

5 May 2026

Update: Intense Cut-Off Low Affecting South Africa (5 – 7 May 2026)

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) continues to monitor the intense cut-off low-pressure system currently affecting parts of the country. Widespread showers and thundershowers have already been experienced in places over much of the country. The situation is then set to intensify over the south and south-eastern parts of the country on Wednesday when very heavy rain may result in severe flooding impacts. The areas at risk of this are the eastern parts of Western Cape, as well as the south-western parts of Eastern Cape.

Below is a summary of the significant and severe impact-based warnings expected from Tuesday to Thursday (5 – 7 May 2026).

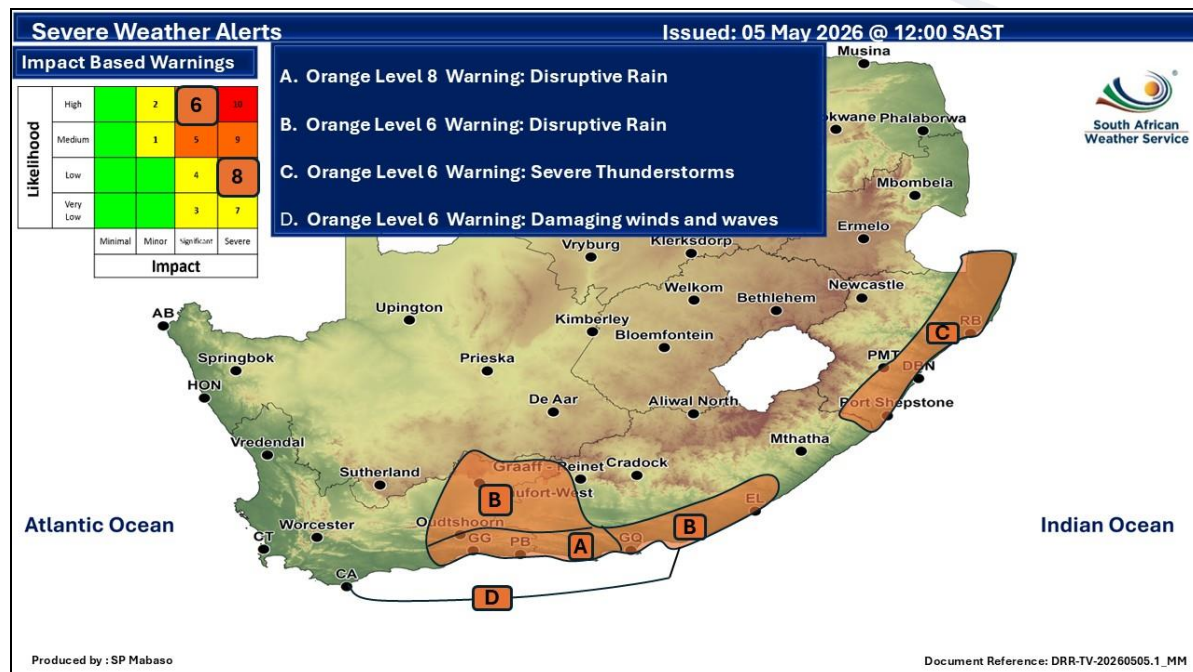


Figure 1: Significant and severe weather warnings. Source: SAWS

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A. Orange Level 8 Warning for Disruptive Rain is over the eastern parts of Garden Route District in Western Cape, as well as Kouga and Kou-Kamma local municipalities in the Eastern Cape on Wednesday and Thursday. This may result in widespread flooding of roads and settlements, danger to life due to fast flowing streams, as well as some communities being temporarily cut off.

B. Orange Level 6 Warning for Disruptive Rain is expected over the north-eastern parts of Western Cape as well as over the southern parts of Eastern Cape on Wednesday and Thursday. It could result in flooding of roads and settlements, and some communities being temporarily cut off.

C. Orange Level 6 Warning for Severe Thunderstorms are expected on Wednesday over the eastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal, and they will be associated with heavy downpours resulting in flooding of roads, settlements, as well as large amounts of small hail overpopulated areas.

D. Orange Level 6 Warning: Damaging winds and waves leading to disruptions of small harbors/ports, difficulty in navigation is expected Tuesday until Thursday between Cape Agulhas and Cannon Rocks.

In addition, there is snow expected from Wednesday evening to affect the high grounds over the north-eastern parts of Western Cape, southern portions of Northern Cape and well as north of Eastern Cape. These may have disruptive effects on some of the roads in those areas. There are also strong winds expected on Wednesday though much of the western and central interior of the country, spreading to the east later in the day, and may become damaging in places.

A sharp decrease in temperatures over much of the country, except the extreme north-eastern parts, can be expected on Wednesday and Thursday when some of the high lying areas may see maximum temperatures in the teens or even lower.

Conditions are expected to gradually improve from Friday, although cold conditions may persist in some high lying places well into the weekend.

Advisory

The public and stakeholders are urged to:

- Avoid crossing flooded roads and swollen rivers
- Exercise caution when travelling
- Secure loose outdoor items

Members of the public and stakeholders are strongly urged to continuously monitor official SAWS forecasts and warnings, as warnings will be updated as the likelihood and severity of impacts become clearer. The public is also advised to remain cautious of unauthorised or unverified information sources and refrain from distributing such information further.

For technical and weather enquiries:

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

Compiled by: Ms Tokelo Chiloane

Edited by: Mr Ezekiel Sebego

Approved by: Mr Rudzani Malala

Media enquiries: Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za

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