



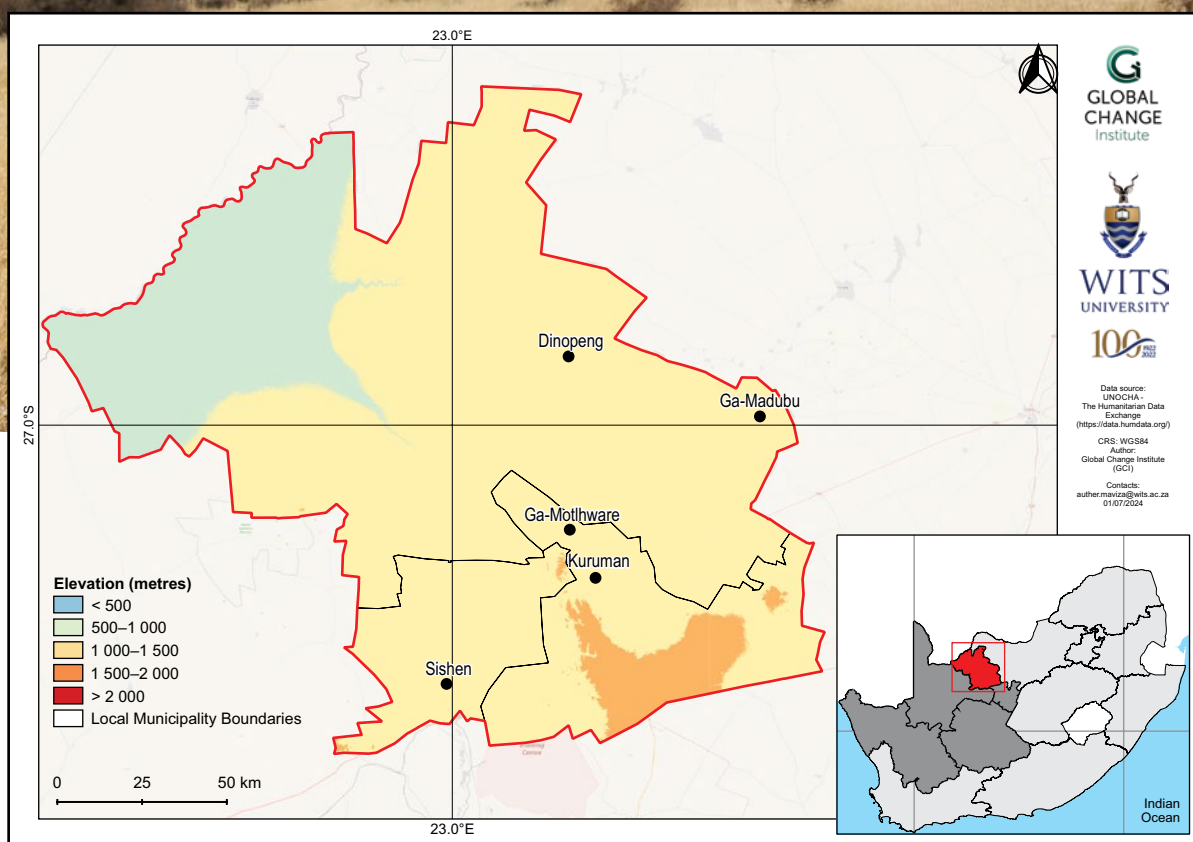
# John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality climate change fact sheet

## Northern Cape, South Africa

## MUNICIPAL

### Introduction

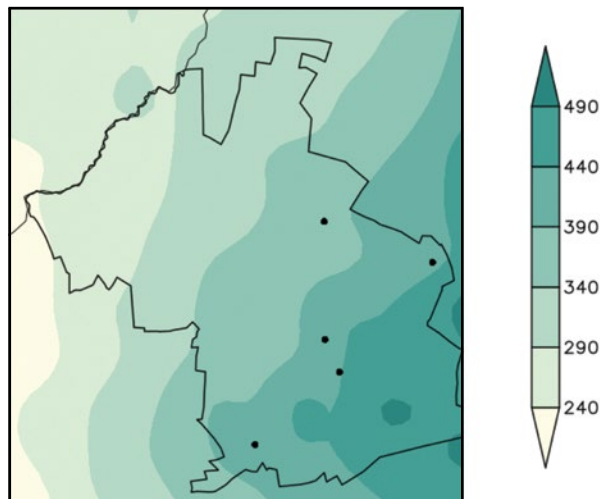
- This fact sheet is part of a series of district municipality fact sheets developed by the Wits GCI and SANBI. The fact sheets present a summary of observed and projected changes in climate over district municipalities in South Africa. They should be used together with the guidelines presented in the cover page.
- John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality covers an area of approximately 27 323 km<sup>2</sup>, with an elevation ranging from 500 m above sea level in the northwestern parts to 1 500 m above sea level over most of the district, with some higher regions on the southern border.
- The district experiences an arid to semi-arid climate, with hot summers and cold winters. The district is in a summer-rainfall region, with sporadic and generally low rainfall occurring.



## Observed climate: rainfall (1981–2000)

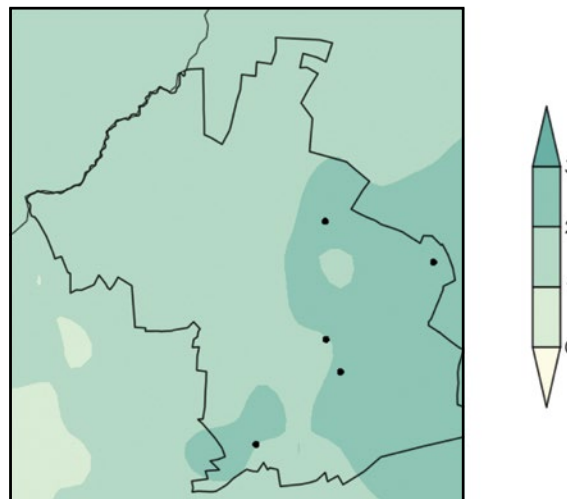
### Mean annual rainfall

Mean annual rainfall ranges from 240 mm in low-lying northwestern parts to almost 500 mm in the southeastern parts.



### Extreme rainfall days

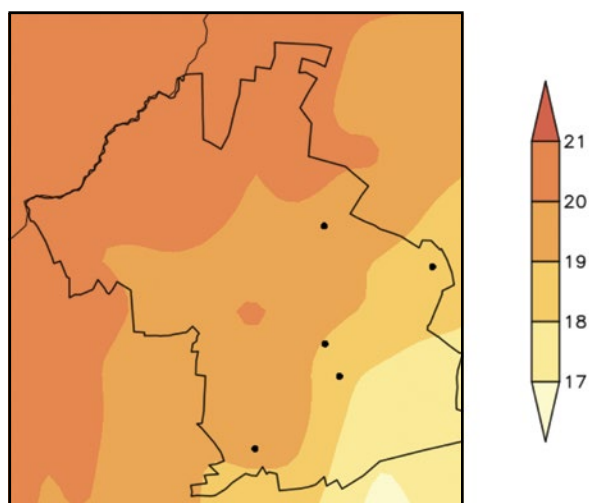
Observed average annual number of extreme rainfall days range from 1 day over the western interior up to 3 days over the eastern parts.



## Observed climate: temperature (1981–2000)

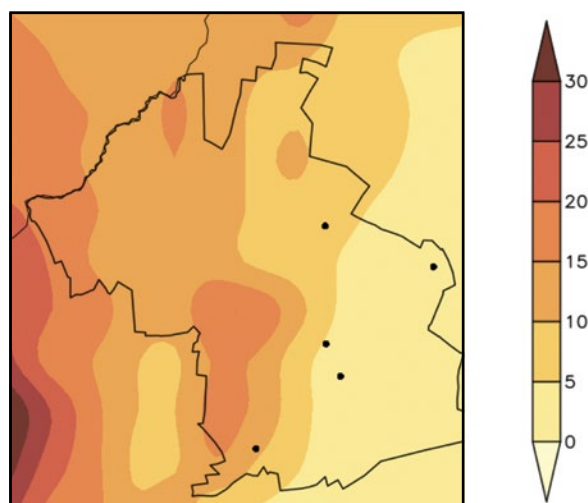
### Mean annual temperature

Mean annual temperature ranges from 17 °C over the southeastern highland region to 21 °C over the low-lying northwestern region.



### Very hot days

Mean annual number of very hot days range from less than 5 days in the east, gradually increasing to as many as 20 days in the western interior.

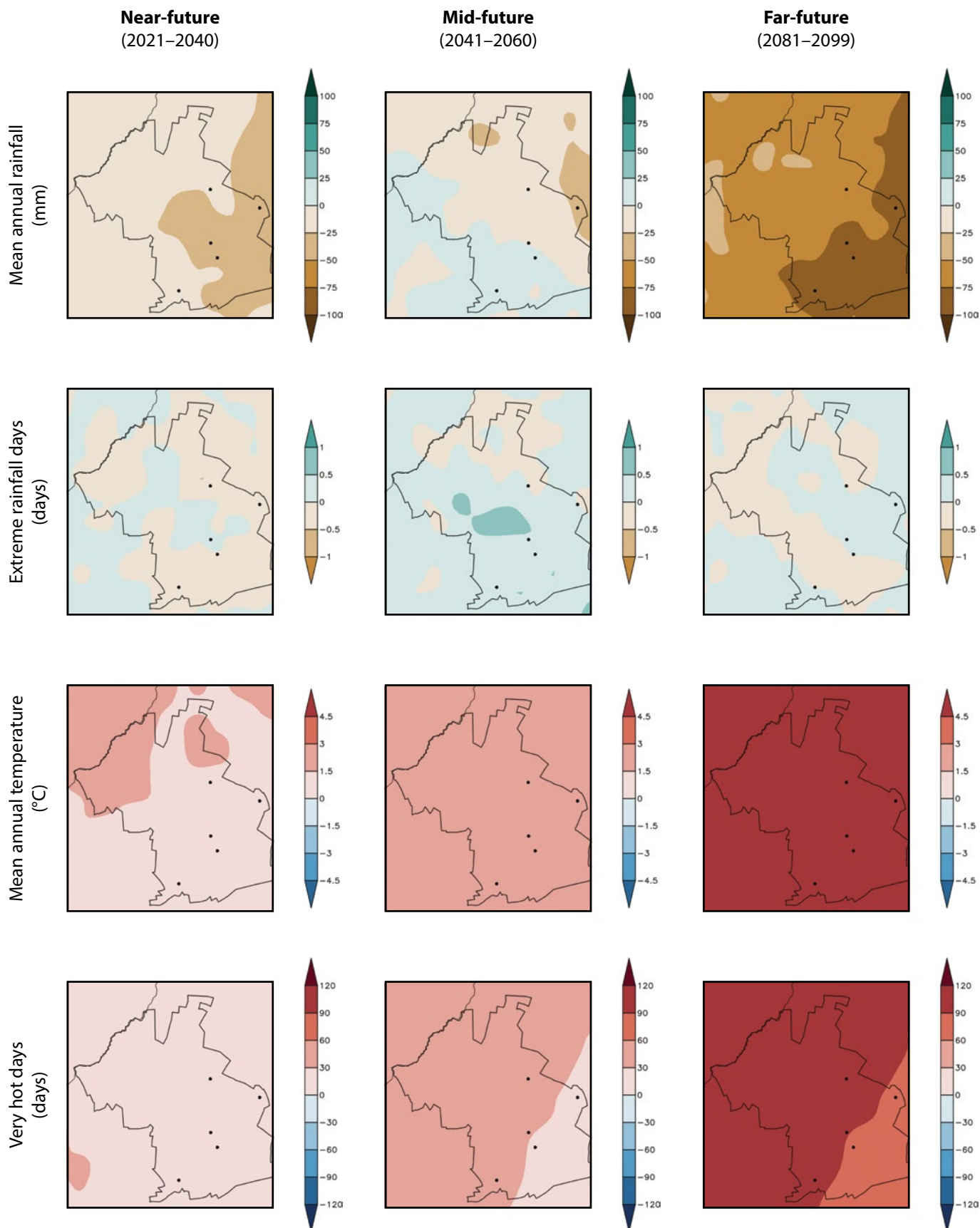


## Observed climate trends (overview)

- Observed decrease in mean annual rainfall (*low confidence*).
- Observed increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall events (*high confidence*).
- Observed increase in mean annual temperature and warm extremes (*virtually certain*).
- Observed increases in meteorological and agricultural drought (*low confidence*).

## Projected future climate change (overview)

- Projected decrease in mean annual rainfall in the near- and mid-future (*low confidence*) and far-future (*high confidence*).
- Projected general increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall events (*high confidence*).
- Projected increase in mean annual temperature and warm extremes (*virtually certain*).
- Projected increase in agricultural and meteorological drought (*high confidence*).



## Projected future climate change (*detailed*)

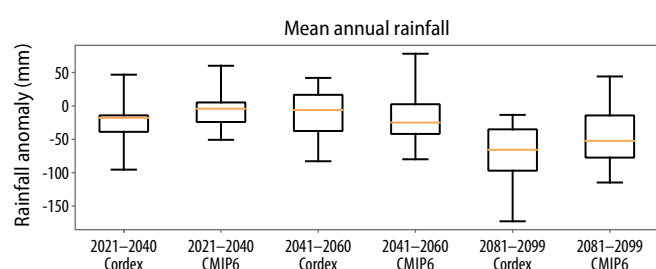
### Near- and mid-future

- Projected decrease in rainfall in the near- and mid-future (*low confidence*).
- Projected increase in extreme rainfall events (*likely*).
- Projected increase in temperature and warm extremes (*virtually certain*).
- Projected increase in agricultural and meteorological drought (*likely*).

### Far-future

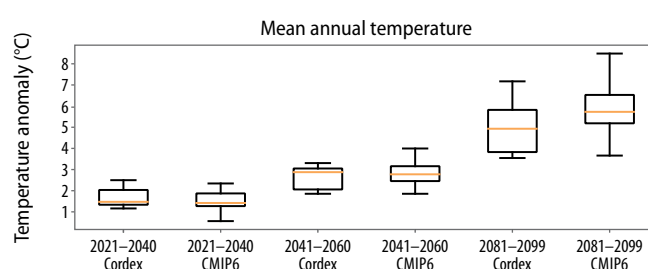
- Projected decrease in rainfall over the entire district (*very likely*).
- Projected increase in extreme rainfall events (*likely*).
- Projected increase in temperature and warm extremes (*virtually certain*).
- Projected increase in agricultural and meteorological drought (*very likely*).

## Climate model projections: model agreement and uncertainties



### Mean annual rainfall

- Averaged across the district, rainfall is projected to decrease in the near- and mid-future (*low confidence*).
- Further rainfall decreases are projected in the far-future under low mitigation scenarios (*very likely*).
- Partially in response to *virtually certain* temperature increases, agricultural drought is to occur more frequently in the near- and mid-future (*likely*) and far-future (*very likely*).



### Mean annual temperature

- Temperature increases averaged across the district in the near-future are *virtually certain* and may be as high as 2.0 °C.
- Under low mitigation, further temperature increases are *virtually certain* and may approach 3.0 °C in the mid-future and 6.0 °C in the far-future.
- Increases in average temperature will be accompanied by increases in warm temperature extremes such as heatwaves and high fire danger days (*virtually certain*).

#### Citation:

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