



SARCOF-26

“Early warning and early action: SADC region preparedness towards a ‘ready-set-go!’ approach”

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) is the specialised SADC regional climate institution and carries its mandate through development, generation and dissemination of hydro-meteorological products. These products make valuable contribution to the safety and well-being of the people and communities in the SADC region and support key socioeconomic sectors including agriculture, energy, water resources, health, among others. The products are also crucial for increasing resilience and adaptation to climate variability and change in the SADC region, which is prone to a wide range of hydrometeorology hazards such as flash floods, heatwaves, tropical cyclones and droughts.

The SADC Secretariat has been convening the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) meetings over the past 25 years. The Secretariat through its Climate Services Centre is convening the twenty-sixth Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-26), which will be preceded by a Climate Experts Meeting aimed at building capacity of Climate Experts from Member States. SARCOF-26 is being supported through the European Union (EU) funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Application Programme. Both the Climate Experts Meeting and the SARCOF-26 Forum will be held virtually as follows:

Climate Experts Meeting: 15-23 August 2022, Virtual
Climate Users Platform Forum: 24-26 August 2022, Virtual
SARCOF-26 products dissemination: 26 August 2022, Virtual

The SARCOF theme for this year is “**Early warning and early action: SADC region preparedness towards a ‘ready-set-go!’ approach**”. SADC-CSC is taking the ‘ready-set-go’ approach for the current SARCOF. Along with issuing the seasonal forecast greater emphasis would be laid on the use of these forecast so that users incorporate the outlook in their respective contingency plans and accordingly update their preparedness plan (‘Ready!’) prior to the rain/cyclone season 2022/2023. This readiness approach will enable regional agencies and other stakeholders to mobilise resources to the region as time of a potential impact comes closer and local actors on the other hand may begin their initial preparations (‘Set!’). Near to the time of the climate impact, actions can then be taken directly and appropriately (‘Go!’), and greatly reduce the socio-economic impact on the local community and the cost of recovery.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SARCOF-25 MEETING

The seasonal forecast meetings aim at improving the contribution of NMHSs to early warning and disaster preparedness, considering information on global climate drivers such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) amongst others.

The specific objectives of the CEM meeting are:

- To review and verify the OND2021; NDJ2021/22 and DJF2021/22, JFM2022 seasonal climate forecasts made in August 2021 for SADC region;
- To discuss the current status of global climate drivers
- To develop regional consensus climate forecast for the OND2022-JFM2023 rainfall season;

- To downscale the global climate output to regional and national level;
- To initiate the improvement of SARCOF through the introduction of the Objective Seasonal Forecast (OSF)

The specific objectives of the Climate Users Forum are:

- To review and discuss the impacts of the previous season's outlook on each sector;
- To discuss the current status of global climate drivers and on their likely impacts on the climate sensitive sectors within SADC region;
- To preview the potential impacts of the coming season based on the consensus outlook and co-develop response guidance strategies for each sector;

PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SARCOF-25

Participants for the SARCOF-26 are climate prediction experts from the National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the SADC region, climate scientists from universities, research institutions, as well as regional and international user's organizations. Various regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and development partners. Participants will also include:

- Climate Experts from the SADC Member States
- National User's from different key socio-economic areas (e.g., agriculture, energy, water resources, health, disaster risk management, transport and private sector)
- World Meteorological Organization
- African Union
- United Nation agencies and other partners
- Regional Climate Centers(RCCs) such as ACMAD and ICPAC

EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

- Regional Climate outlook from the SARCOF-25 (OND2021; NDJ2021/22, and DJF2021/22, JFM 2022) reviewed
- Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons (OND2022; NDJ2022/23, DJF2022/23 and JFM2023) generated;
- Advice on the evolution/development of ENSO and its potential impacts produced
- Users' advisory early warning bulletin generated;
- Progress in the development of UIPs in the SADC region

MEETING FORMAT

The SARCOF-26 is a collaborative effort between the SADC Climate Services Centre and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) such as the European Union, and other partners. A 7-day Climate Experts Capacity Building Workshop for SADC National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) experts for generating the 2022/23 seasonal climate forecast will precede the Climate UIP and SARCOF-26 products dissemination fora. The meetings will be conducted VIRTUALLY as follows:

Climate Experts Meeting: 15-23 August 2022, Virtual
 Climate Users Platform Forum: 24-26 August 2022, Virtual
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To provide for different time zones in the SADC region, the Climate Experts Meeting will run on daily basis for a duration of 5 hours.