NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

Meteorological Data and Climatology Directorate

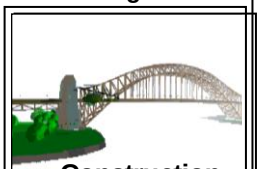
ANNUAL CLIMATE BULLETIN

For the year 2018

Some Applications of Climate Information

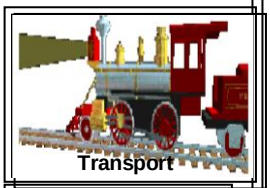
Disaster Management

Water Resources Management



Construction

Environment & Health

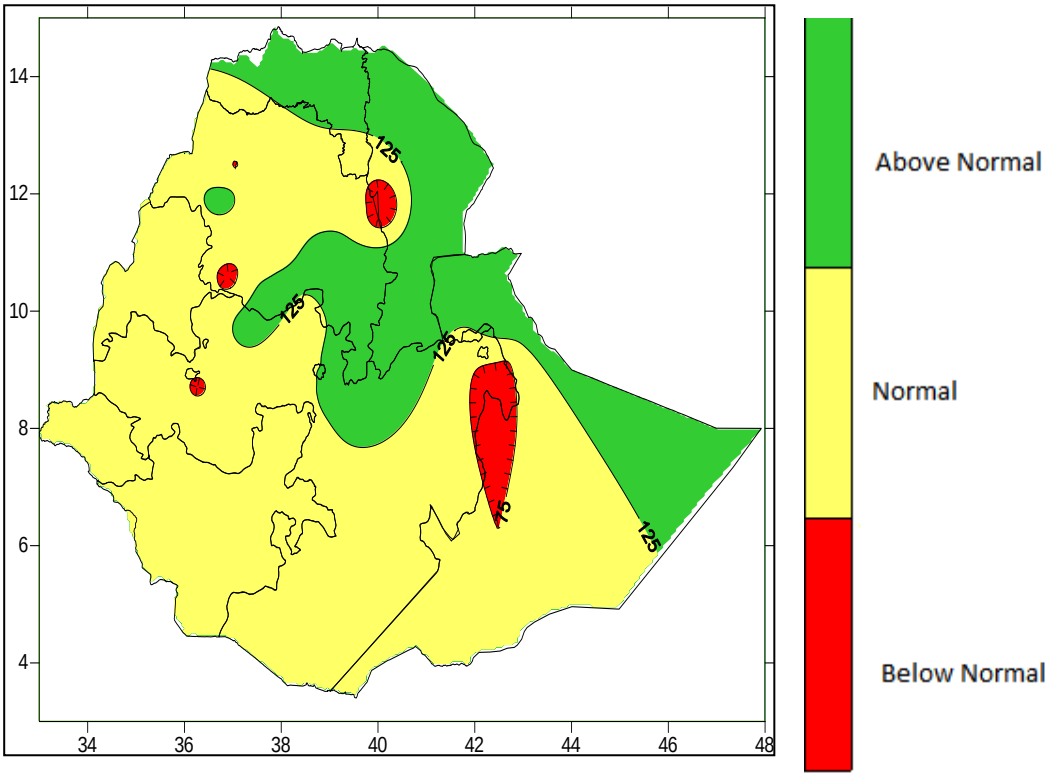


Transport

Recreation & Tourism

HIGHLIGHTS

The rainfall performance of the year 2018 was normal to above normal over most parts of the country. However,some pockate area of Amhara oromia and Somali had experienced below normal rainfall during this year 2018. On the other hand most parts of the country are much wetter than 2017 last year annual rainfall and also central, northern and eastern and also Afar region part the country much direr. Higher values of extreme maximum temperature values were recorded, mostly during the hot season (Belg) 2018. In particular, the extreme maximum temperature values had exceeded 43^{o}C over Semera, Quara, Teferi Bar and Chifra. On the other hand, nights and early mornings were cold over the highlands of northeast, central and southern Ethiopia during the dry season (Bega). In association with this, minimum temperature values below the freezing point (-5^{o}c) were recorded over Abyadi, Debre Berhan and Masha.



Percent of Normal Rainfall of the year 2018

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Foreword

This climate bulletin is prepared and disseminated by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA). It is aimed at providing climatological information to different services of the community involved in various socio- economic activities.

The information contained in the bulletin is believed to assist planners, decision-makers and the community at large by providing details of the climatic conditions of the nation in a given period.

This bulletin differs from the other real time and near real time bulletins issued by the Agency, which for their input depend only on meteorological stations equipped with single side band radio for data transmission. Though this bulletin is not real time, published with a delay of at least two months, the information contained in this bulletin is based on data coming from a much larger number of meteorological stations. Moreover, the information contained in this bulletin is not sector-specific and a wide range of users can benefit from it.

The Agency disseminates monthly, seasonal and annual climatological bulletins in which all-necessary climatologically information and significant climatic anomalies are highlighted.

We have a strong belief that various socio-economic activities related to planning disaster mitigation, water resources management, construction, environmental protection, transportation, recreation, tourism and others will be benefited most by the careful and continuous use of this bulletin. Meanwhile, your comments and constructive suggestions are highly appreciated to make the objectives of this bulletin a success.

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1. Introduction

1.1. General

In this bulletin the annual climate summary of the country for the year 2018 is presented. For convenience the climate summary of the year is done on seasonal basis.

From meteorological point of view, there are three seasons in Ethiopia; **Belg, Kiremt** and **Bega**.

Belg is a short rainy period from **February to May** over much of the Belg-growing areas, where as over the southwestern parts of the country it denotes the start of the long rainy season. Over the western parts of the country also the rainy season starts during March/April. However over the northwestern parts of the country, this season is predominantly dry except for the month of May. Southern and southeastern parts of the country are expected to get their long rainy season during this time starting in March and peaking in April. The climate of the season is mostly hot and moist.

Kiremt is the period from **June to September.** It is the main rainy season in which the major food crops of the country are produced. The magnitude of rainfall is higher as compared to the other seasons for many parts of the country. Normally, the southern and the southeastern lowlands of the country receive little or no rain during this season, except for little amount of rainfall that occurs towards the end of the season.

Bega is the period from **October to January**. It is a harvesting season for various parts of Ethiopia. Bega is normally a dry season characterized by cool nights and early mornings over the highlands of northern, northeastern, central and eastern Ethiopia and by hot days over various parts of the country. It is also a short rainy season for places over southern, southeastern and southwestern parts of the country. Depending on the influences from mid-latitude rain-bearing systems, some places over central, northern and northeastern Ethiopia also receive occasional showers.

1.2. Summary

The rainfall performance of the year 2018 was normal to above normal over most parts of the country. However,some pockate area of Amhara oromia and Somali had experienced below normal rainfall during this year 2018.

Higher values of extreme maximum temperature values were recorded, mostly during the hot season (Belg) 2018. In particular, the extreme maximum temperature values had exceeded 43^{o}C over semera, Quara, Teferi Bar and Chifra. On the other hand, nights and early mornings were cold over the highlands of northeast, central and southern Ethiopia during the dry season (Bega). In association with this, minimum temperature values below the freezing point (-5^{o}c) were recorded over Abyadi, Debre Berhan and Masha.

2.1. Surface

- The mean central pressure value of the Mascarine High was ranging from about 1020hpa to 1022hpa and it was centered between 30°S to 40°S latitudes and 50°E to 55°E longitudes.
- The mean central pressure value of the Azores High was ranging from about 1020hpa to 1022hpa and it was centered between 35°N to 55°W.
- The mean central pressure value of the St. Helena High was ranging from about 1020hpa to 1022hpa and it was centered between 25°S to 35°S and 0° to 10°W

2.2. Lower Troposphere (850 hpa Vector Wind)

Towards the end of the Belg season, weak cross equatorial flow was observed over the Horn of Africa, Arabian Sea and the adjoining areas of northern and south Indian Ocean. The cross equatorial flow further intensified during the Kiremt season and the speed of the average wind exceeded 15m/sec during the peak of the season. This cross equatorial flow weakened in the succeeding months and replaced by northeasterly flow during Bega 2017/2018 the first month January.

2.3. Middle Troposphere (500 hpa Geopotential Height)

The geopotential height values were dominantly near normal over much of the Mediterranean Sea and the adjoining areas.

2.4. Maximum Wind at 200 hpa level

Strong upper troposphoric easterly flow, associated with the Tropical Easterly Jet (TEJ), was dominant over the tropical areas between West Africa and India during 2018, while strong westerly flow , associated with the Subtropical Westerly Jet, prevailed over the subtropical areas during the rest of the year 2018.

2.5. ENSO conditions

The oceanic and sub-surface oceanic conditions across the Tropical Pacific showed near average to a moderate-strength ELINO condition during the year 2018. While Tahiti – Darwin remained positive and the equatorial SOI(the difference between observed sea level pressure Darwin and Tahiti) remains positive during the over the year 2018.

Reference: National Centers for Environmental Prediction/National Center for Atmospheric Research Website https://psl.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/data/getpage.pl

3. **Weather**

3.1. Temperature

Higher values of extreme maximum temperature values were recorded, mostly during the hot season (Belg) 2018. In particular, the extreme maximum temperature values had exceeded 40^{o}C over **semera, Quara, Teferi Bar, Chifra, Metema, Sanja, Gambela, Abobo, Dembidollo, Dilla, pawe** and **Sherekola**. On the other hand, nights and early mornings were cold over the highlands of northeast, central and southern Ethiopia during the dry season (Bega). In association with this, minimum temperature values below the freezing point (0^{o}c) were recorded over Abyadi, Debre Berhan, Masha,Maichew,Sarmider, mehal Meda, Guguftu, Dilla, Haik, Adigrat, Wegel Tena and Gashena.

Table 3.1.1 Annual Extreme Maximum Temperature Values Greater Than or equal to 40^{o}C during the year 2018

Name	Extreme Maximum Temperature	Month	date
semera	44.1	6	10
Quara	44.0	2	14
Teferi Bar	43.4	2	25
Chifra	43.0	5	24
Metema	42.6	5	4
Sanja	42.5	5	4
Gambela	42.4	1	7
Abobo	42.0	2	9
Dembidollo	42.0	6	16
Dilla	42.0	8	20
pawe	41.6	3	11
Sherekola	41.5	2	13

Table 3.1.2. Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature Values less than -4^{o}C during the year 2018

Name	Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature	month	Date
Abyadi	-8.9	2	13
Debre Berhan	-5.8	1	14
Masha	-4.5	1	14
Maichew	-4.4	2	1
Sarmider	-4.2	1	14
Mehal Meda	-2.6	1	13
Guguftu	-2.5	12	26
Bati	-1.7	1	15
Dilla	-1.7	11	20
Haik	-1.6	1	15
Adigrat	-1.5	1	15
Wegel Tena	-1.2	1	13
Gashena	-0.2	1	16

3.2. Rainfall

The rainfall performance of the year 2018 was normal to above normal over most parts of the country. However, Much area of and southern oromia and pocket area of SNNPR had experienced below normal rainfall during this year 2018 (fig 3.2.2).

The annual total rainfall amount of the year 2018 exceeded 1000mm over most part of specially the highland of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Western part if Oromia and most part of SNNPR, western Tigray and Gambella. In association with this, the annual total rainfall amount Reported exceeded 2500 mm over Kidamaja**, Gobgob**, **Adigrate**, and **Tikil Dengay** was 3459.7mm**,** 3026.2 **mm, and** 2863.8**mm r**espectively. On the other hand, the annual total rainfall amount was below 500mm over most portions of Afar and Somali. Refer to figure 3.2.1 and table 3.2.2.

Table 3.2.1. Heavy fall of greater than 90 mm with in 24 hrs during the year 2018

Name	Maximum rainfall greater than 100mm	Month	Day
Aisha	193.0	8	15
Slega 23	185.4	2	11
Gashena	121.0	7	10
Tikil Dengay	117.2	8	15
Dib Bahir	111.9	6	17
Assosa	108.0	6	3
Kemashe	105.4	7	5
Debre Berhan	103.6	11	21
Teferi Ber	101.6	8	15
Bulki (Mindre)	100.0	4	30
Addis Zemen	96.0	9	8
Bilatetena	92.5	11	15
Gambela	85.6	8	27

Table 3.2.2 Annual total Rainfall Amount in excess of 2000 mm during the year 2018

Name	Total Rainfall
Kidamaja	3459.7
Gobgob	3026.2
Adigrate	2863.8
Tikil Dengay	2495
Enjabara	2438.5
Guhala	2413.1
Elias (Debre Elias)	2335.7
Slega	2325.4
Debre Sina	2304.1
Dib Bahir	2269.6
Wetet Abay	2204
Neshi	2159.5
Kosober	2151.8
Guguftu	2074.4
Durbet	2069.5
Agere Genet	2026.9
Gore	2000.1

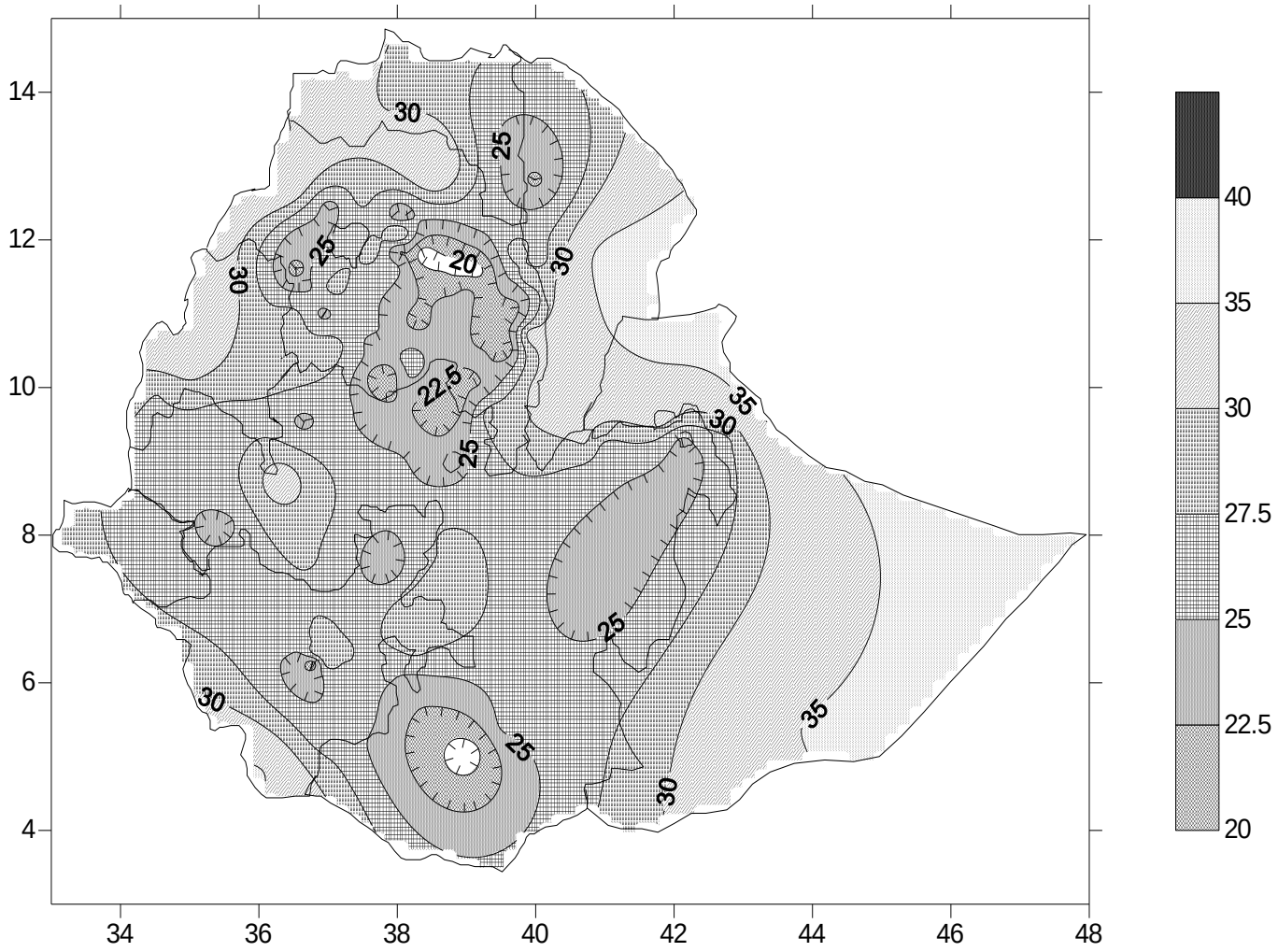


Figure 3.1.1. Mean Maximum temperature in ^{o}C for the year 2018

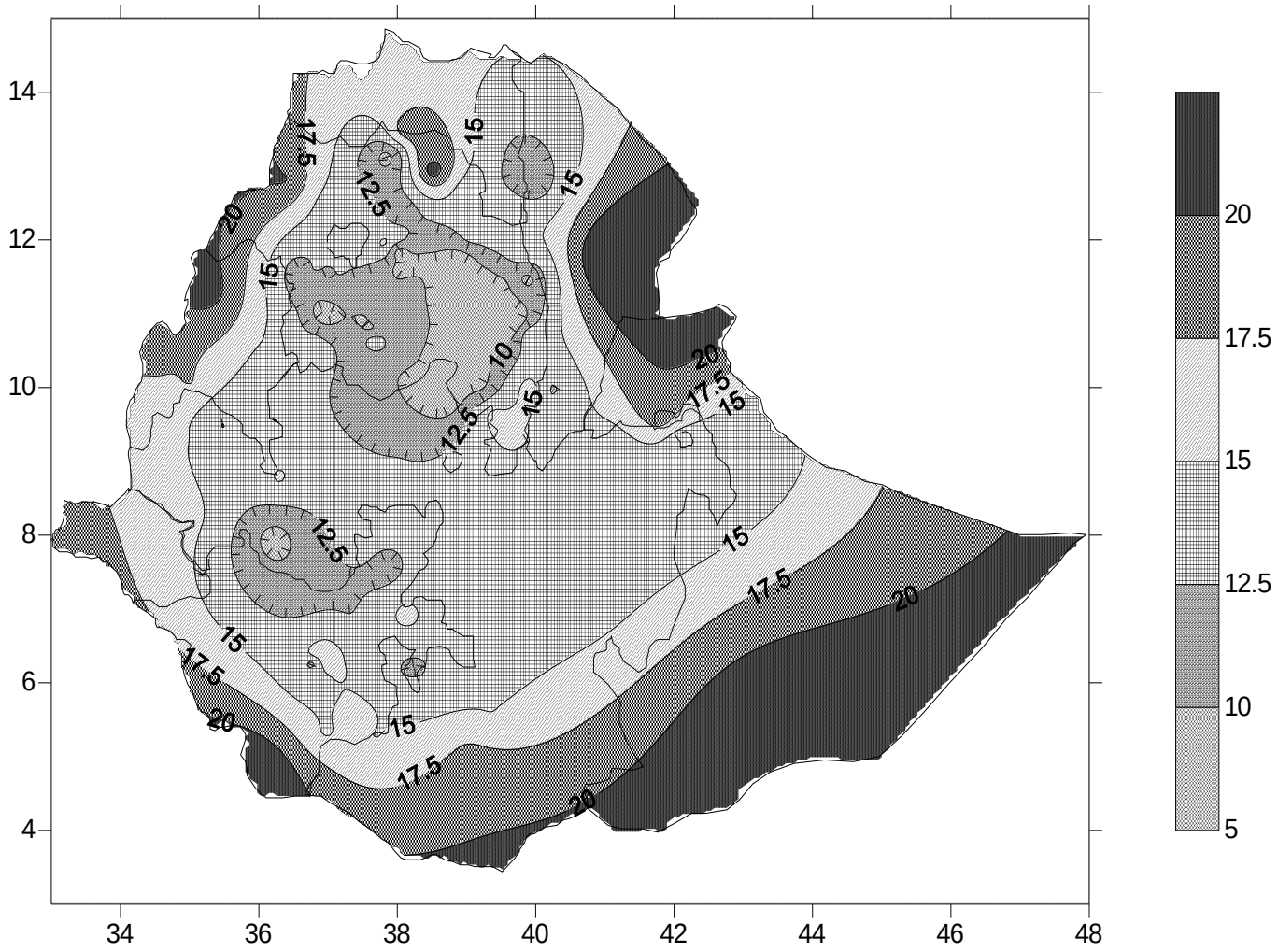


Figure 3.1.2. Mean minimum temperature in ^{o}C for the year 2018

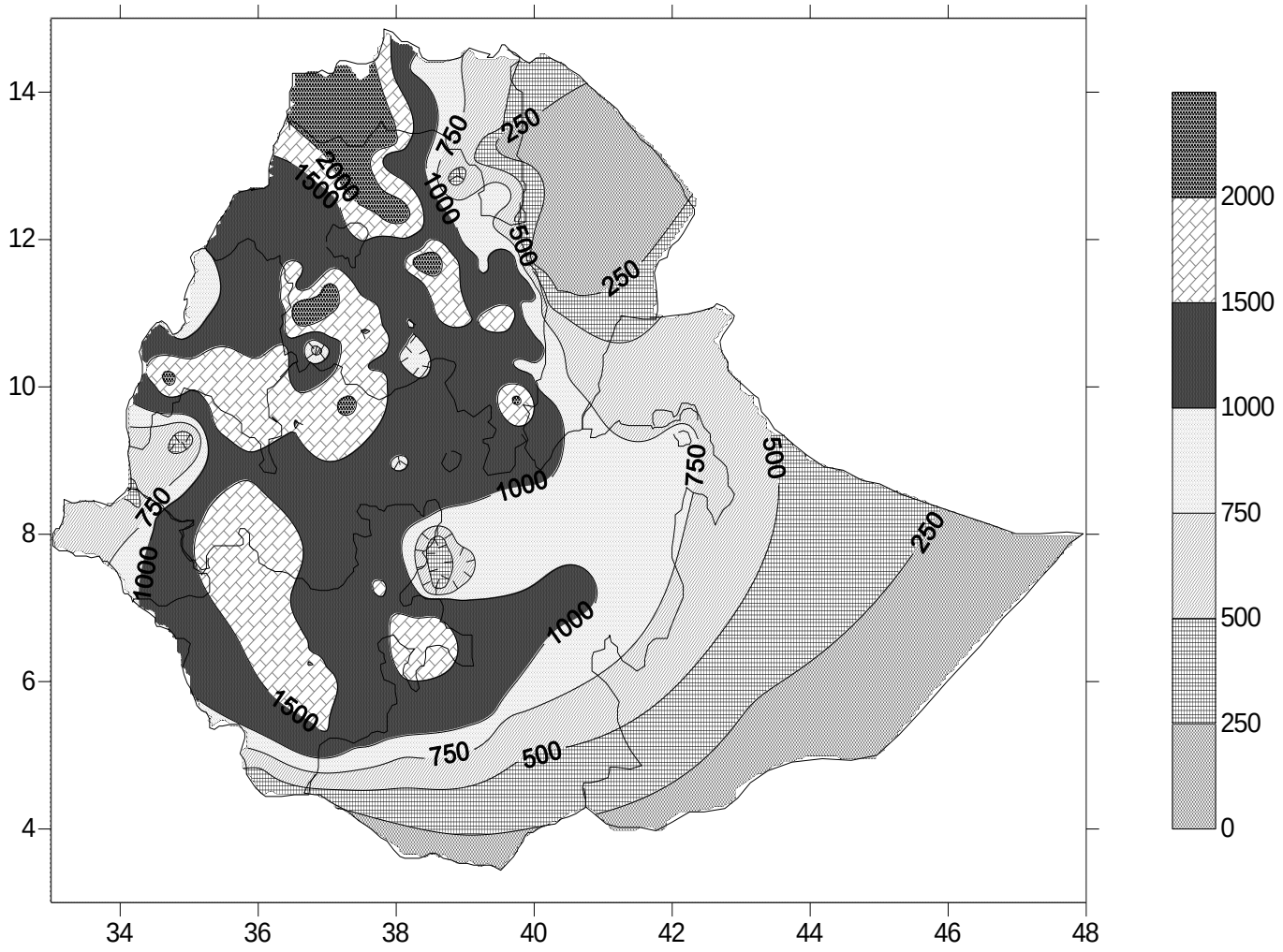


Figure 3.2.1. Annual total Rainfall amount in mm of the year 2018

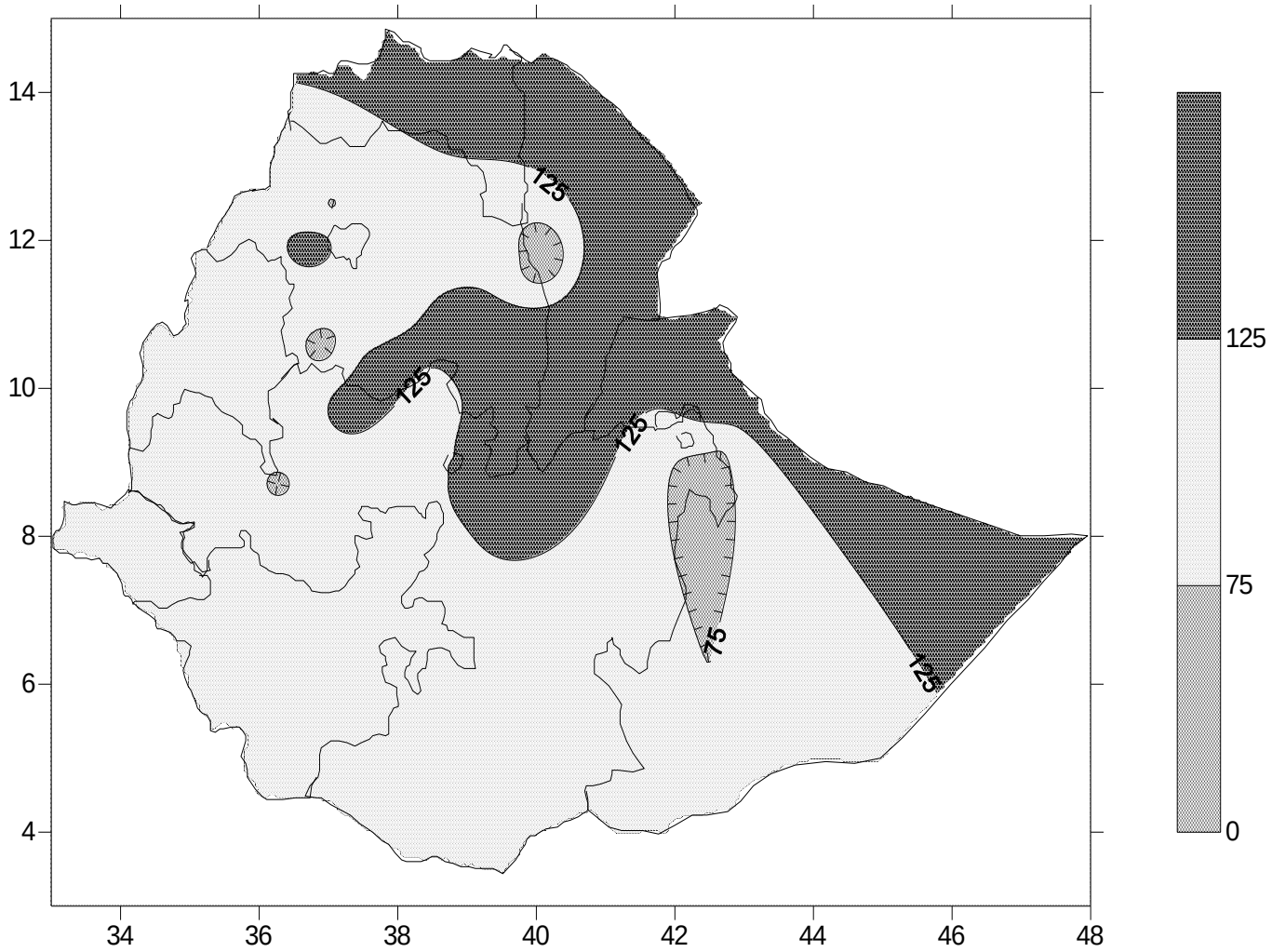


Figure 3.2.2. Percent of normal rainfall for the year 2018

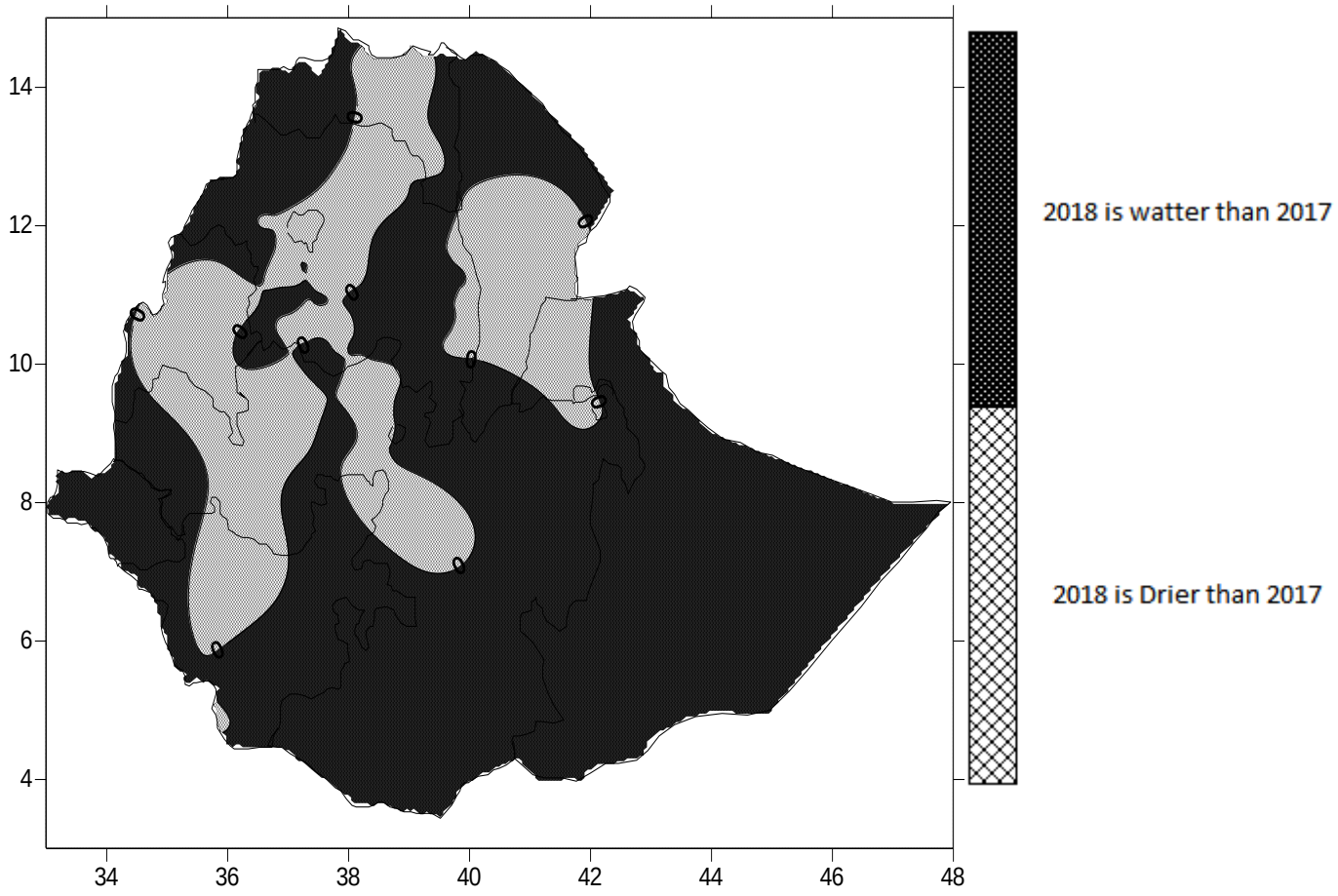


Figure 3.2.3. Annual Total Rainfall Amount of 2018 *minus* Annual Total Rainfall Amount of 2017

3.3 Wind

The ***WIND ROSE*** diagrams presented in table 3.3.1a to 3.3.1d show the wind conditions that prevailed during the three seasons over Addis Ababa Observatory, Mekele, Bahir Dar and Awassa, respectively of the long term conditions.

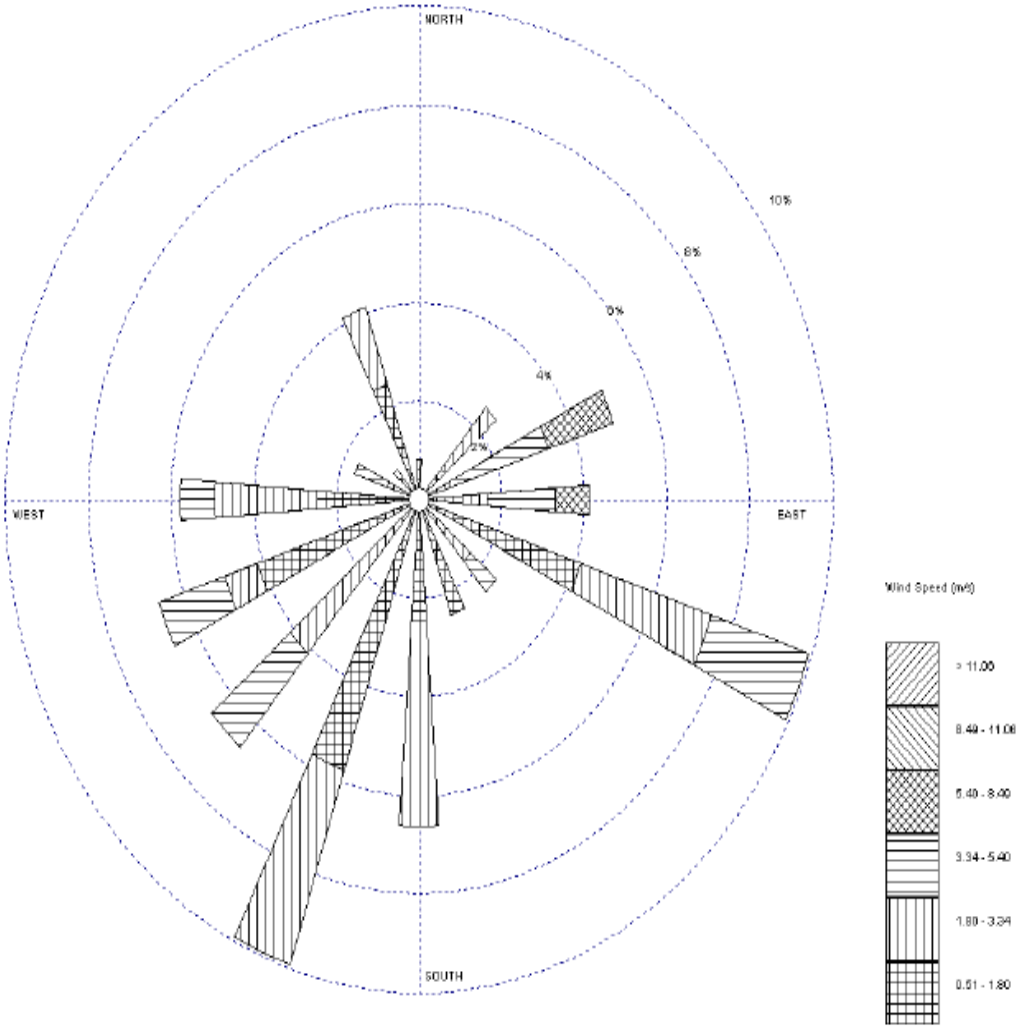
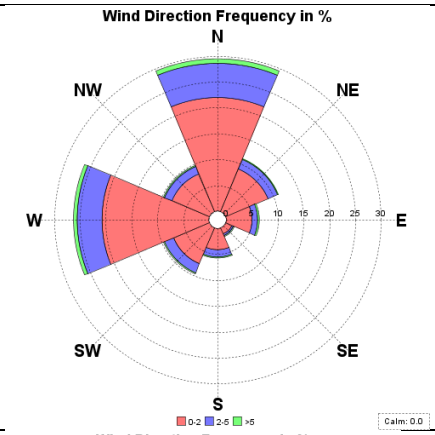
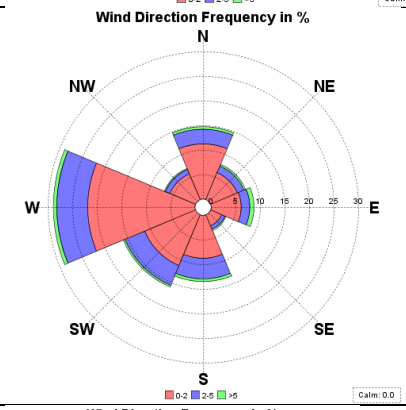
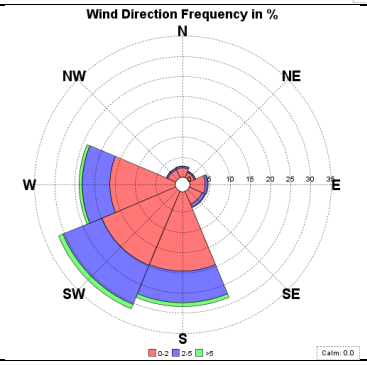
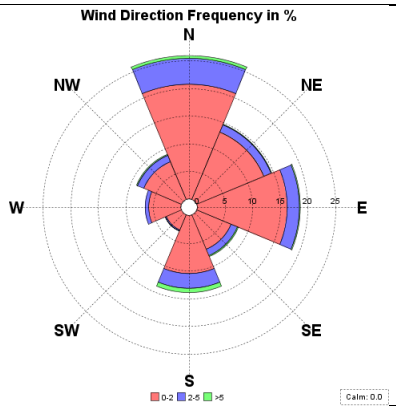
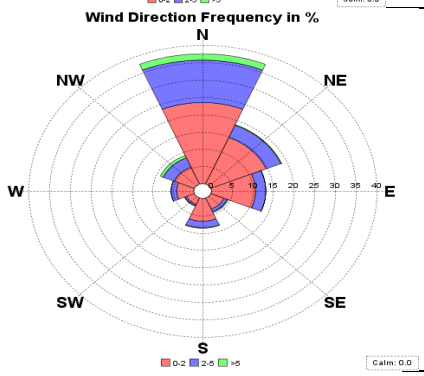
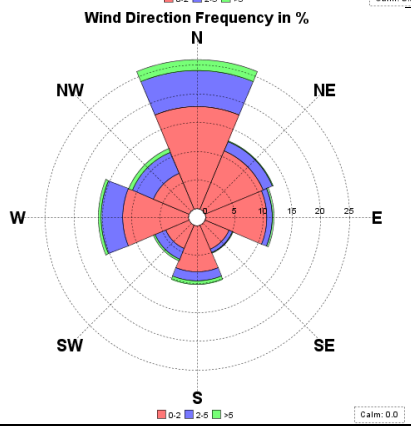


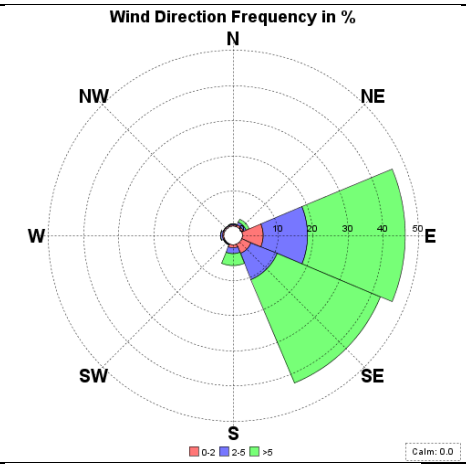
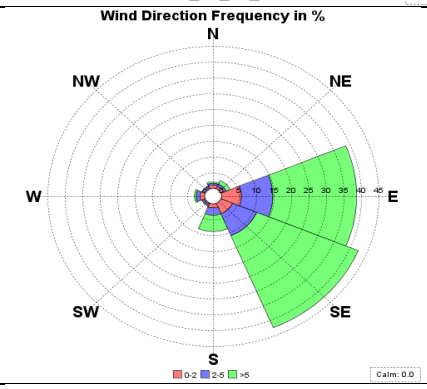
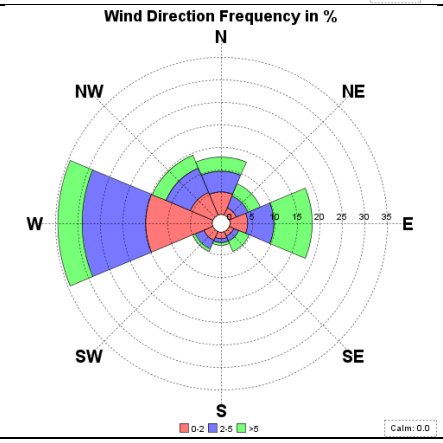
Figure 3.3.1 Sample wind rose diagram. The center on the diagram (where the head of each bar ends) represents a meteorological station into which the wind blows, while its tail shows where the wind comes from. The length of the bar is proportional to the frequency of the wind having a specific direction and speed range. The percentage points on the concentric circles can be used to make comparisons among the lengths of the bars and so as to easily identify the more prevalent direction. The shadings on the bar represent a specific speed range in meters per second as shown on the key.

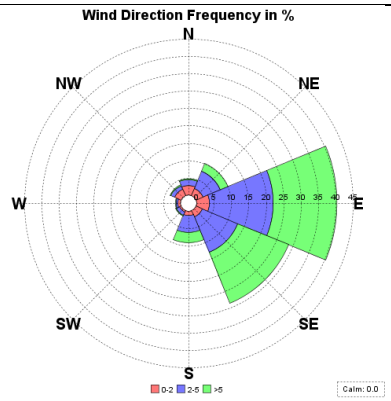
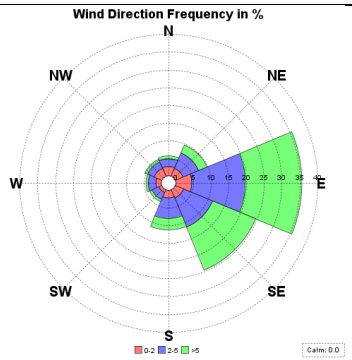
Table 3.3.1 WIND ROSE diagrams over selected stations showing the prevalent wind in the three seasons:

a. Awassa, b. Bahir Dar, c. Mekele and d. Addis Ababa

Station (Season) (a)	Based on long term data (1981-2010)
Awassa (Bega)	
Awassa (Belg)	
Awassa (Kiremt)	

Station (Season) (b)	Based on long term data (1981-2010)
Bahir Dar (Bega)	
Bahir Dar (Belg)	
Bahir Dar (Kiremt)	

Station (Season) (c)	Based on long term data (1981-2010)
Mekele (Bega)	
Mekele (Belg)	
Mekele (Kiremt)	

Station (Season) (d)	Based on long term data (1981-2010)
Addis Ababa Bole (Bega)	
Addis Ababa Bole (Belg)	
Addis Ababa Bole (Kiremt)