



# MAURITIUS METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES



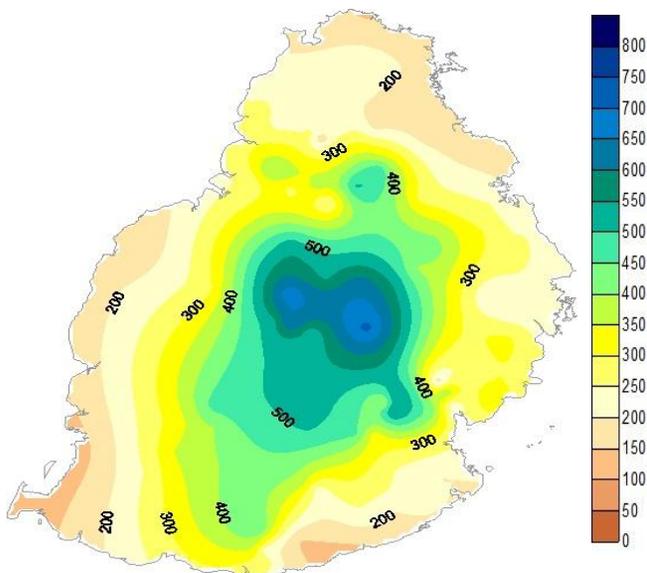
## CLIMATE MARCH 2018

### Introduction

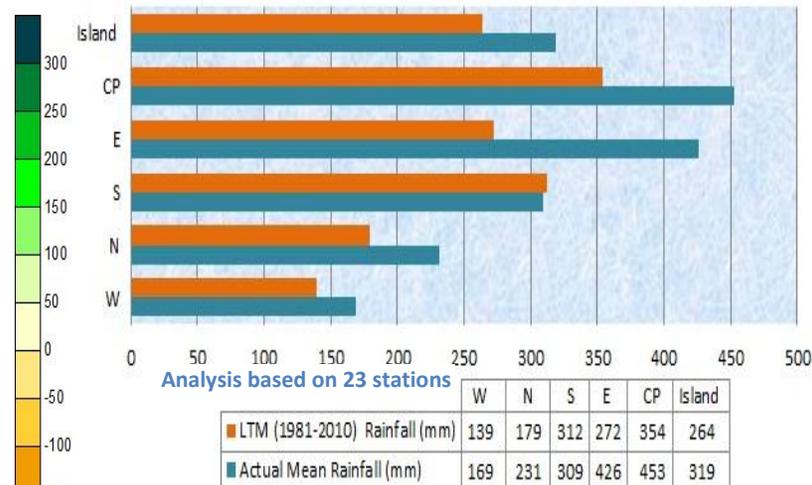
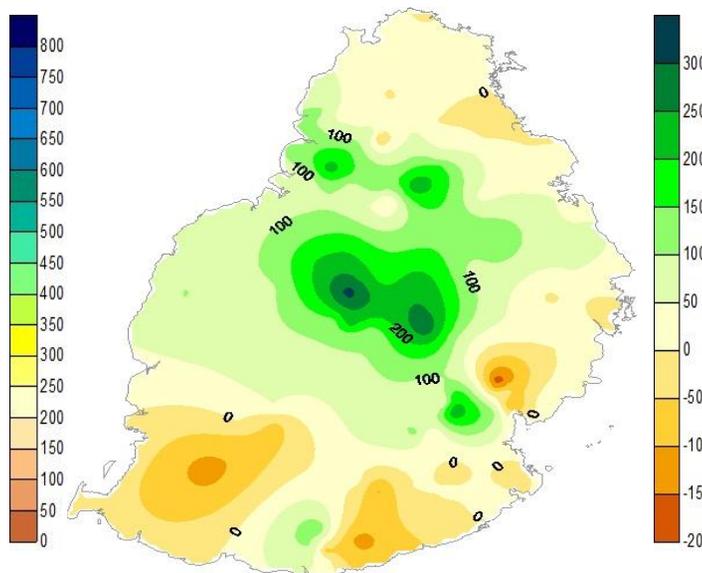
After a lull during the month of February, cyclonic activity picked up in the South West Indian Ocean basin with two named storms namely Dumazile and Eliakim reaching Tropical Cyclone and Moderate Tropical Storm respectively. Both the ENSO and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) was neutral during the month. The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) signal was favourable in the south equatorial Indian Ocean during the first week of the month but was of weak intensity.

### 1. Rainfall

Observed Rainfall (mm)

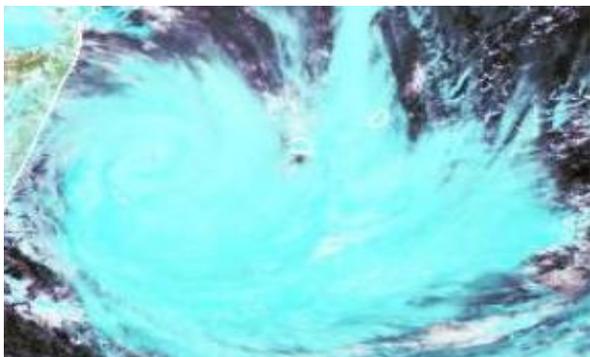


Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

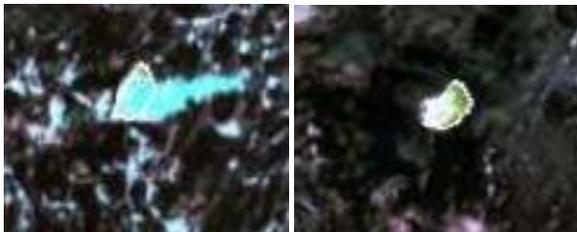


Mean rainfall over the island and over the different regions was slightly above the long term mean except to the south which received normal rainfall. Rainfall was associated both with instability zones giving widespread showers and localised afternoon showers. Heaviest rainfall was concentrated over the Central Plateau; for instance rainfall in excess of up to 325 mm was recorded in the region of Valetta. To the South and Southwest rainfall was locally deficient by over 100mm. A very uneven distribution was observed to the southeast with neighbouring localities having excess and deficient rainfall. For example, the region of Domaine du Chasseur had deficient rainfall of about 195mm and few kilometers away, in the region of Le Vallon, rainfall in excess of 150 mm was recorded.

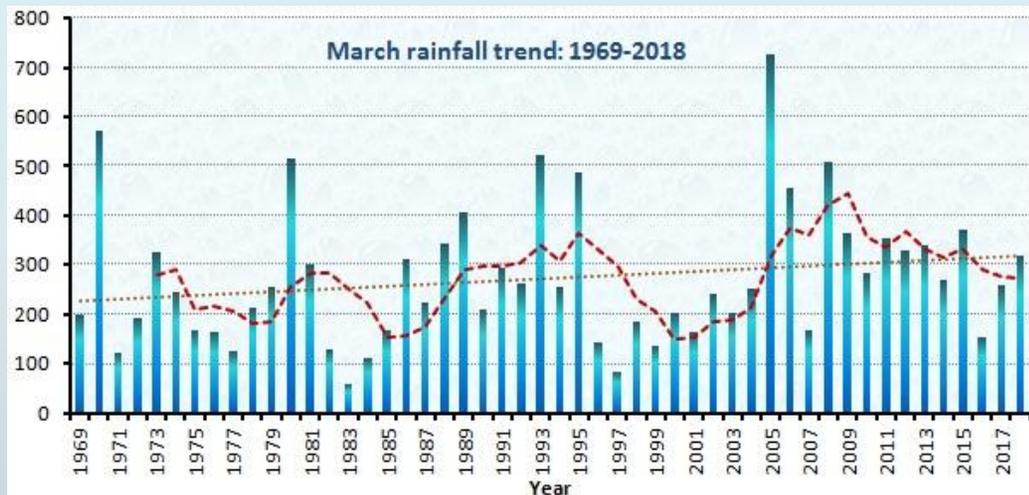
Highest 24 hours rainfall was recorded at Bonne Veine and neighbouring station at Valetta which amounted to 108 and 107 mm respectively. The wettest spell lasted from 04 to 06 March 2018.



Clouds associated with TC Dumazile over Mauritius on 05 March



Afternoon convective cloud development on 2 and 21 March



Rainfall data in the last 30 or 50 years show that the amount of rainfall recorded during the month of March is on the increase.

## 2. Temperature

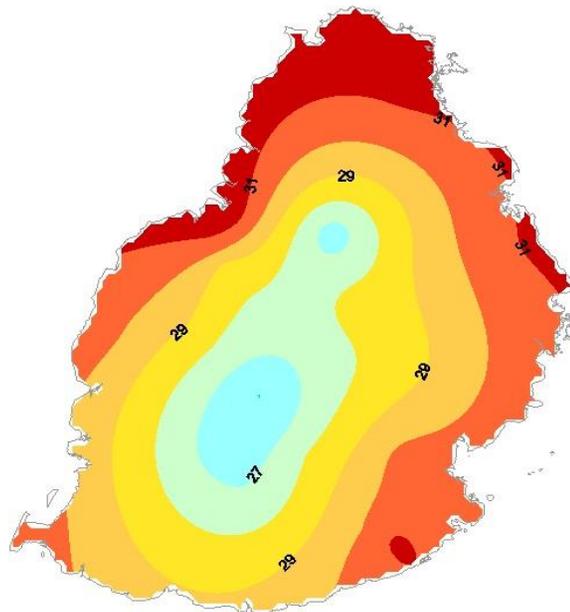
Highest daily maximum temperature reached 33.6°C at Port Louis and the lowest. On Day 21 several stations reported maximum temperature 2-4°C above normal while on Day 26, due to cloudiness and rain, it was colder by 2-4°C. Above normal temperatures were more frequently felt to the extreme North, East, Southeast and over part of Central Plateau. Mean **monthly** anomalies in daytime temperatures vary from -0.6 to +2.1 °C.

Night-time temperatures were mostly slightly above normal except during the period from 08-10 and 26-29 where several stations reported 2 to 4°C drops in the minimum. Cooler nighttime temperatures were observed to the East, Northwest and part of the Central Plateau. Mean **monthly** anomalies in night temperatures vary from -0.6 to +1.5 °C.

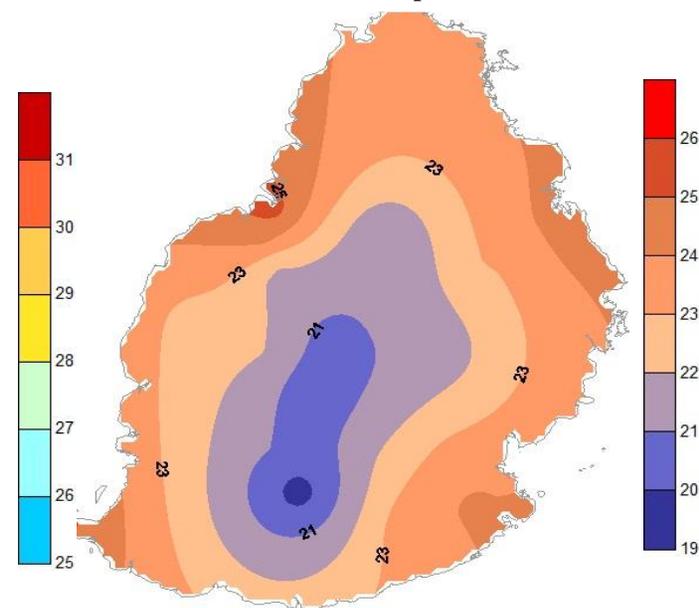
Consecutive warm days were felt over several regions during the period 20 to 25.

New record in maximum temperature for the month of March were observed at Mon Desert Mon Tresor and Reduit with 33.5°C and 32.5° C respectively.

Maximum Temperature



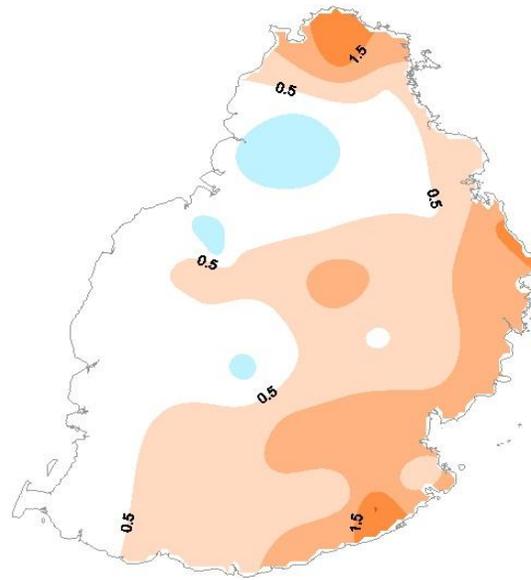
Minimum Temperature



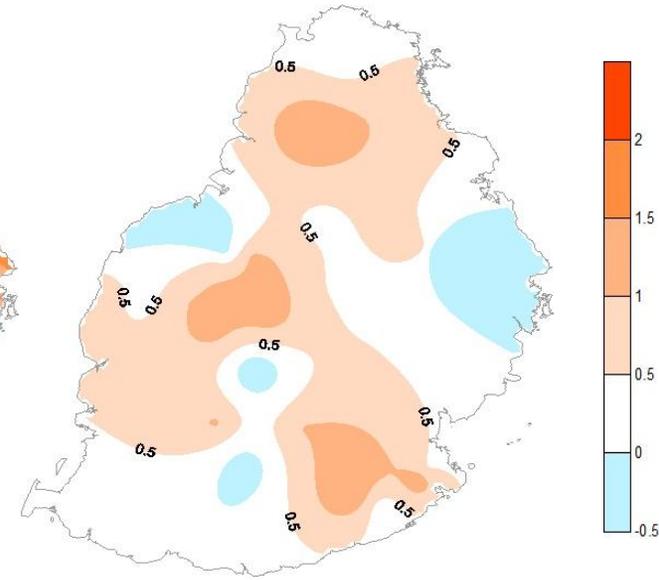
Some stations had up to 15 warm days (maximum temperature anomaly (anomax) >2°C).

Stations	Highest anomax (°C)	Number of warm days.
Union Park	3.6	7
Riche en Eau	3.5	8
Plaisance	2.5	4
Belle Mare	3.1	13
Providence	4.2	11
Mon Desert Alma	2.3	3
Queen Victoria	2.3	3
La Baraque	3.3	4
Bois Cheri	3.3	7
Reduit	4.7	2
Mon Loisir Rouillard	3.6	15
Vacoas	2.0	1
Quatres Bornes	2.7	5
Beau Songes	3.4	5

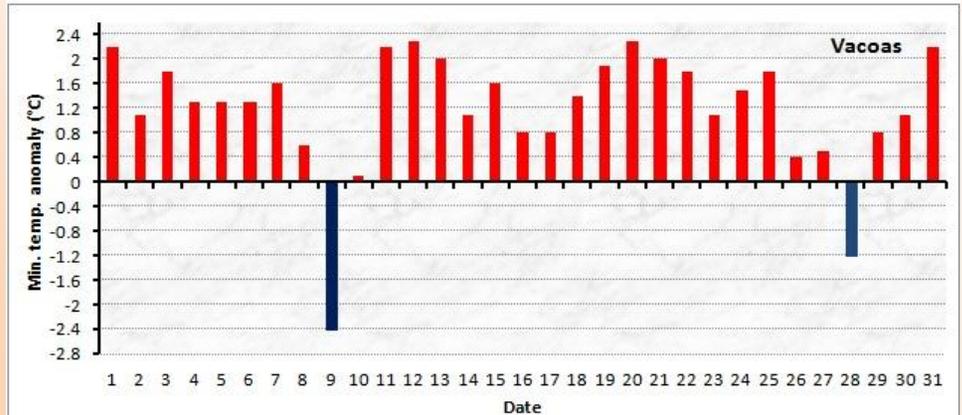
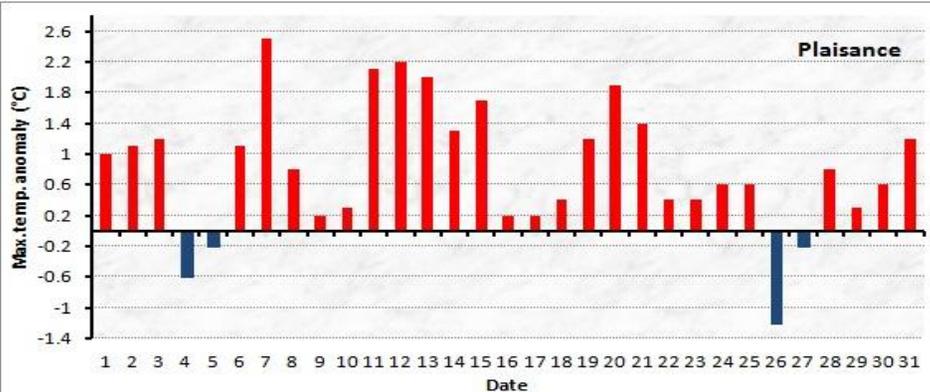
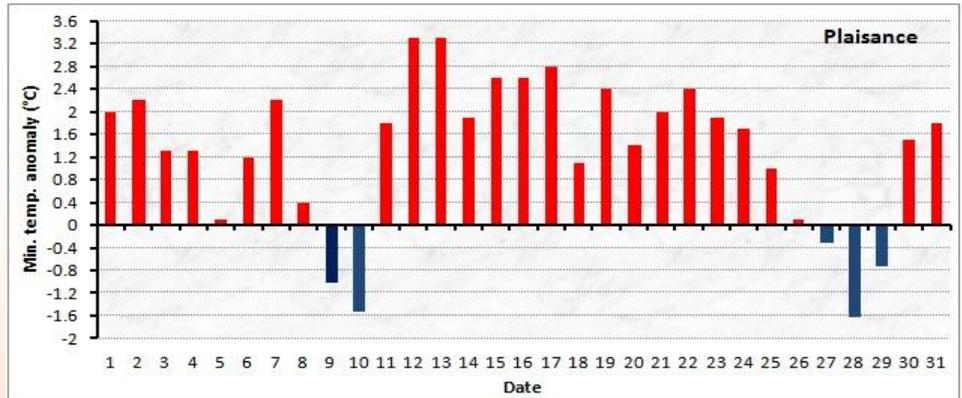
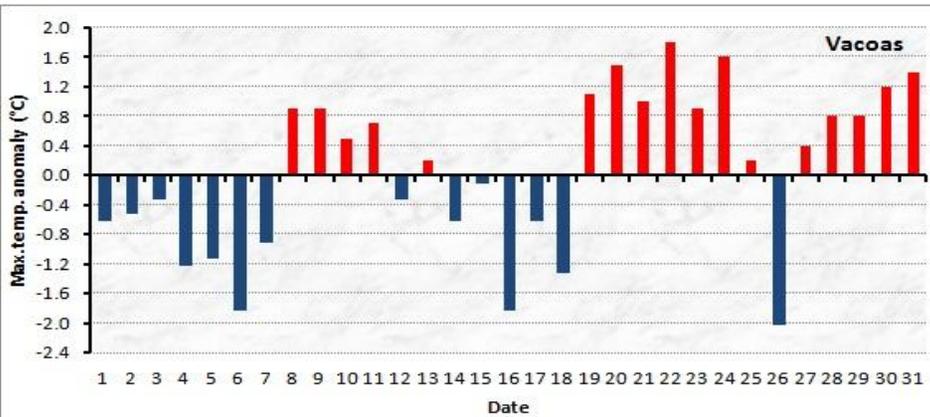
Maximum temperature anomaly



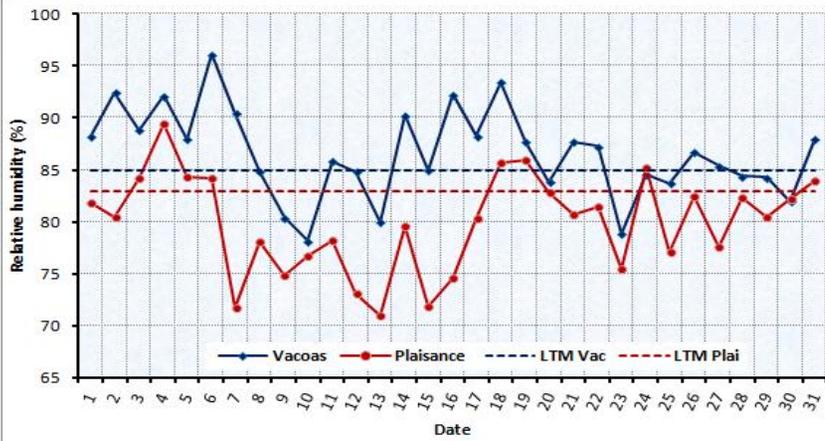
Minimum temperature anomaly



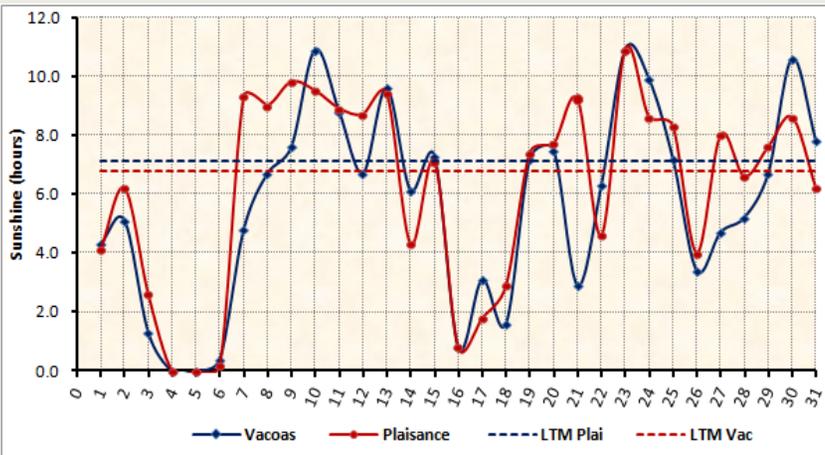
Daily Maximum and Minimum temperature anomaly at Plaisance and Vacoas



### 3. Sunshine and Humidity



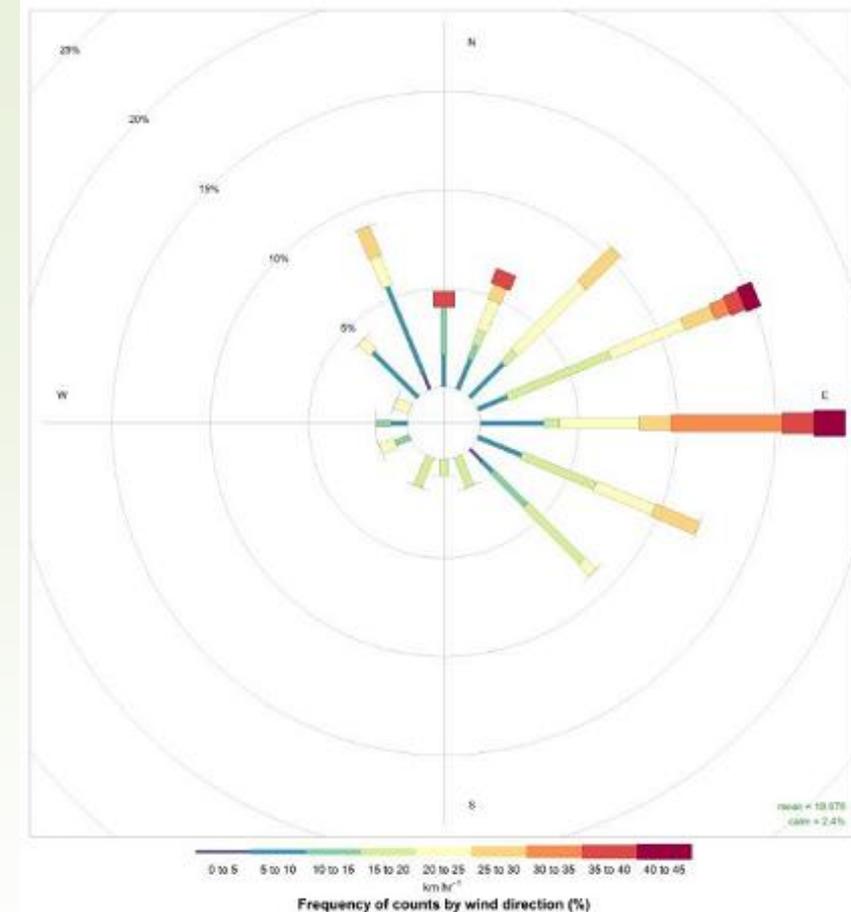
A close to normal monthly mean humidity. Occasional daily values exceeding 90% at Vacoas and plummeting below 75% at Plaisance.



Monthly mean sunshine hours were below the long term mean by 1.1 hours and 0.9 hours both at Vacoas and Plaisance respectively. Two days of nil sunshine on 06 and 07 of the month.

Daily sunshine hours and relative humidity at Vacoas and Plaisance.

### 4. Winds



Wind blew mainly from the eastern sector and was occasionally above 35 km/h. Lighter winds were experienced mainly from the northern, southern and western sectors.