

# Climate

## Rainfall

The mean annual rainfall for the entire region is presented in (Plate 2). Elevation is the most important variable influencing the amount of rain throughout the region. There are two major weather systems which affect the seasonality of rainfall, namely the cyclonic system of the inter-tropical convergence (ITC) which drives the strong summer seasonality of the northern regions, and the frontal systems from the southern oceans, which bring cool, moist air to the coastal regions. The cold Benguela current of the west coast is largely responsible for the arid and semi-arid conditions of South Africa and Namibia. The areas of land which are topographically flat and far from the ameliorating influence of the ocean e.g central Botswana and the Kalahari, are hot and dry, with a high co-efficient of variation in mean annual rainfall.

## Temperature

The hot and cool temperature surfaces for the region are provided (Plates 3 and 4). Forage quality and production are strongly affected by the temperature regimes within the region.