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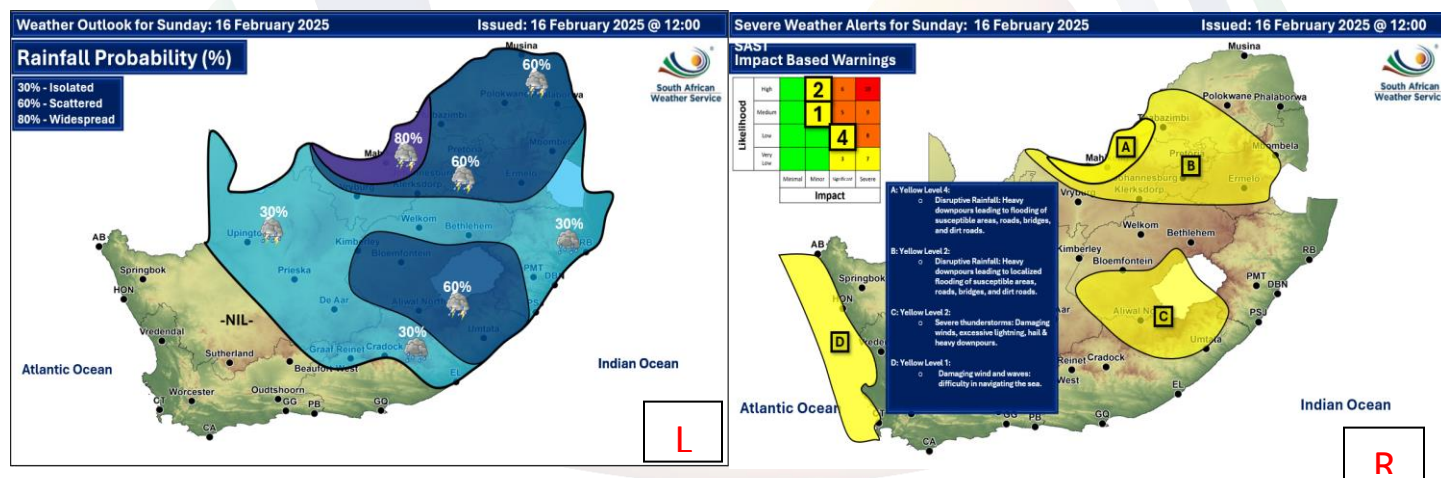
Sunday, 16 February 2025

Return of heavy showers across parts of South Africa – a case of this Sunday through Thursday (16th to 20th February 2025)

Heavy on-and-off showers are expected at times this Sunday across the North West and Gauteng provinces, including the northern region of Free State, Highveld areas of Mpumalanga and south-western Limpopo (area labeled B in Figure 1(R)). The resulting localised floods are expected to affect susceptible areas, bridges and roads, particularly over the area labeled A in Figure 1(R).

The South African Weather Service once again advises the communities living in low-lying areas and flat plains to be on the lookout for the disruptive rain across the central and eastern regions of South Africa from this Sunday to at least Wednesday (16 to 19 February 2025). Motorists and pedestrians should be extra cautious where roads are slippery and/or visibility is affected.

These conditions with cloudy to overcast skies are expected across South Africa along with subregions of ordinary showers and thundershowers as shown in Figure 1(L). The rainfall accumulation is expected to be in the region of 20 to 50 millimetres (mm). Daytime temperatures in these regions are also expected to be cool. The transport of moist tropical air from continental low over Botswana is the main source of the current cloudy and showery conditions.



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Figure 1: Weather forecast for Sunday, 16 February 2025. Rainfall pattern across South Africa (L) with areas of potential impacts (R).

Added to which, severe thunderstorms are expected in places across the southern Free State and northern region of the Eastern Cape where damaging winds, excessive lightning, hail and heavy downpours are likely. However, potentially strong damaging winds are expected along the west and south-west coasts of the Cape Provinces on a zone labeled D. Damaging winds are possible due to the tight pressure gradient along the west coast.

No major changes are anticipated on the rainfall pattern on Monday, 17 February 2025, apart from the extension of widespread showers (80%) across the North West and Gauteng where additional disruptive rain is expected in places.

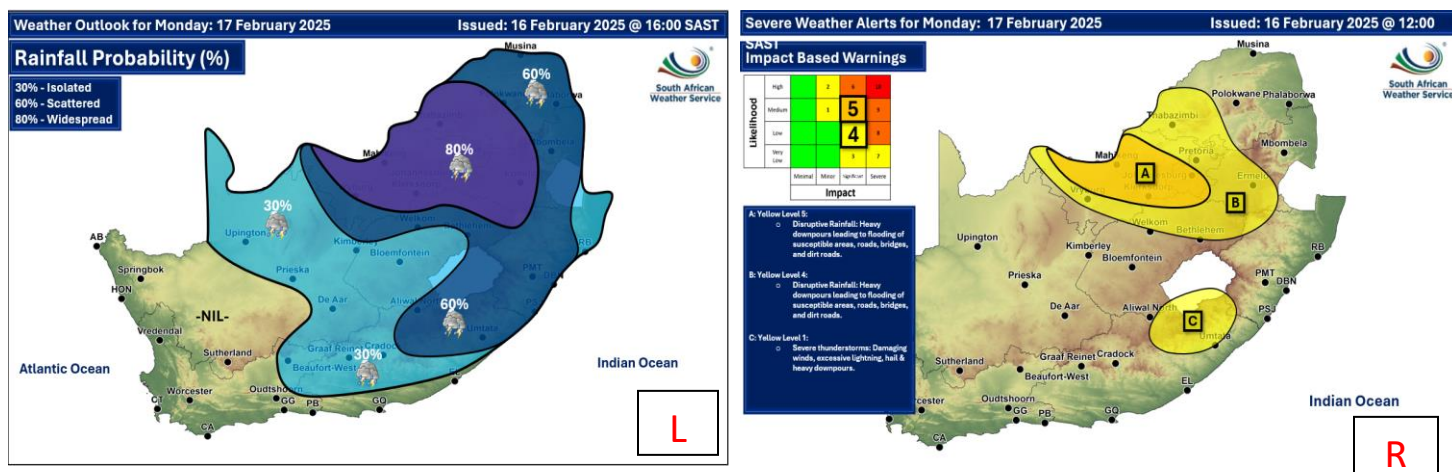


Figure 2: Weather forecast for Monday, 17 February 2025. Rainfall pattern across South Africa (L) with areas of potential impacts (R).

Summer thunderstorms across South Africa ordinarily develop in the afternoon and early evening. As was stated just before the onset of persistent showers in early January, the tropical moisture typically possesses a significant amount of energy. In the case of this Sunday through Tuesday, 18 February 2025 (seen Figure 3 below), the tropical airmass is expected to cause disruptive rain during this week with amounts in the region of 30 to 50 mm daily.

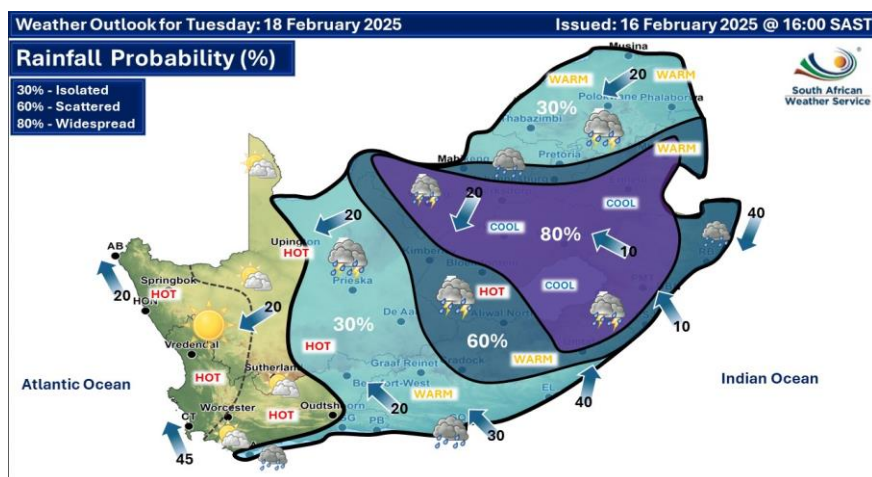


Figure 3: Weather forecast for Tuesday, 18 February 2025.

Further, continual showers are also expected on Wednesday and might persist into Thursday morning. There will still be the likelihood of disruptive rain around the coastal region of the eastern half of the Eastern Cape as well as the southern coastline of KwaZulu-Natal as depicted **on figure 4**, before rainfall return to the more favourable weather in South Africa.

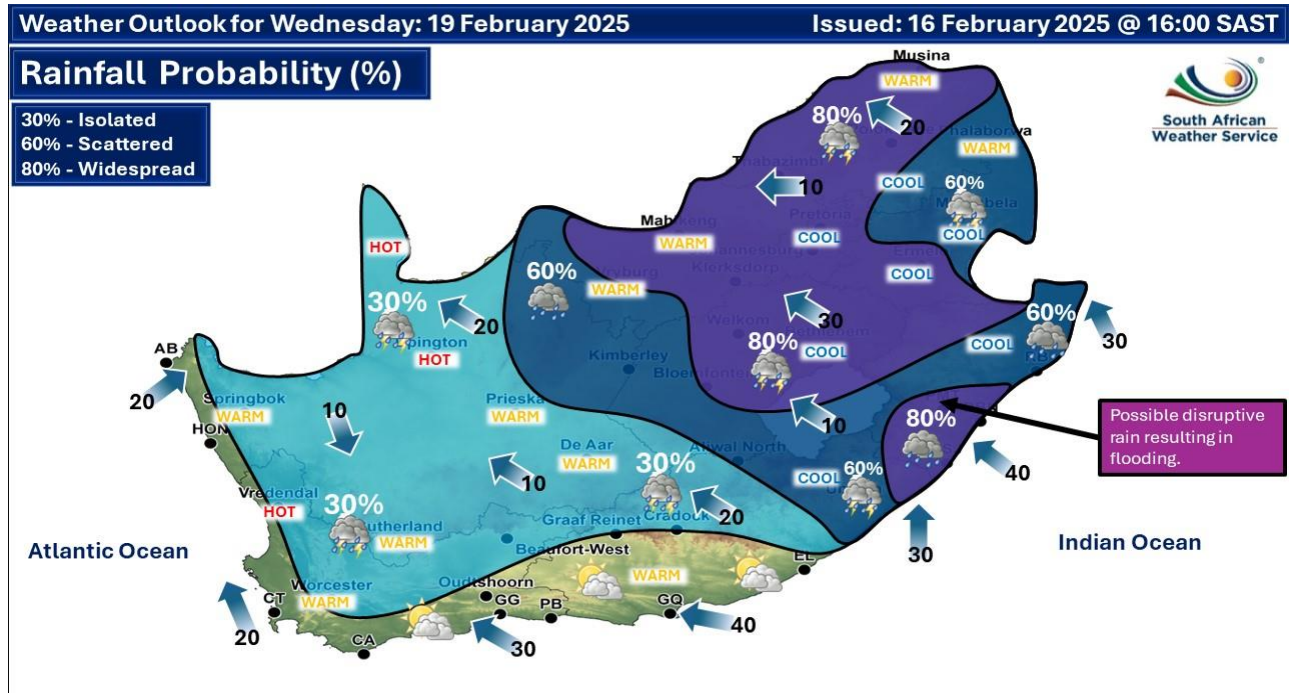


Figure 4: Weather forecast for Wednesday, 19 February 2025.

Given the potential impacts from this Sunday to at least Wednesday, it is of great consequence for the public to stay informed by monitoring weather warnings and updates from the SAWS. Such **weather warnings** are updated daily and could be accessed on the SAWS website (www.weathersa.co.za), and broadcasts on local radios and television channels.

Furthermore, intermediate updates may be followed on X (@SAWeatherServic), Facebook (South African Weather Service) or other SAWS-supported social media platforms.

To ensure safety and preparedness, the following **precautions** are advised:

- Avoid crossing flooded roads or swollen streams.
- Move to higher ground if rising water levels are observed.
- Refrain from travelling on bridges or roads in low-lying areas, which are particularly vulnerable to flooding.

Adherence to these guidelines can significantly reduce risks and help ensure public safety during this period of adverse weather conditions.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to the weather systems and will issue subsequent updates as required.

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