Congo line there will be more than normal moisture but this will come due to moisture-bearing air that will be brought in from the Mozambique Channel to the south of that line.
- This means that weather over northern Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana will be wetter than normal from November to January but south of that there will be mixed success as it will depend a lot on timing whether that moisture will reach South Africa.
- By this we mean that the moment when the inland trough is ready to carry moisture from the north will not necessarily coincide with the time when moisture is available in the upper reaches of the trough.
- With this in mind... See expected distribution of precipitation below but please remember:
- This is based on the expectation that the sea temperature forecasts will be true and can change, so it is not cast in stone.

Deviation from normal precipitation (green is wet... yellow and orange are dry)

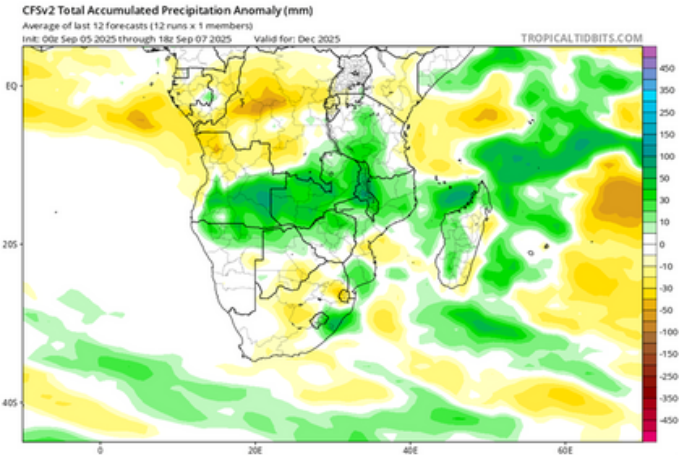
October



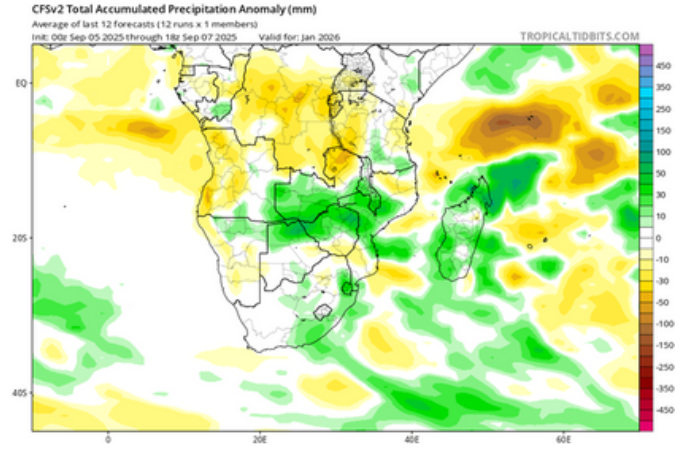
November



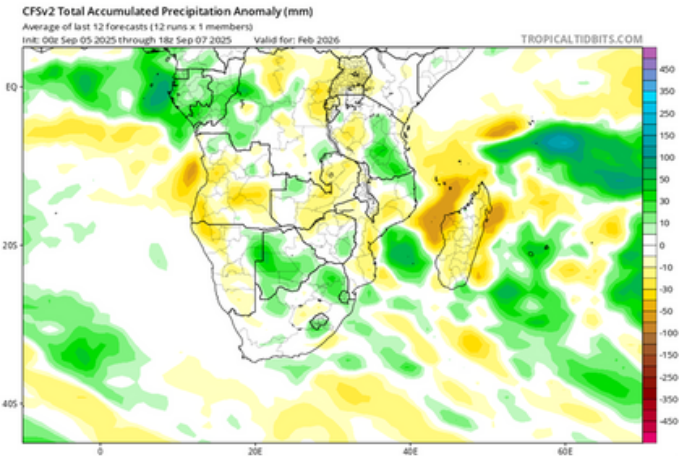
December



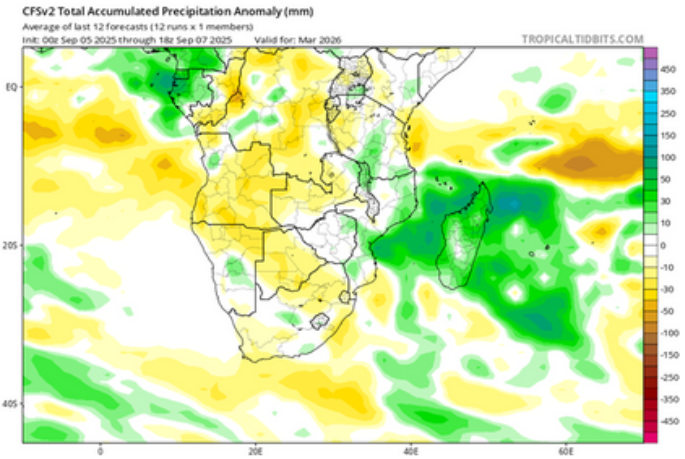
January



February



March



- Giel Hugo (Independent weather forecaster)