Media Release



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Saturday 18 June 2022

Cut-off low to bring cold and wet weather to the central interior and parts of the Cape provinces this week: 20 to 23 June 2022

A cut-off low pressure system is expected to develop along the coast of Namibia during Sunday, 19 June 2022, moving over the Northern Cape on Tuesday. Cut-off lows are associated with widespread instability in the atmosphere, which can promote periods of prolonged rainfall. Showers and thundershowers can be expected over parts of the Cape provinces from Monday onwards with associated cold daytime temperatures and windy conditions while spreading to parts of the Free State and North West on Tuesday night and Wednesday. Numerical model data, currently disagrees with the predicted intensity and movement of the cut-off low in the latter part of the week and SAWS will continue to monitor this weather system and update the public on warnings and information with regards to this system.

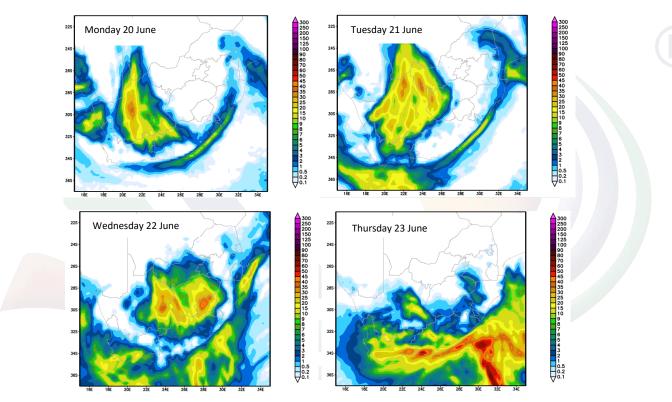


Figure 1: Predicted 24-hour rainfall (mm) for South Africa on 20, 21, 22 and 23 June 2022. Source: Global Forecast System, NCEP (2022).

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Unseasonal (but not uncommon) 24-hour rainfall of 20 to 35 mm can be expected over parts of the Northern Cape, Free State and North West. The onset of the rainfall is expected over the Northern Cape on Monday, while spreading to the Free State and North West on Tuesday night. Strong gusty winds of 50 km/h can also be expected over these areas from Monday. Although cold daytime temperatures are expected, snowfalls are likely to be confined to the Drakensberg regions and Lesotho on Wednesday, spreading to the high-lying areas of the Western and Eastern Cape on Thursday. An updated media release will be issued on Monday, 20 June 2022, as numerical weather prediction data significantly improves when the lead-time shortens.

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 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 Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

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