



MAURITIUS METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

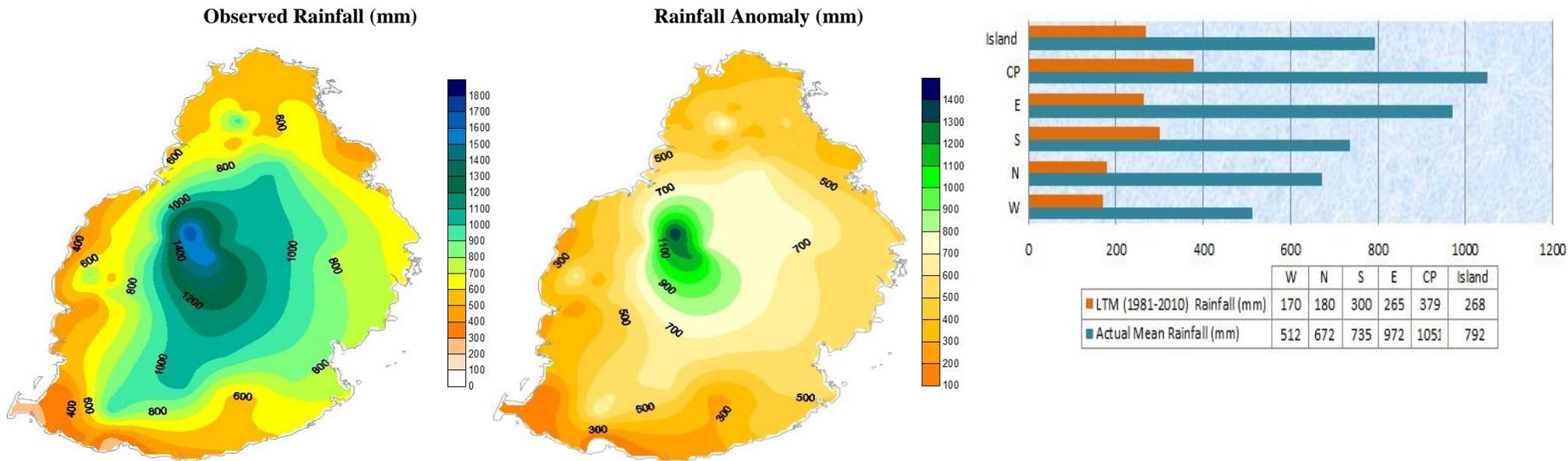


CLIMATE JANUARY 2018

Introduction

Indicators of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) showed a weakening in the prevailing weak La Niña, which peaked earlier during the first fortnight of the month. January 2018 was a warm and very wet month with rainy spells almost on all days. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remained neutral. The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) signal was active in the south equatorial Indian Ocean resulting in an active ITCZ throughout the basin. This favoured formation of two storms namely AVA and BERGUITTA, which reached Tropical Cyclone and Intense Tropical Cyclone intensity respectively. Both storms influenced weather over the Mascarene region, bringing particularly heavy rainfall. Another storm in the eastern Indian Ocean, named IRVING by the Bureau of Meteorology Australia, attained tropical cyclone intensity and evolved in our basin for over 4 days.

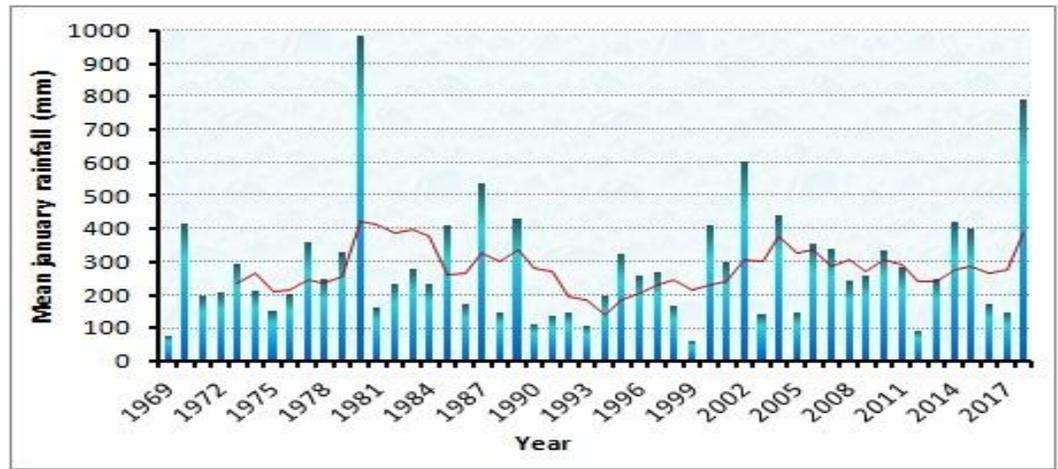
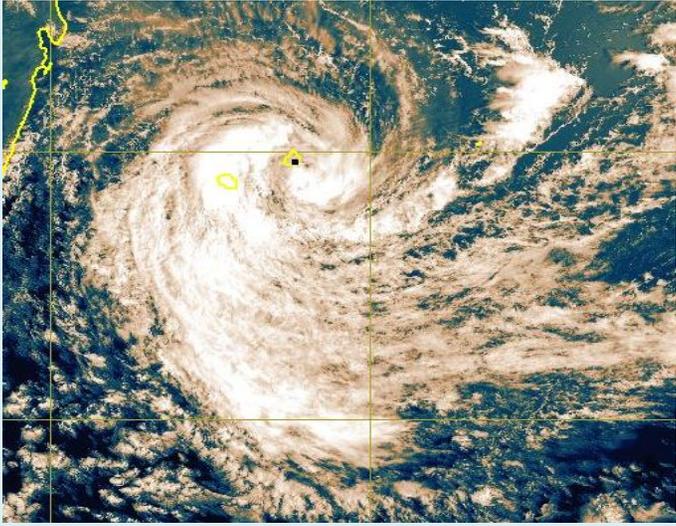
Rainfall



Rainfall distribution and its anomaly during January 2018

January 2018 is the third wettest on record and the wettest in the last 38 years. Well above normal rainfall was recorded over the whole island. It rained almost everyday due to persistent moist and unstable conditions. Clouds associated with TC AVA and ITC BERGUITTA brought abundant rainfall during their passage in the Southwest Indian Ocean.

ITC Berguitta passing very close to Mauritius as a Severe Tropical Storm brought a lot of rainfall over the island.



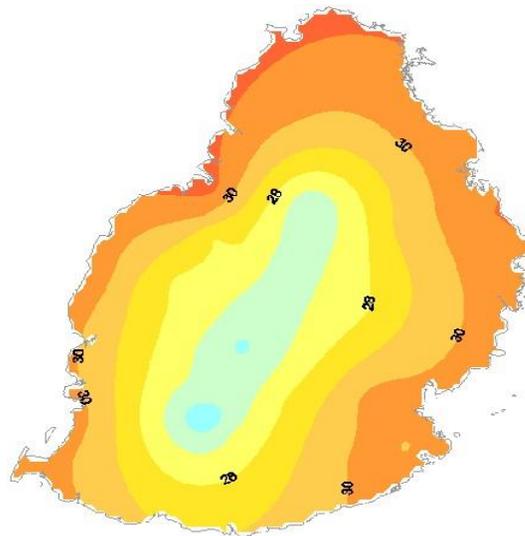
January rainfall trends during the last 50 years.

Surface Temperature

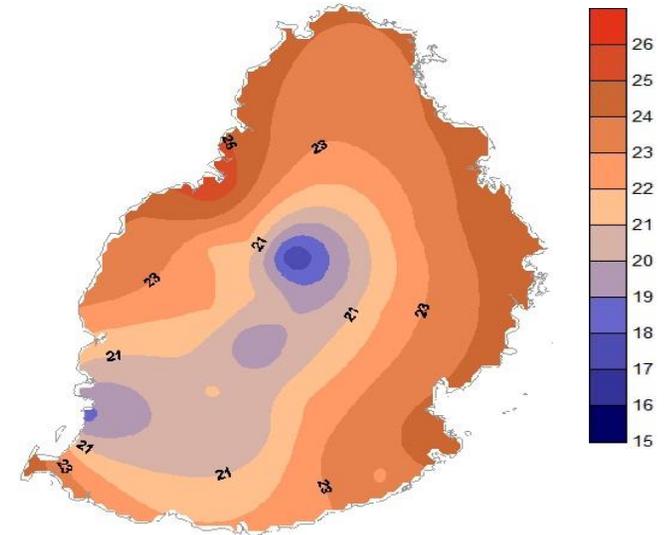
Persistent cloudiness resulted into daytime temperatures that were slightly below normal to the north and northwest and close elsewhere. Day temperatures anomalies varied from -1.3 to 1.2 °C.

Night temperatures were on the warmer side except to the south and locally over the centre. Anomalies in night temperatures varied from -1.4 to +1.5 °C (Fig. 4).

Maximum Temperature



Minimum Temperature



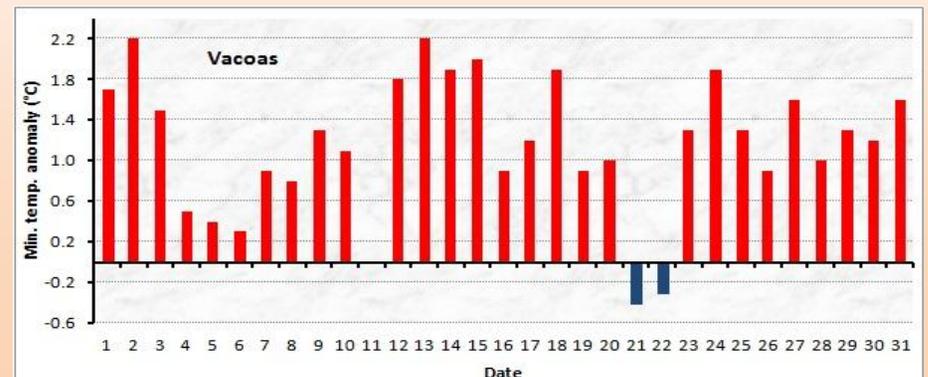
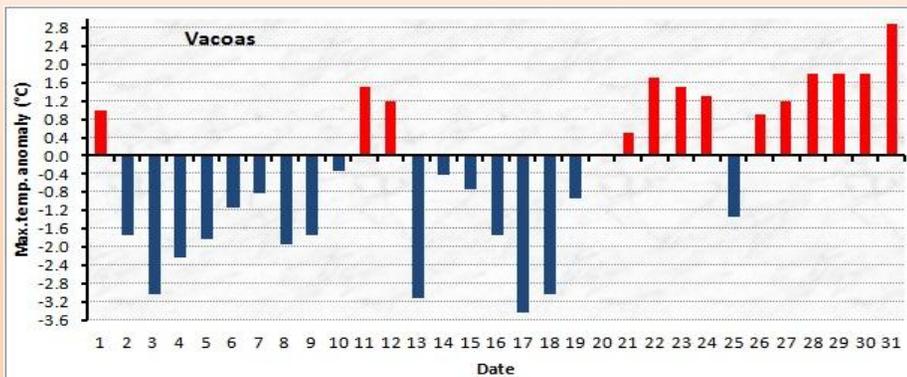
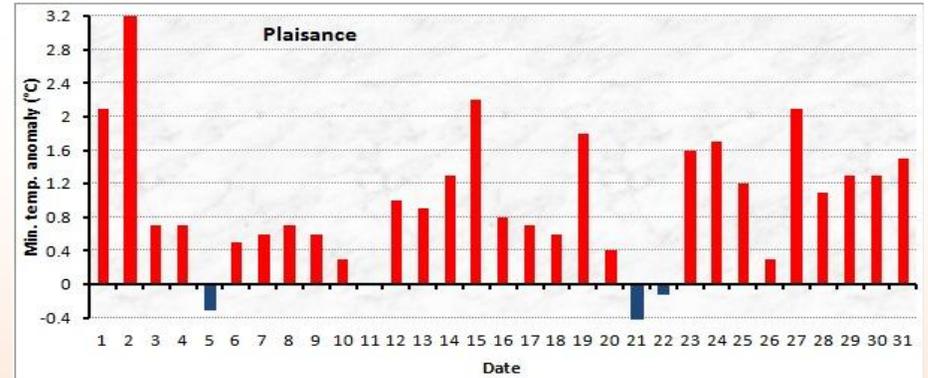
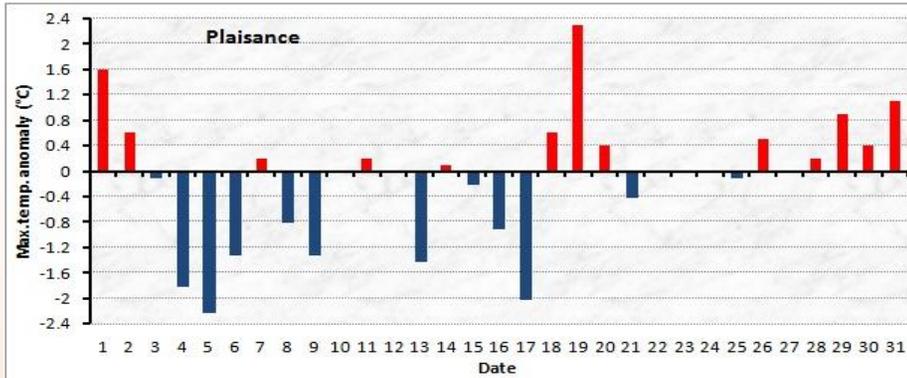
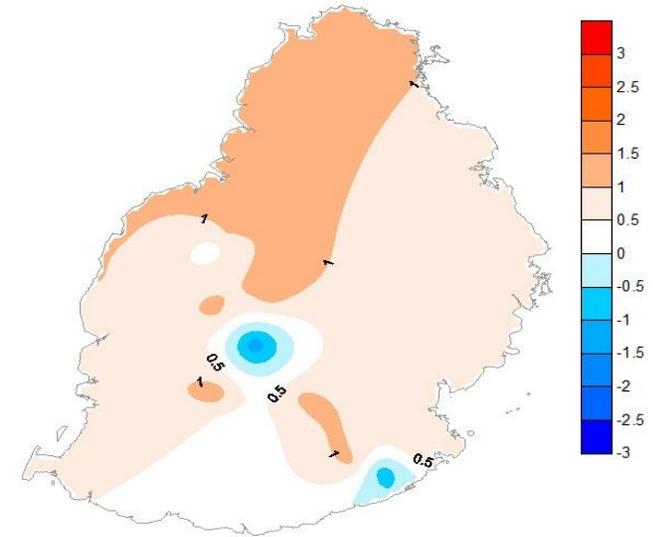
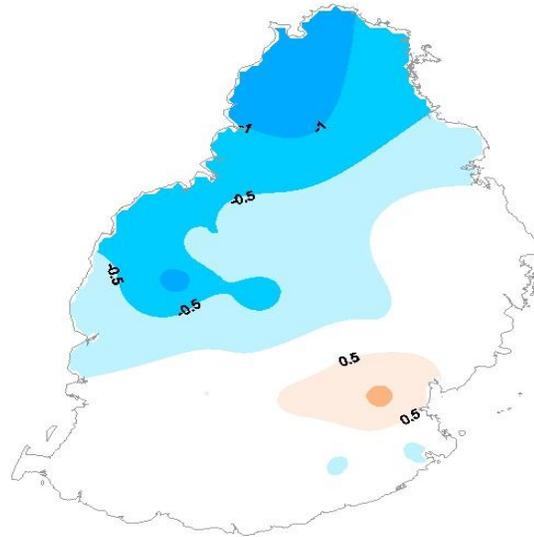
Maximum and Minimum surface temperature during January 2018

Maximum temperature anomaly

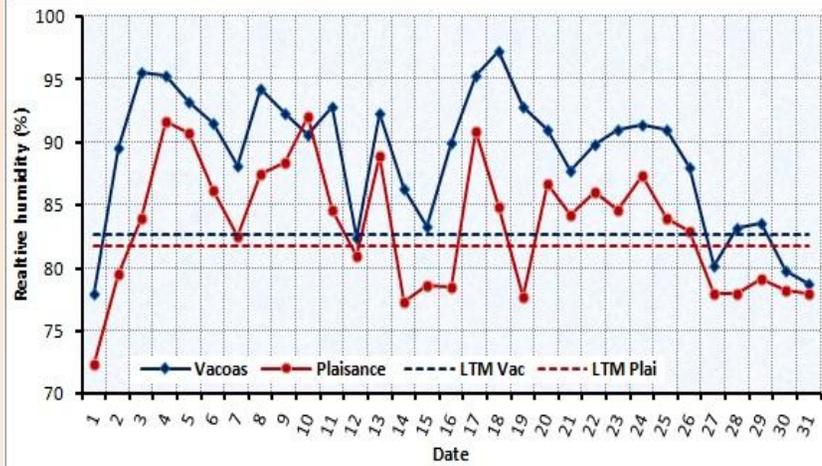
Minimum temperature anomaly

The last 3 days of the month were the warmest with daytime temperatures exceeding the LTM by 1.3 to 1.7°C.

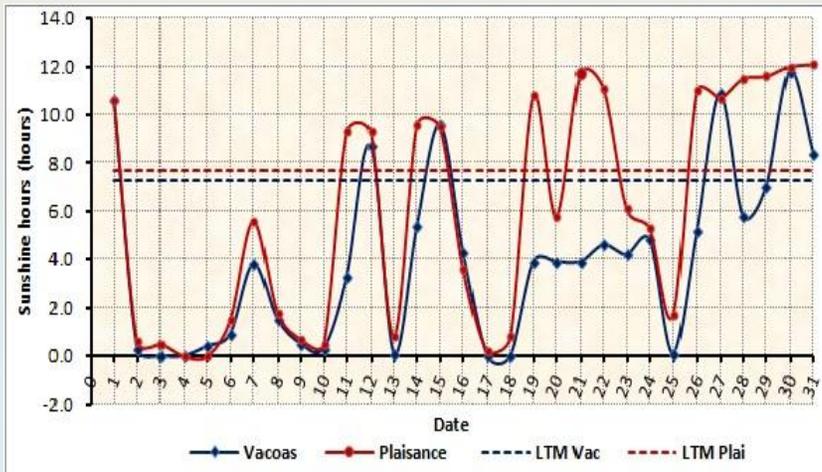
In spite of warm and sultry conditions no extreme temperatures were recorded. Highest maximum reached 32.3, 30.8 and 34.1° at Plaisance, Vacoas and Port Louis respectively.



Sunshine and Humidity



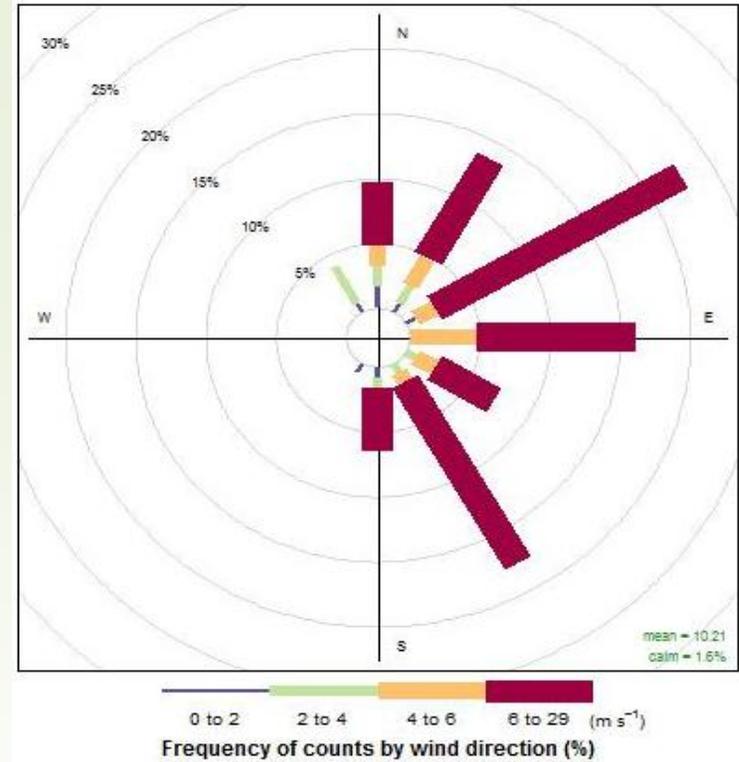
The mean monthly relative humidity was above the long term mean over most region of the island.



Persistent cloudiness led to below seasonal mean sunshine hours

Daily sunshine hours and relative humidity at Vacoas and Plaisance.

Wind



Daily sunshine hours and relative humidity at Vacoas and Plaisance.

The month was mainly influenced by wind oscillating from the northeast to the southeast. The strongest winds were felt from the eastern sector and this was due to the passage of ITC BERGUITTA to the east of the island. Highest gust recorded reached 112 km/h.

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