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Outline



- Observed rainfall so far in the 2021/22 Rainfall Season
- 10 day Outlook

October-December 2021: North-South Contrast

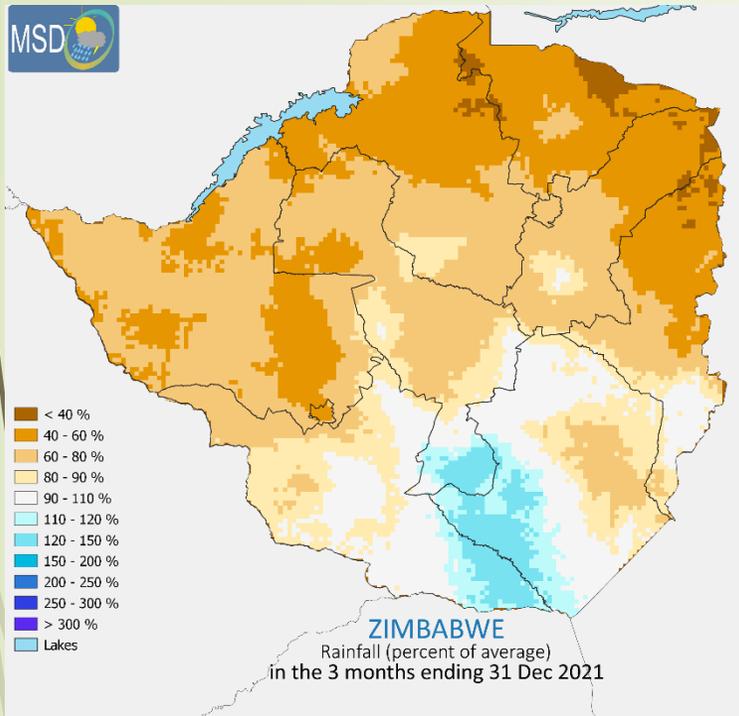


Fig 1(a) Rainfall in Oct-Dec 2021 (left) as a proportion of the average. Orange shades for below average rainfall, blue shades for above average rainfall

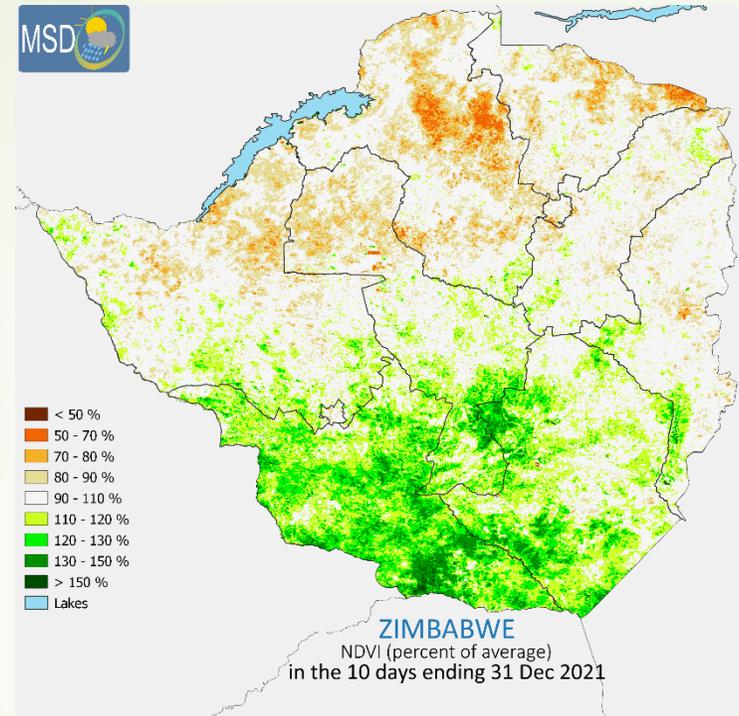


Fig 1(b) NDVI by end of December 2021 as a proportion of the average. Greens for more vegetated than usual, oranges for less vegetated

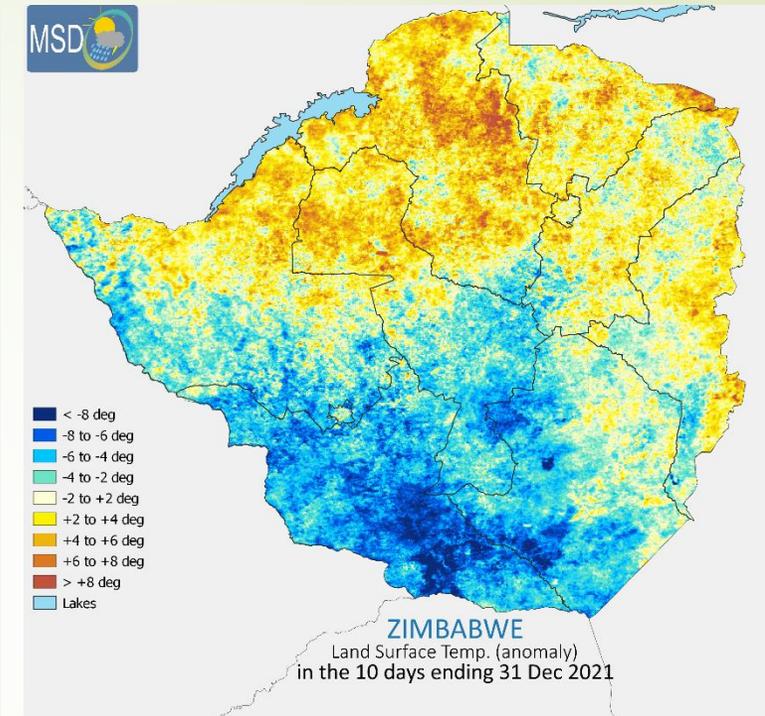


Fig 1(c) Land surface temperature by end of December 2021 as a difference from the average. Blues for cooler than usual, oranges for warmer than usual

The October-December 2021 period was characterized by drier than average conditions across most of Zimbabwe, **Fig 1(a)**, except for areas where the provinces of Masvingo, Midlands and South Matabeleland meet.

The most affected areas include the northern areas of the Mashonaland provinces and northern Manicaland which registered about half of the usual rainfall. The rest of the country had lighter rainfall deficits of roughly one third of the average rainfall.

In northern areas, drier than usual conditions resulted in lower than average vegetation development; in contrast, favourable rains in southern regions, led to better than average vegetation cover, **Fig 1(b)**.

This north-south contrast is also seen in land surface temperature data, **Fig 1(c)**, where warmer than average soil in the northern areas was as a result of lower soil moisture levels, while wetter soil led to cooler than average surfaces in the south.

This strong convergence of evidence reinforces the view of unfavourable October-December conditions in northern areas and favourable conditions in the south

January to February 2022: Contrasting Conditions

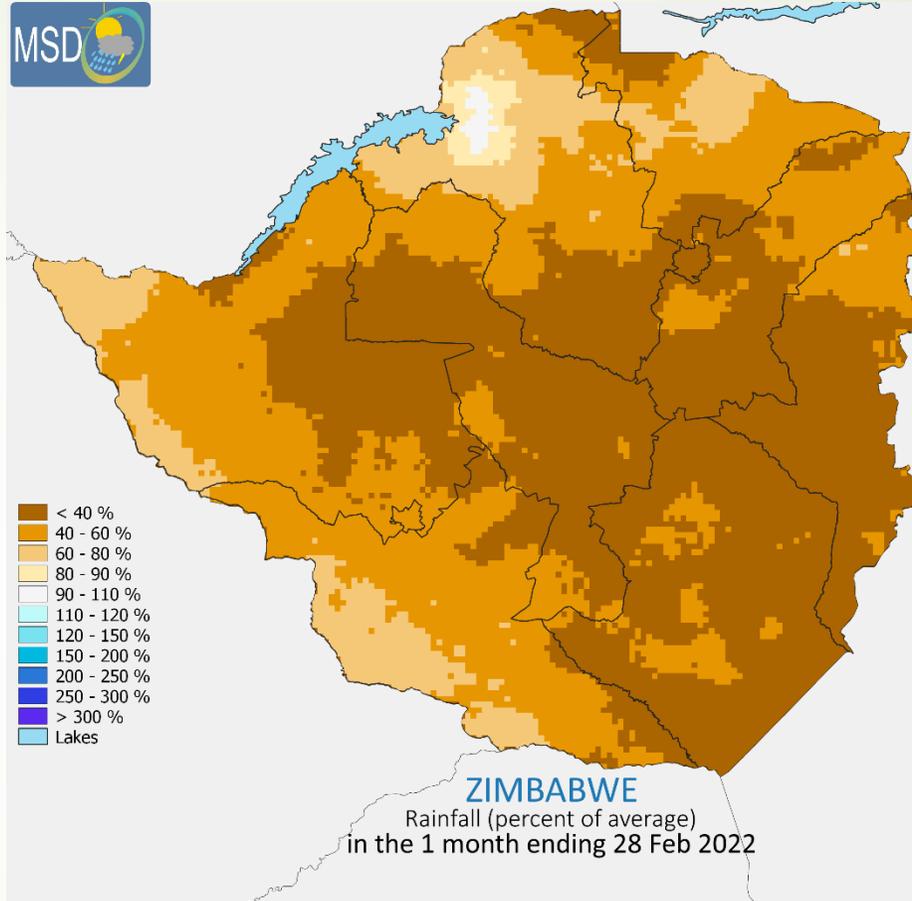
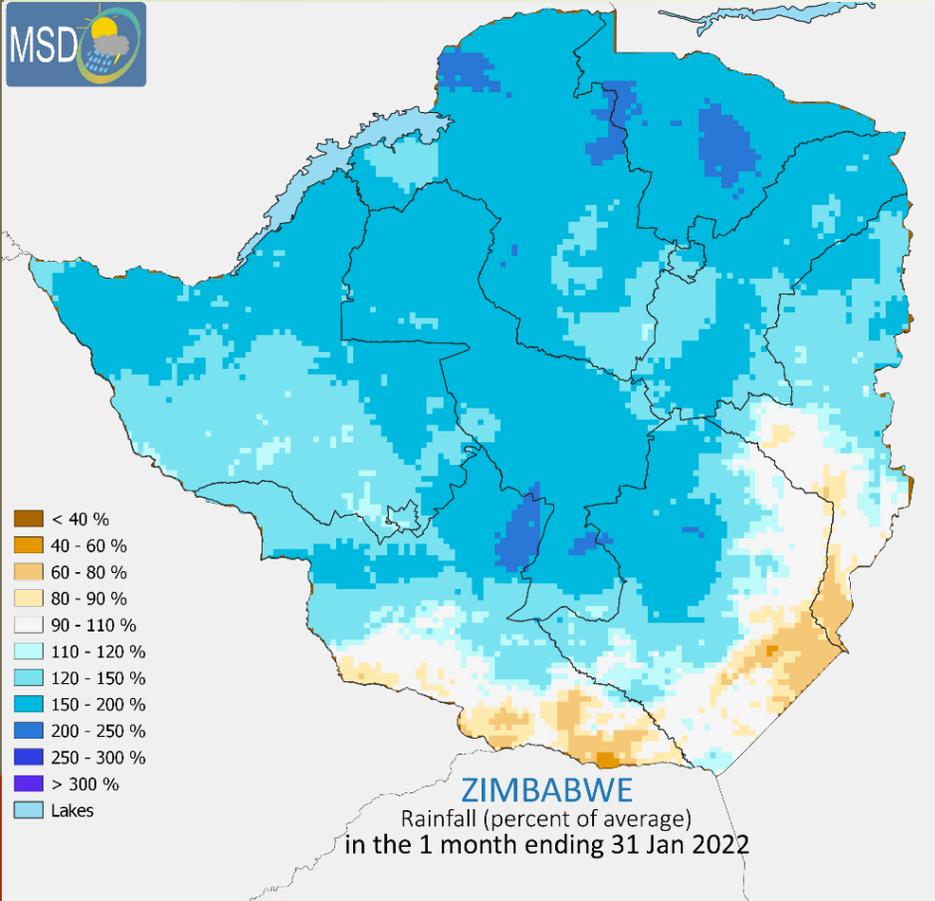


Fig 2(a) Rainfall in January 2022 (left) and Fig 2(b) in February 2022 (right). Both as a proportion of the average: Orange shades for below average rainfall, blue shades for above average rainfall

In January, the situation changed considerably **Fig 2(a)**: across nearly all the country, wetter than average conditions prevailed, with some areas in the centre and north of the country receiving about twice as much rainfall as usual. Only small areas along the southern and south-eastern borders registered below average rainfall in January.

Much of the high January rainfall came from the last dekad of the month. This is less beneficial for crop production than if these wetter than average conditions had come from a month with regular, well distributed rainfall.

The situation changed significantly in February: monthly rainfall was much below average across most of Zimbabwe with particularly dry conditions from mid February. Very long dry spells affected the southern and south-eastern parts of the country in particular. These conditions are extremely unfavourable for maize development, in particular where the crop may be at or reaching the flowering stage.

March 2022: Dryness with Some Respite

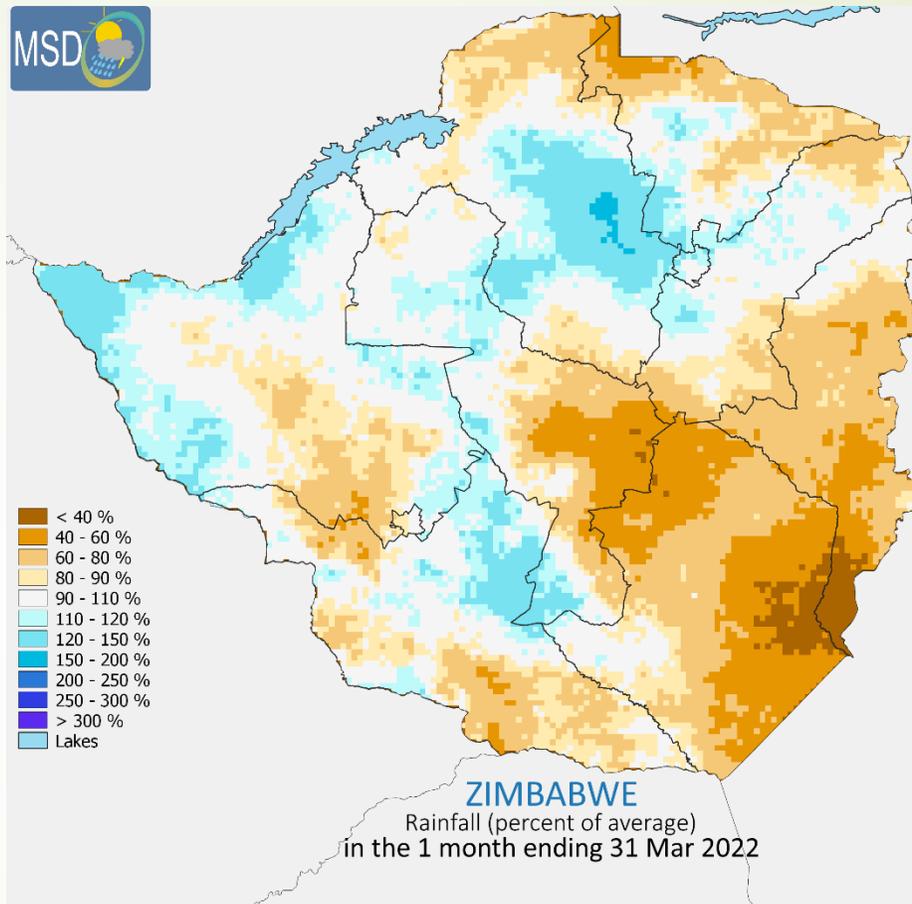
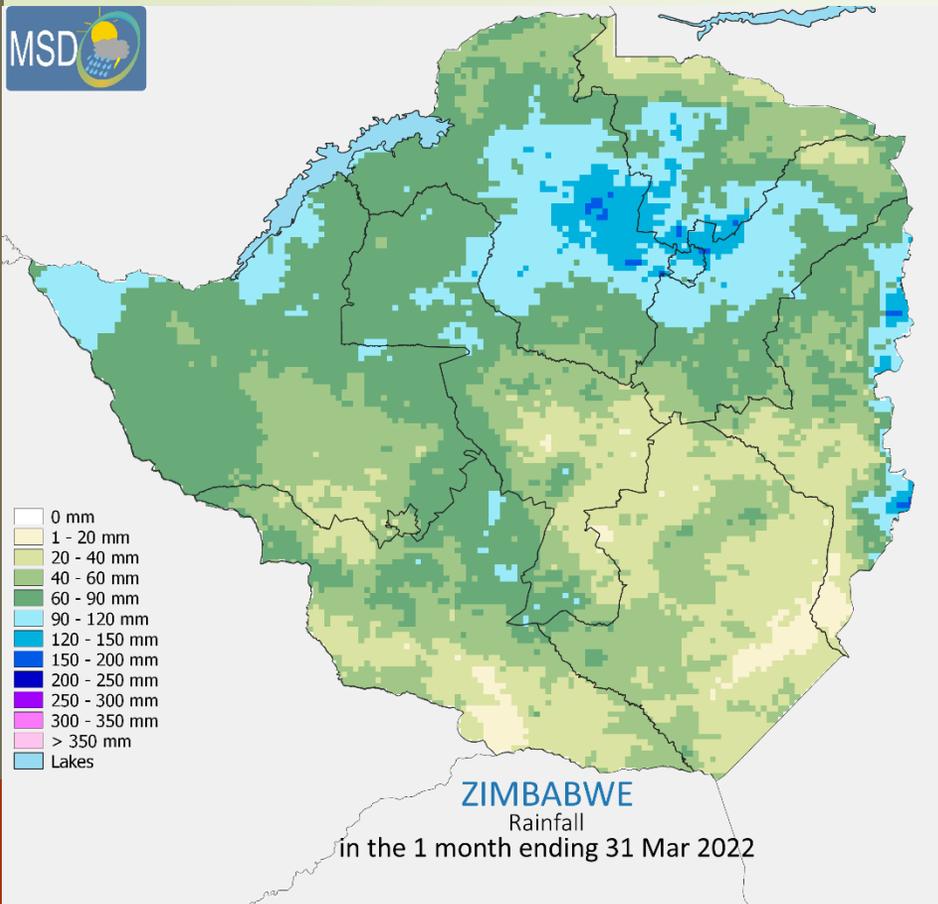


Fig 3 (a) Rainfall in March 2022 (left)

Fig 3 (b) : Rainfall in March 2022 (right) as a proportion of the average. Orange shades for below average rainfall, blue shades for above average rainfall

In early March, severe rainfall deficits continued across most of the country, except in Matabeleland North and northern areas of Midlands, where conditions were closer to or slightly above average.

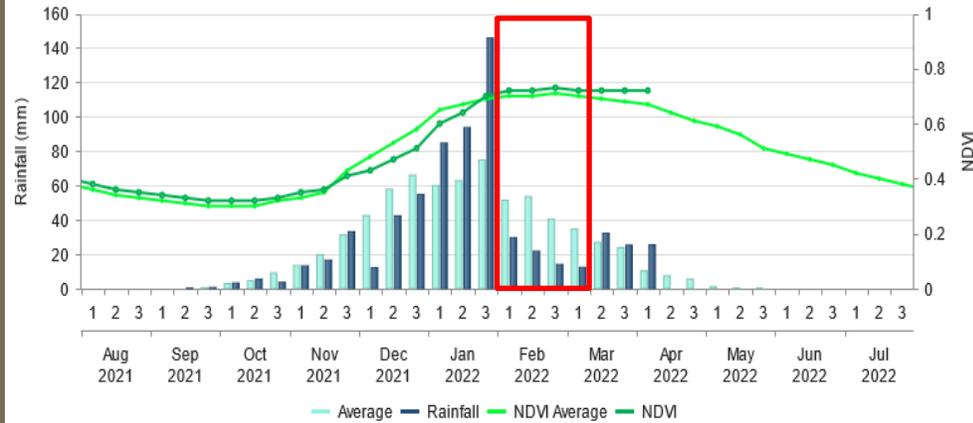
In mid March, wetter than average conditions dominated across most of the country, except for northern Manicaland, parts of Midlands, northern Masvingo and Matabeleland North.

Overall, the monthly rainfall still registered significant deficits. Taking February and March together, we see deficits in the centre of the country and near average conditions in northern Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central.

These conditions have led to severe impacts on the rainfed maize crop, however, small grains will have benefitted from the wetter conditions in mid-March and prospects for these crops have improved.

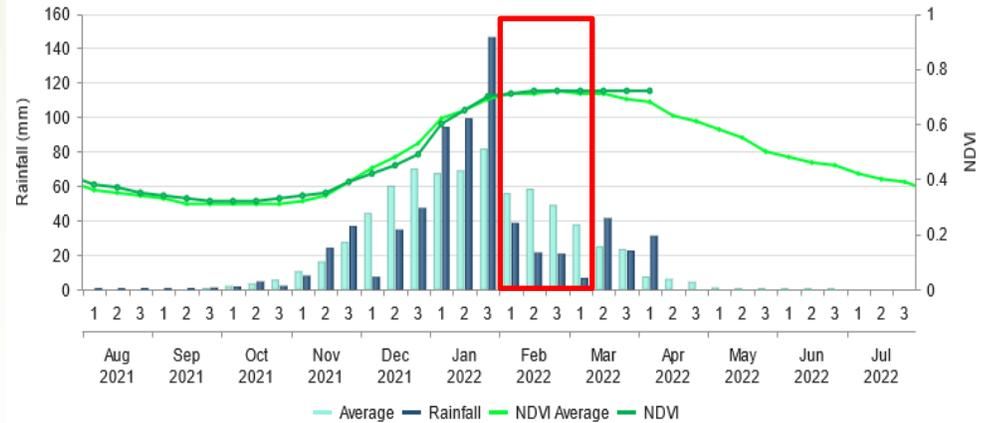
Province Seasonal Profiles

Zimbabwe - Mashonaland West - 2021/2022



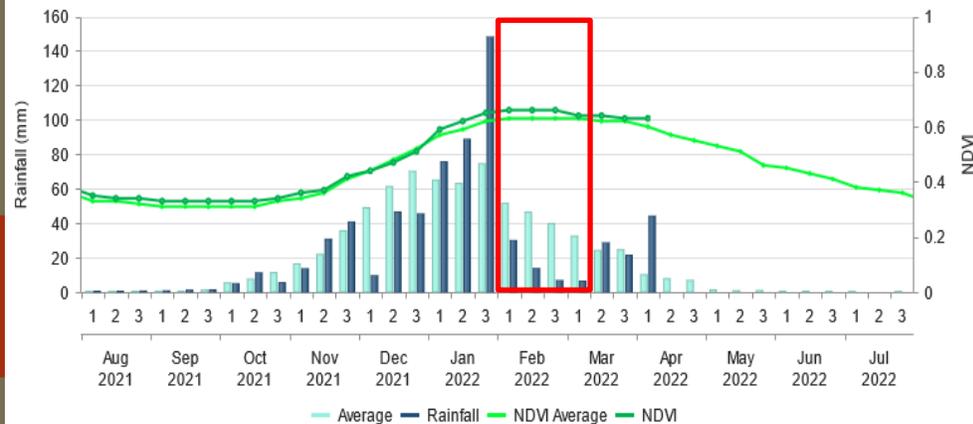
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Zimbabwe - Mashonaland Central - 2021/2022



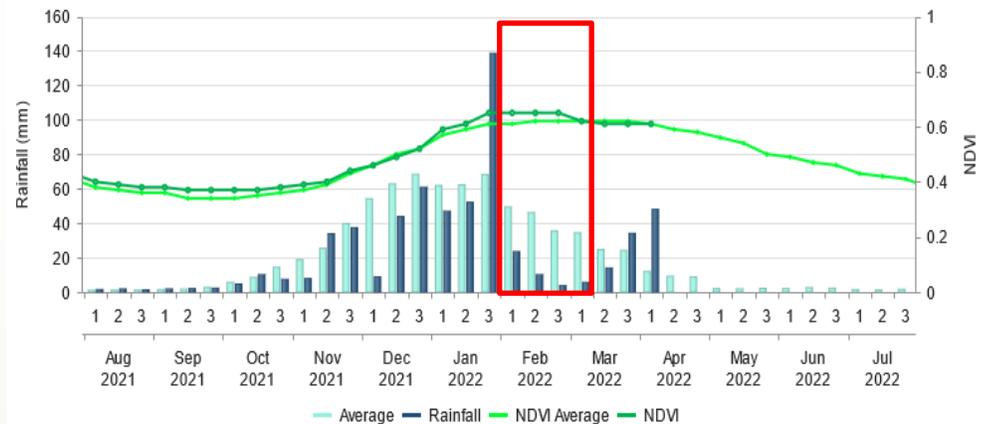
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Zimbabwe - Mashonaland East - 2021/2022



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Zimbabwe - Manicaland - 2021/2022



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Seasonal rainfall and vegetation profiles for the three Mashonaland provinces and Manicaland.

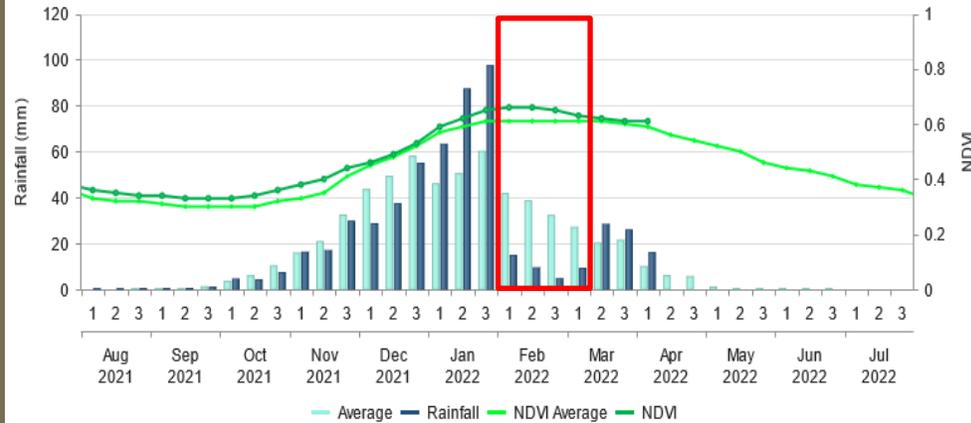
Rainfall: dark blue bars for current rainfall, light blue bars for average rainfall.

NDVI: dark green line with markers for current vegetation, light green line for average NDVI

Red boxes highlight the drier than average period starting from February to March

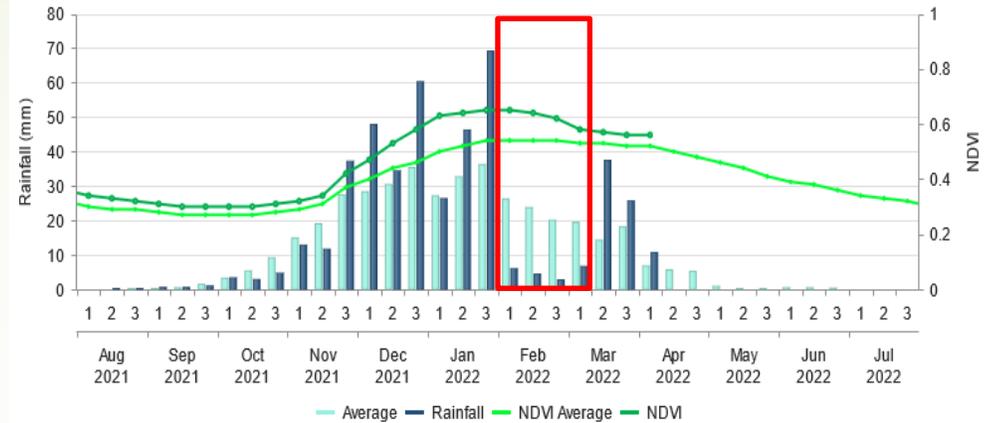
Province Seasonal Profiles

Zimbabwe - Midlands - 2021/2022



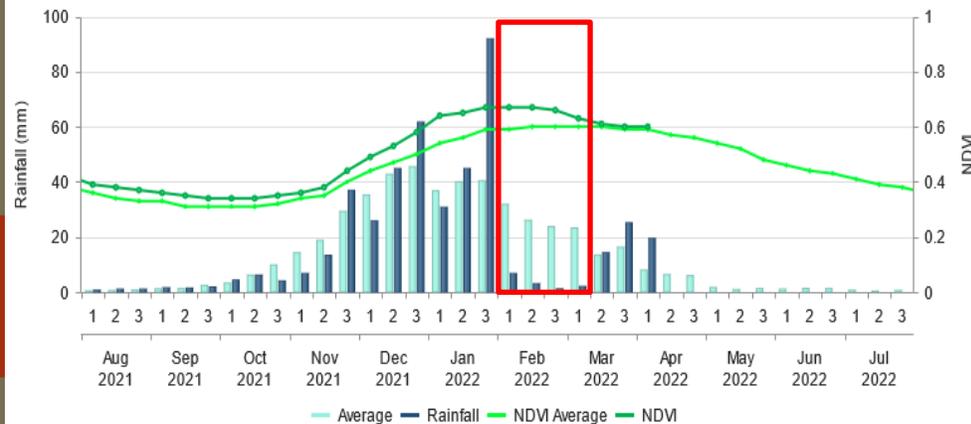
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Zimbabwe - Matabeleland South - 2021/2022



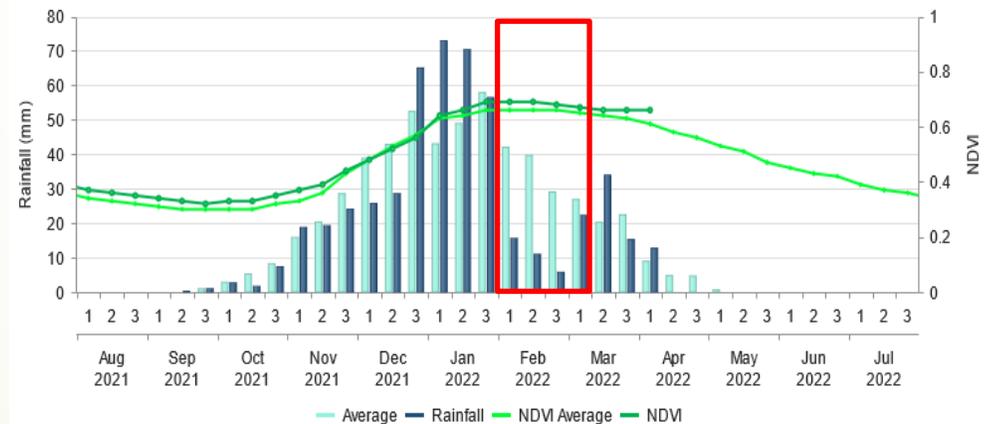
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Zimbabwe - Masvingo - 2021/2022



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Zimbabwe - Matabeleland North - 2021/2022



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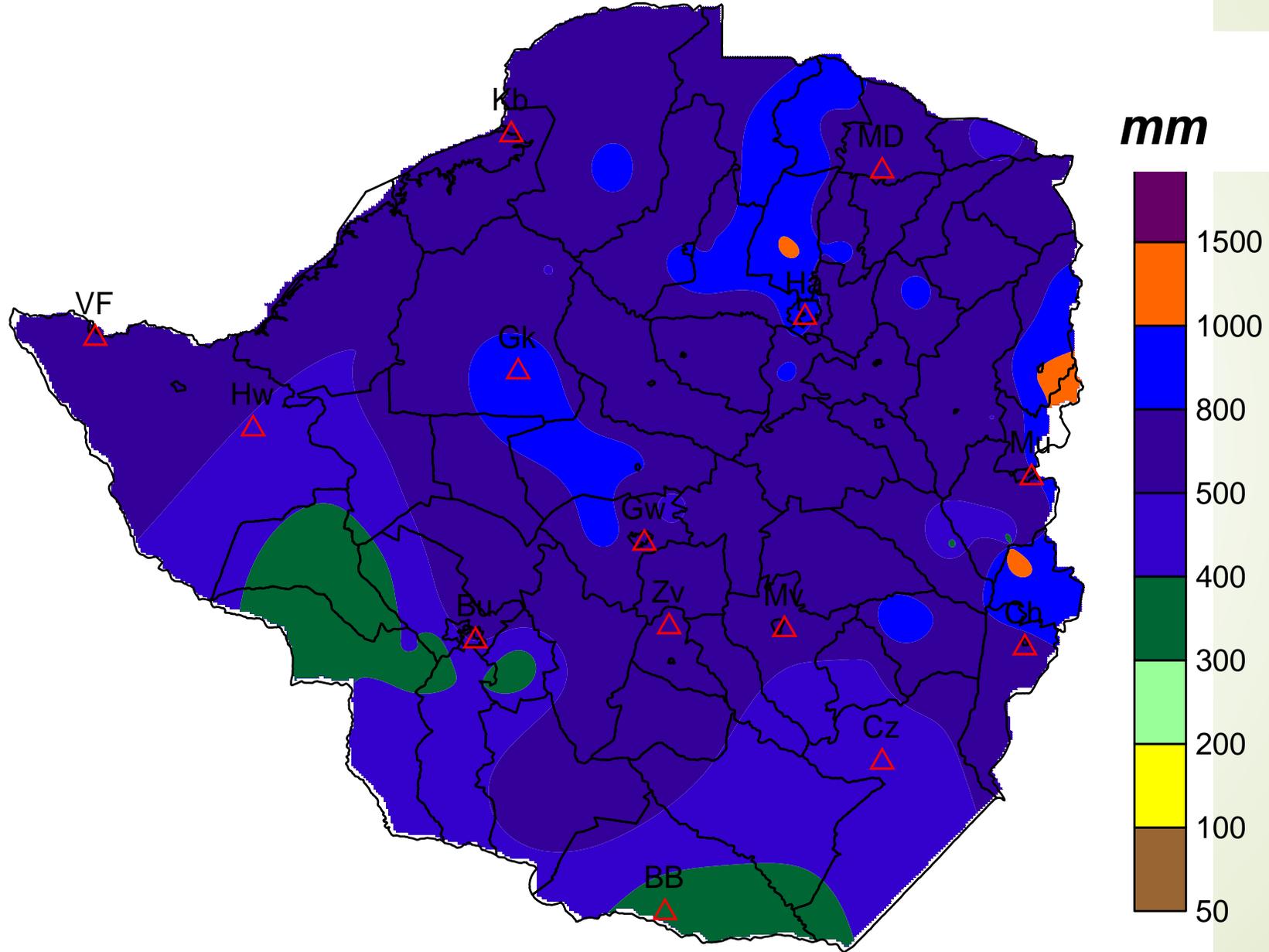
Seasonal rainfall and vegetation profiles for the Midlands, Masvingo and Matabeleland North and South.

Rainfall: dark blue bars for current rainfall, light blue bars for average rainfall.

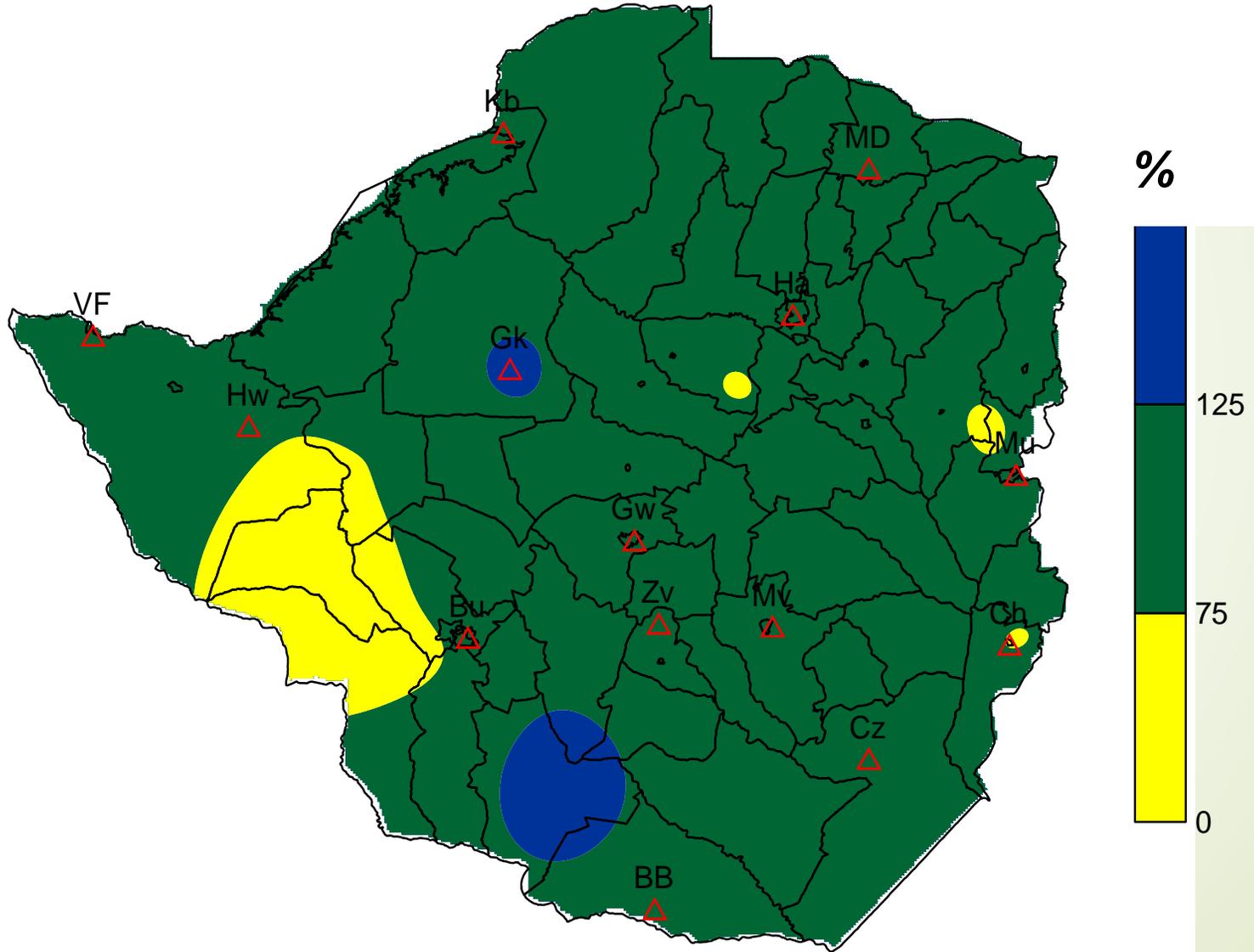
NDVI: dark green line with markers for current vegetation, light green line for average NDVI

Red boxes highlight the drier than average period starting from February to March

Accumulated Rainfall



Comparison to Normal



10-Day Rainfall Outlook

