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Thursday, 30 November 2023

Heatwave conditions break records in places over South Africa.

On the morning of Sunday, 19 November 2023, the north-eastern parts of the country experienced extremely hot conditions due to a surface high pressure system that was assisted by convergence aloft. Heatwave conditions resulting in persistently high temperatures, exceeding average maximum temperatures, were expected in most parts of the country. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) continued to monitor the situation and issued relevant weather advisories. The heat wave advisory was extended to Tuesday, 28 November 2023 for the highlighted regions on the map below.

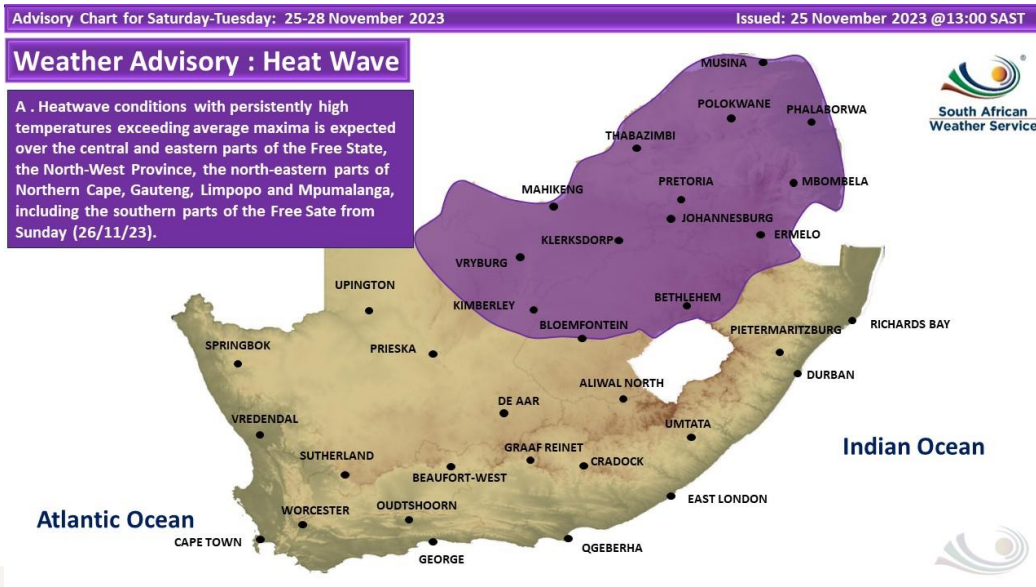


Figure 1: Heat wave conditions for 25 to 28 November 2023

Following the heat wave conditions that prevailed from November 19, 2023, for a number of days in most parts of the country, November records were broken in both the maximum and minimum temperature measurements. Hot to very hot conditions were experienced in most parts of the country, with isolated areas having extremely hot conditions for several days in a row. Hot conditions reached their peak on 27 November 2023, when extremely hot conditions were experienced in large parts of the

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Northern Cape, extending to adjacent areas of North West and the Free State (Figure 2).

Preliminary data indicates new temperature records for November over the Northern Cape, Free State and North West provinces. More than 10 stations recorded the highest temperature records on the 27th, with the Automatic Weather Station at Augrabies Falls recording the highest maximum temperature of 46,7°C, breaking its previous record of 46,2°C (2019-11-28). It must be noted that the highest maximum temperature record for Augrabies Falls remains at 48,6°C, measured on 2016-01-05, and the 46,7°C is the new record for the month of November.

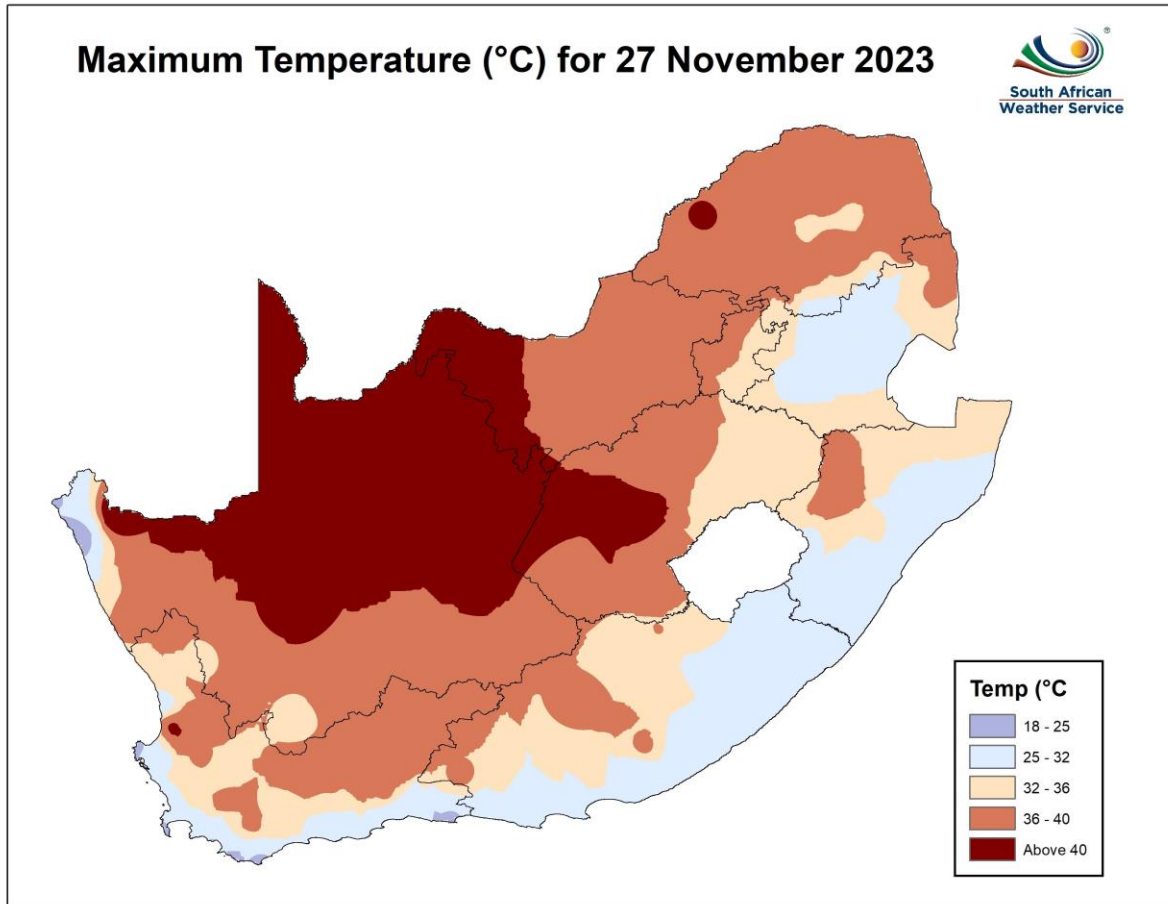


Figure 2: Graph of maximum temperatures for 27 November 2023

Table 1: Highest maximum temperature records for period 23-28 November 2023

Parameter	Old	Old Date	New	New Date	Numb. years	Station
Highest Maximum	35.5	2018-11-13	36.3	2023-11-23	17	KOKSTAD
Highest Maximum	40.1	2012-11-19	40.3	2023-11-23	38	TAUNG
Highest Maximum	42.4	2019-11-28	43.9	2023-11-23	63	UPINGTON WO

Highest Maximum	33.7	2011-11-08	34.9	2023-11-24	63	DURBAN SOUTH WENTWORTH
Highest Maximum	38.8	2015-11-11	39.1	2023-11-24	30	GREYTOWN
Highest Maximum	39.5	2008-11-29	40.5	2023-11-24	21	RICHARDS BAY AIRPORT
Highest Maximum	46.2	2019-11-28	46.7	2023-11-27	39	AUGRABIES FALLS
Highest Maximum	38.2	2016-11-30	39.6	2023-11-27	61	BLOEMFONTEIN WO
Highest Maximum	38.2	2019-11-28	39.1	2023-11-27	22	FAURESMITH
Highest Maximum	41.1	2019-11-10	41.9	2023-11-27	63	KIMBERLEY WO
Highest Maximum	38	2018-11-14	38.5	2023-11-27	30	KLERKSDORP
Highest Maximum	36.9	2018-11-14	37.7	2023-11-27	45	KROONSTAD
Highest Maximum	39.9	2013-11-13	40.1	2023-11-27	63	KURUMAN
Highest Maximum	37	2015-11-10	37.5	2023-11-27	30	LICHTENBURG
Highest Maximum	39	2021-11-02	39.6	2023-11-27	31	MOKOPANE
Highest Maximum	39.7	2016-11-28	41.2	2023-11-27	29	ORANIA AWS
Highest Maximum	41.5	2019-11-28	42.3	2023-11-27	30	PRIESKA
Highest Maximum	38.5	2004-11-18	39.1	2023-11-27	48	WELKOM
Highest Maximum	33.9	2018-11-16	34.5	2023-11-28	31	BARKLY-OOS (CAERLEON)
Highest Maximum	34.1	2019-11-28	34.4	2023-11-28	45	BUFFELSFONTEIN
Highest Maximum	35.7	1995-11-15	36	2023-11-28	30	ELLIOT
Highest Maximum	35.2	2019-11-28	35.9	2023-11-28	33	JAMESTOWN

Table 2: Highest minimum temperature records for period 23-28 November 2023

Parameter	Old	Old Date	New	New Date	Numb years	Station
Highest Minimum	17.5	1996-11-04	18.6	2023-11-23	30	GIANTS CASTLE AWS
Highest Minimum	16.1	2019-11-29	16.6	2023-11-24	17	KOKSTAD
Highest Minimum	16	2020-11-09	16.5	2023-11-26	19	BELFAST
Highest Minimum	17.2	2012-11-20	17.8	2023-11-26	15	MACHADODORP AWS
Highest Minimum	23.6	2021-11-08	23.7	2023-11-26	6	THOHOYANDOU WO
Highest Minimum	16	2003-11-22	16.5	2023-11-27	43	BETHLEHEM WO
Highest Minimum	17.4	2012-11-20	17.6	2023-11-27	23	MOOI RIVER
Highest Minimum	22.4	2005-11-20	22.9	2023-11-27	18	PENNINGTON SOUTH
Highest Minimum	18.1	2015-11-12	18.8	2023-11-28	30	VREDE

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in an El Niño state and according to the latest predictions is expected to persist through most of the summer months. ENSO's typical impact on Southern Africa is in favour of generally drier and warmer conditions during the spring and summer months from October to March. However, current global forecasts indicate a great deal of uncertainty for the typical drier conditions that South Africa experiences during typical El Niño seasons, over the eastern parts of the

country. Weather extremes will continue to occur from time to time during the summer season as much as drier conditions are expected. Caution is advised at this point, as the El Niño effect might still manifest its influence in the next few months and change the outlook of the rainfall forecast for mid- and late-summer. Minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period.

The SAWS will continue to monitor the weather and climate conditions and provide updates on any future assessments that may provide more clarity on the current expectations for the coming season.

Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio. Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at www.weathersa.co.za as well as via the SA Weather Service X account @SAWeatherServic

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