

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Expect normal to below - normal rains during 2015/2016 rainfall season - SADC CSC**

By SADC Climate Services Centre

Kinsasha DRC, August 29, 2015 - Normal to below normal rains are to be expected in the SADC region. This is according to a seasonal forecast released at the just ended 19th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Participants at the Forum held under the theme “Advancing Climate Information Services for Health Resilience Development in Southern Africa Region” included weather and climate prediction experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SADC Region, climate scientists from universities and research institutions, regional and international organizations engaged in climate modeling and prediction, user community, decision-makers and the media.

### **MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM WERE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. To discuss with key national stakeholders the performance of climate forecast for the previous rainfall season and also the forecast and dissemination of national climate forecast for the coming rainfall season.

2. To carry out the necessary scientific work that would result in generating seasonal climate outlooks for the SADC countries for the 2015/2016 rainfall season;
3. To facilitate discussions on the potential impact of the projected outlooks on many socio-economic sectors and in areas of disaster risk reduction;

SARCOF -19 showed that the SADC region was likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall for the period October to December 2015 and the January to March 2016.

It was, however, noted that most Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) northern Angola, southern part of Tanzania, north-eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, Seychelles and eastern Madagascar, are more likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall. "Only the northern-most Tanzania is more likely to receive above-normal to normal rainfall in October-November-December," it was reported.

This six month regional seasonal climate outlook was reached by climate scientists from the SADC National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC).

Additional information was acquired from other global climate prediction centres; namely European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), UK Met Office and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia (BoM). The report noted that the outlook covered major rainfall season from October 2015 to March 2016. The outlooks are presented in overlapping three-monthly periods as follows: October-November-December (OND); November-December-January (NDJ); December-January-February (DJF); and January-February-March (JFM).

whilst SARCOF Statement was the regional forecast for the rainfall season, SADC National Meteorological Services should be able to provide detailed country specific forecast or predictions. "This outlook is relevant only to

seasonal (overlapping three-monthly) 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 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of this Outlook, additional guidance and updates,” he said.

Since the coordinated seasonal forecasts began in the region nineteen years ago, significant progress has been achieved in applying climate information and prediction services for socio-economic development. Past and recent events in the region have demonstrated that extreme climate events such as droughts, floods, tropical cyclones resulting in devastating consequences on the economic well-being of the population at large.

In crafting the theme for the Forum, SADC CSC and other partners realized that some diseases are intrinsically linked climate patterns therefore signaling that public health, weather and climate play a significant role in people's health and also that changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme events could enhance the spread of some [diseases](#). It was also noted that these impacts compromise food security and threaten human health through malnutrition, spread of infectious diseases and that the worst of these effects are projected among vulnerable populations. Hence the involvement of other sectors such as the health and other development partners.

Taking place alongside the Forum was the Regional Climate Dissemination strategy consultation workshop for media practitioners and SADC Region Communications officers. SADC CSC is currently putting together a communication strategy to tackle information and communication gaps that exists in communicating climate issues.

The Forum was organized by SADC Climate Service Centre, METTELSAT and other SADC NMHSs. It was funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB),

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SADC CSC