



Figure 2.9 : Variability in Annual Rainfall around Namibia

In arid climates, the difference between a poor rainy season and a good one can be very large. Neither the "mean" nor the "median" gives a good indication of what a poor (but not abnormally poor) rainy season might be like. Rainfall is highly variable in both time and space, both within and between years, and this has a direct impact on the growth of vegetation and crops, the movements of people, domestic stock and wildlife, flooding of rivers and groundwater recharge. A good understanding of the concept of rainfall variability is therefore important. As a measure of variability, Figure 2.9 shows average deviation as a percentage of Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP). Note: Rainfall isohyets shown in Figure 2.9 are as they appear on the 1988 source map. Updated isohyets are provided in Figure 2.8.

Source : Updated Isohyetal Rainfall Map for Namibia Report, 1992, Hydrology Division, DWA.