

12 November 2019

First significant summer rainfall could lead to potential flooding in places

While the recent rainfall has been well needed across the eastern parts of the country, the anticipated further rainfall could result in damaging impacts for some areas, especially in KwaZulu-Natal as well as the extreme eastern parts of Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

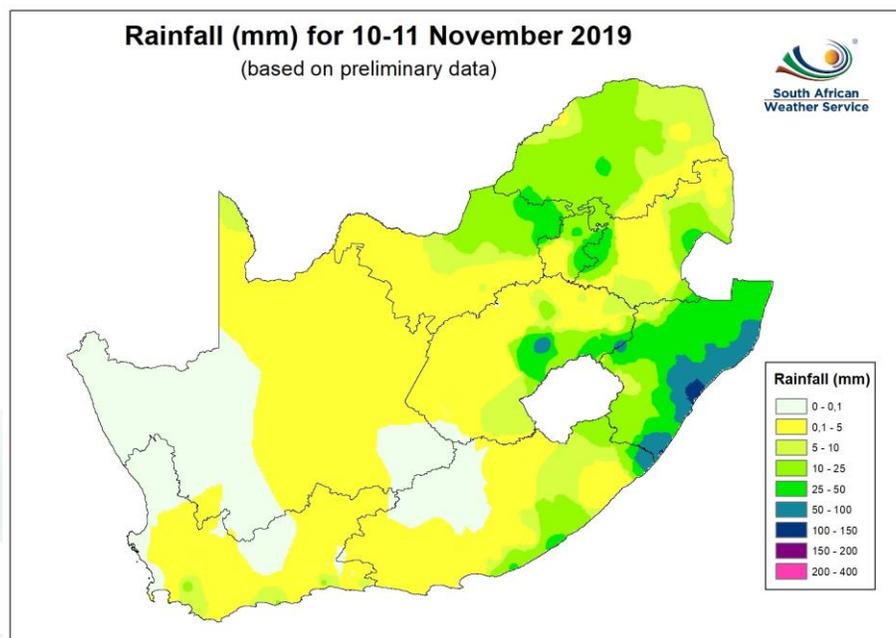


Figure 1: Recorded rainfall totals 10-11 November 2019

High rainfall totals have already been recorded across KwaZulu-Natal (Fig. 1), resulting in the ground being saturated. Further showers are expected today (Tuesday, 12 November) as well as tomorrow (Wednesday, 13 November), however **accumulated** rainfall amounts for Thursday and Friday could **exceed 100-150 mm** in places over KwaZulu-Natal (Fig. 2).

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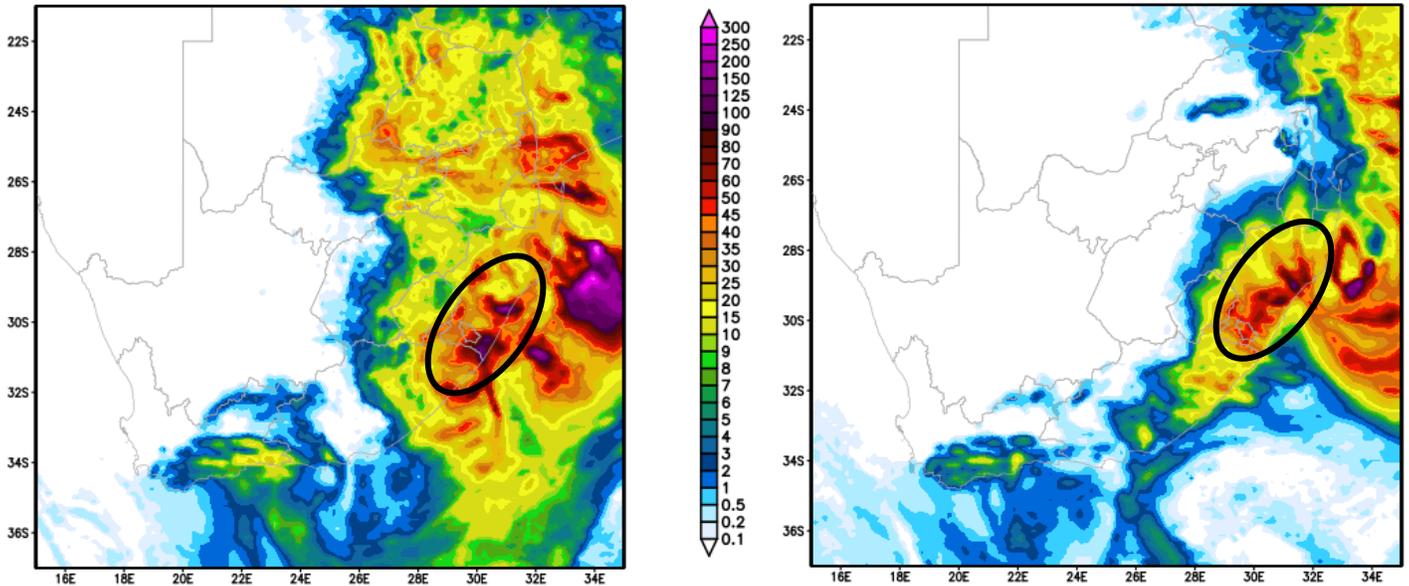


Figure 2: ECMWF model output showing daily forecasted rainfall totals for Thursday, 14 November (left) and Friday 15 November (right). The black circles indicate areas in KwaZulu-Natal expected to receive 100-150mm.

Over the central and eastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal, this heavy rain is expected to lead to flooding of roads and settlements both formal and informal, which may result in some communities being displaced and inaccessible. There is an ***extreme danger to life*** due to fast flowing rivers. There is also a possibility of mudslides/landslides and soil erosion especially along highly elevated areas which might lead to further disruption to traffic flow.

For the extreme eastern parts of Limpopo and Mpumalanga as well as the Cape South coast today (Tuesday, 12 November), there is a possibility of localized flooding of susceptible settlements (formal and informal) and low-lying areas and bridges.

The weather system responsible for this is a Cut-Off Low Pressure (Fig. 3) that is currently situated over the Cape south coast and is expected to intensify while slowly moving northeastwards over KwaZulu-Natal by Thursday.

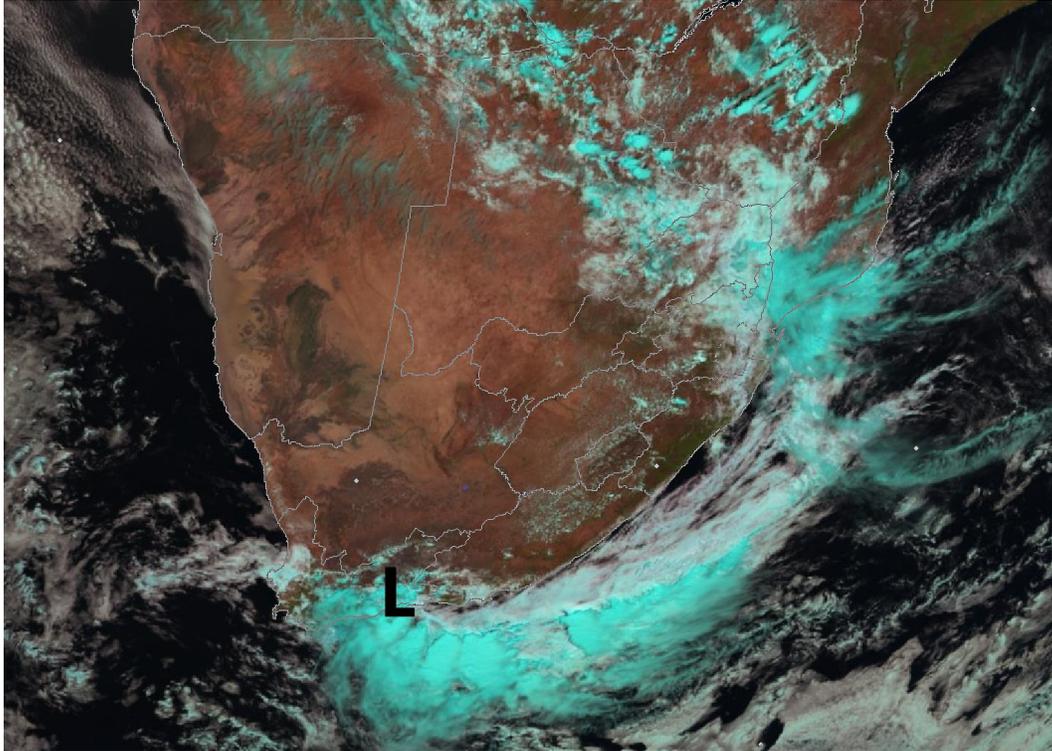


Figure 3: Day Natural Colour (DNC) satellite image for 12 November 2019 at 12h00 SAST with the “L” indicating the position of the low pressure. Image courtesy Eumetsat.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to this weather system and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public is urged 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 Twitter account **@SAWeatherServic**

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