



STATEMENT FROM THE SIXTEENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-16), MID-SEASON UPDATE, INTERCONTINENTAL, LUSAKA ZAMBIA, 11 DECEMBER 2012

SUMMARY

Most of Southern African Development Community (SADC) is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall for the period January to May. The periods are split into rolling three monthly outlooks namely: January to March (JFM), February to April (FMA) and March to May 2013. Northernmost parts of the contiguous SADC, southernmost Madagascar are expected to receive normal to below-normal total rainfall (Figure 1) in JFM while in FMA (Figure 2), it is only the north-easternmost parts of Tanzania that will experience normal to below normal rainfall. During the MAM (Figure 3) period, the sub-region will receive mostly normal to above normal rainfall with the extreme north-western parts of DRC receiving normal to below normal rainfall.

THE SIXTEENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

The Sixteenth Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum for Mid-Season Update was held in Lusaka, Zambia 11-13 December 2012 to present a consensus outlook update for the 2013 JFM, FMA and MAM rainfall season over the SADC region. Climate scientists from the SADC National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) formulated this outlook. Additional products were received from other global climate prediction centres and other regional climate centres. This outlook covers the remainder of the 2012/13 rainfall season from January to May 2013. The periods are grouped into rolling three monthly outlooks for i.e JFM, FMA and MAM 2013.

This outlook is relevant only to seasonal time-scales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month variations (intra-seasonal).

Users are strongly advised to contact the respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of this Outlook, additional guidance and updates.

METHODOLOGY

Using statistical and other climate prediction schemes, the climate scientists determined likelihoods of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall for each area (Figures 1, 2 and 3). Above-normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of recorded (30 year, that is, 1971 - 2000 mean) rainfall amounts; below-normal is defined as within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is the middle third, centred on the climatological

median. The scientists also took into account that El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is going to be in the neutral phase which is projected to persist into early 2013.

SPONSORSHIP

The sixteenth Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum for Mid-Season Update was Organized by SADC-CSC and hosted by the Zambia Meteorological Department. Support was provided by Government of Zambia, African Development Bank and SADC.

OUTLOOK

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2013

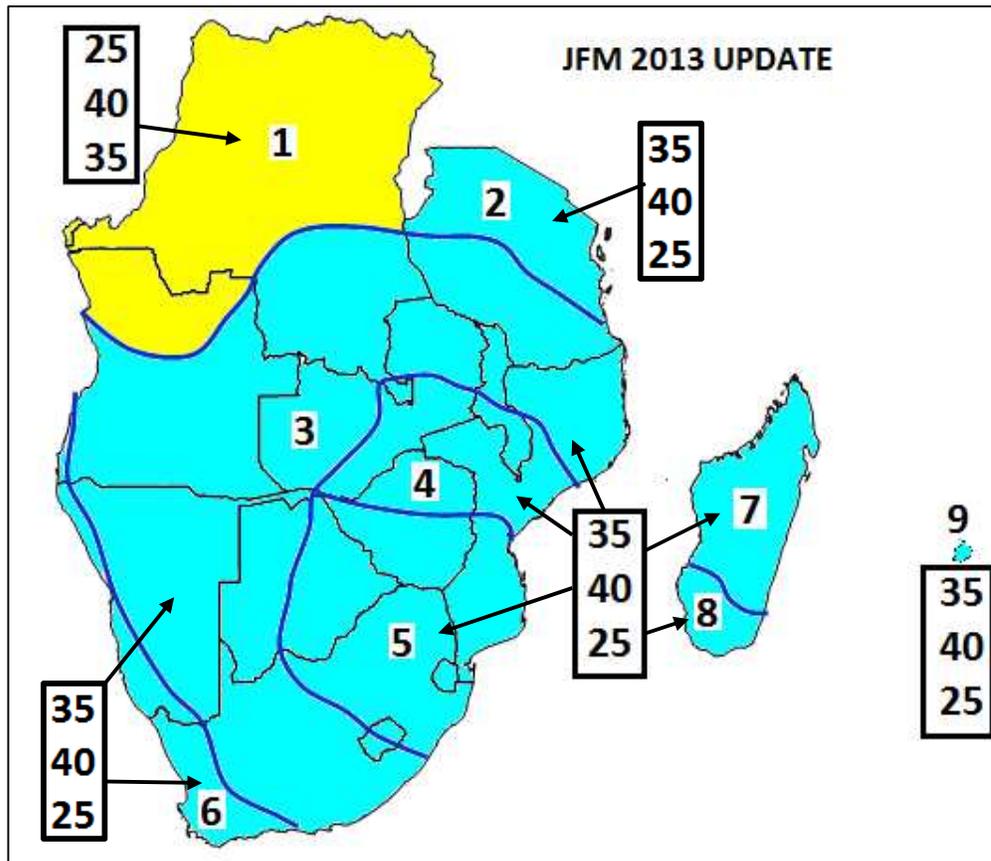


Fig 1: Rainfall forecast for January-March 2013

Zone 1: Bulk of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and northernmost Angola.
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 2: Northern half of Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, southern half of Tanzania, northern Malawi, northern and western Zambia, southern DRC, bulk of Angola, most of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa and western parts of Lesotho.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 4: Extreme south of DRC, central and southern Zambia, southern Malawi, northern Zimbabwe and central parts of Mozambique.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: Southern half of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, north and central South Africa, eastern Lesotho, Swaziland and southern Mozambique.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: South-westernmost Angola, western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Bulk of Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Southernmost Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 9: Mauritius.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL 2013

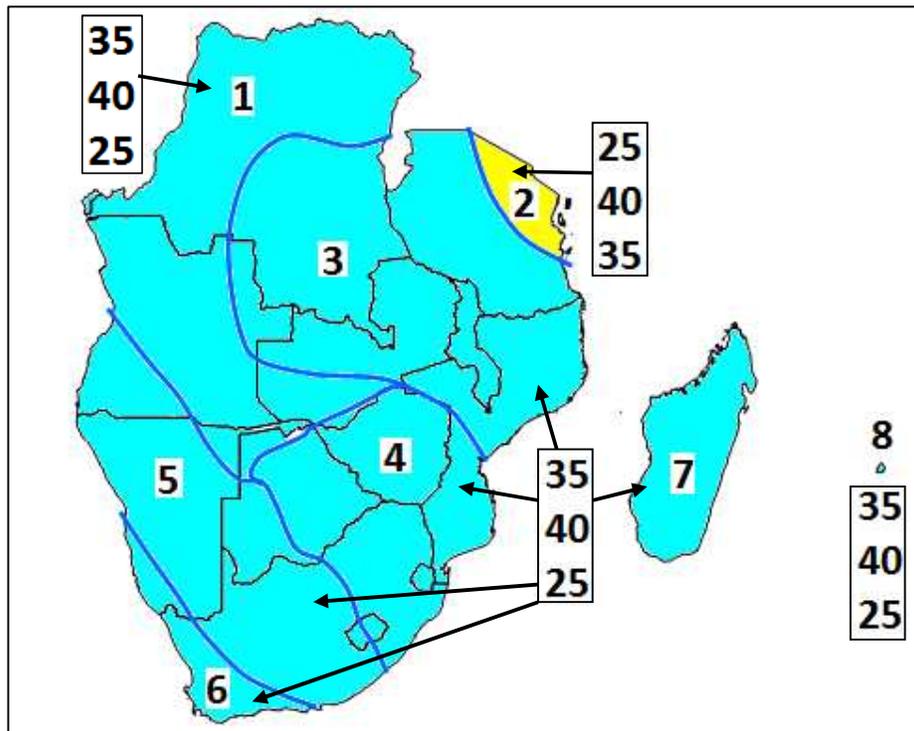


Fig 2: Rainfall forecast for February-April 2013

Zone 1: North-western half of DRC, bulk of Angola, north-eastern Namibia, north-western Botswana and south-western Zambia.

Increased chances of normal to above normal rainfall

Zone 2: North-eastern Tanzania.

Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, bulk of Tanzania, Malawi, most of Zambia and southern DRC.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 4: Southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, easternmost Botswana, eastern parts of South Africa, eastern Lesotho, Swaziland and southern parts of Mozambique.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: South-western parts of Angola, most of Namibia, north and central South Africa, western Lesotho and south-western parts of Botswana.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: Western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Mauritius.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

MARCH-ARIL-MAY 2013

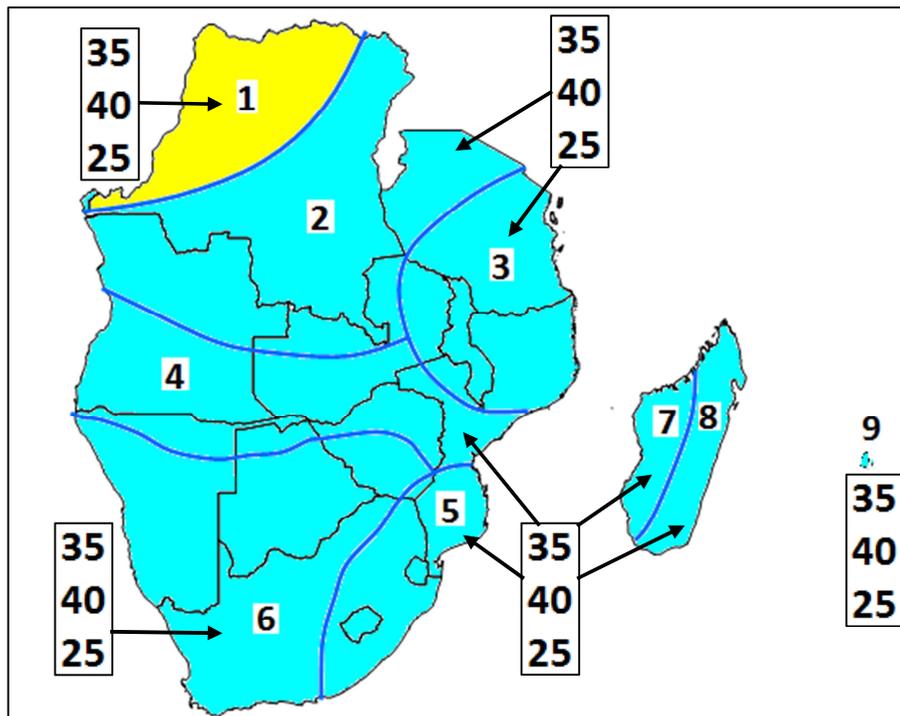


Fig 3: Rainfall forecast for March-May 2013

Zone 1: North-western parts of DRC.

Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 2: North-western Tanzania, bulk of DRC, northern half of Angola and northern parts of Zambia.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, bulk of Tanzania, Malawi and eastern Zambia.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 4: Southern half of Angola and Zambia, northernmost Namibia and bulk of Botswana, northern half of Zimbabwe and central parts of Mozambique.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: Eastern South Africa, Lesotho, extreme south-eastern Zimbabwe, Swaziland and southern Mozambique.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: Bulk of southern Zimbabwe and bulk of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Western Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Eastern Madagascar

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

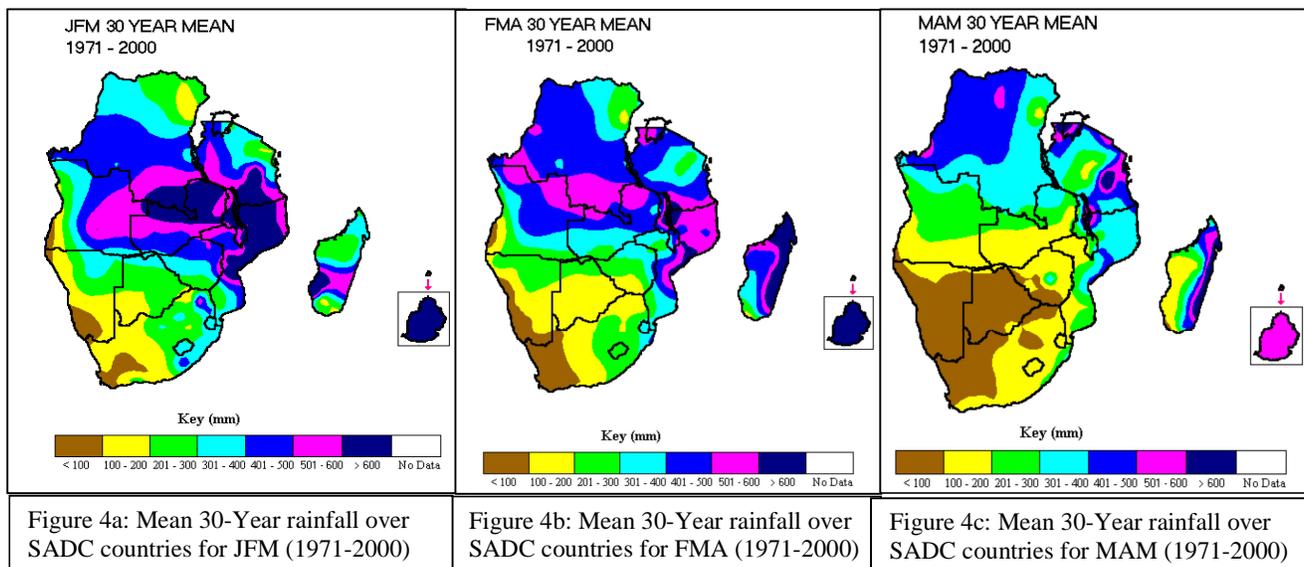
Zone 9: Mauritius.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

FIGURE CAPTION

It is emphasized that boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas. Forecast information is provided only for countries that comprise the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. The numbers for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories, below-normal, normal and above-normal. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category, the middle number is for normal and the bottom number is for below-normal. For example in FMA Figure 2, for Zone 8, there is a 40% probability of rainfall occurring in the normal category; a 35% probability in the above-normal category; and 25% probability in the below-normal category.

Long-term Rainfall Means



Rainfall increases from southwest to northeast over contiguous SADC during the JFM and FMA periods. During MAM, most of the region receives little rainfall except in north-western DRC, eastern Tanzania, eastern Madagascar and Mauritius. Over Madagascar the rains increase from west to east, while the rains are more uniformly distributed in Mauritius during the January-February-March (JFM) period (Figure 4a). There is a northward shift in the rainfall during the February-March-April (FMA) period over contiguous SADC with east to west increases in rainfall over Madagascar and uniformly distributed rainfall in Mauritius (Figure 4b). In the March-April-May (MAM) period, the rainfall is significantly reduced over contiguous SADC. An east to west decrease is also evident over Madagascar and Mauritius continues to have uniformly distributed rainfall (Figure 4c). The legend shows the amounts in millimetres.