



## **THEME: “SUSTAINING CLIMATE SERVICES IN THE SADC REGION DURING A PANDEMIC”**

**VENUE:** *Virtually*  
**DATE:** *27 to 28 August, 2020*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The recent extreme climate variations associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) led to impacts on agriculture, water resource and hydropower generation in several Member States in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region which are still fresh in our memories. These climatic variations had resulted in adverse impacts on economic, social and environmental conditions in the SADC region. It is therefore, critical to review and make analogue analysis of the potential impacts of this large-scale climate variability and associated extremes for the upcoming season by providing timely early warning of hydro-meteorological hazards for multi-sectoral policy decision towards socioeconomic development of our Community.

Despite the severe challenges associated with the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHS) in SADC are striving to deliver key meteorological information to the public and other primary stakeholders.

In the same vein, the SADC, through the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) is organizing virtually the Twenty-fourth Southern African Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-24) **from 27 to 28 August 2020**. This year, **SARCOF-24** process is a collaborative effort between the SADC Climate Services Centre, with funding from the Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (Intra-ACP) Climate Services and related Applications Programme funded by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), and other partners.

The SARCOF meetings will be conducted VIRTUALLY as follows:

- **Climate Experts Training: 10 to 26 August 2020; and**
- **Dissemination of the SARCOF-24 products: 27 to 28 August 2020.**

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SARCOF-24 MEETING**

This seasonal forecast aims at improving the contribution of NMHSs to early warning and disaster preparedness, taking into account information on major climate drivers such as the ENSO signal.

#### **The specific objectives of the meeting are:**

- to develop regional consensus climate update forecast for the OND2020-JFM2021 rainfall season;
- to downscale the global climate output to regional and national level;
- to discuss the global climate drivers and likely impacts on the climate sensitive sectors within SADC;
- to review and verify the OND 2019; NDJ2019/20 and DJF2019/20, JFM 2020 seasonal climate forecasts made in August 2019 for SADC region;
- to review and discuss the impacts of the previous season's outlook on each and every sector and,
- to preview the potential impacts of the coming season based on the consensus outlook and develop response strategies for each sector.

**The expected results are to:**

- issue of the of regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons, that is: OND 2020; NDJ2020/21, DJF2020/21 and JFM 2021;
- issue of the downscaling of the products to national level;
- advice on the evolution/development of ENSO and its potential impacts;
- review and verification of the OND 2019, NDJ2019/20 and DJF2019/20, JFM 2020 seasonal rainfall forecast, and
- production of users' early warning advisory bulletin / note.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Participants for SARCOF-24 will include climate experts from the 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 are also expected to attend.

**HOW TO VIRTUALLY ATTEND**

Those wishing to attend are invited to complete the online participation form on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/sarcof24>, upon registration the connection details to the meeting will be provided. For further information or support kindly contact Mr. Patrick Koboyatshwene ([pkoboyatshwene@sadc.int](mailto:pkoboyatshwene@sadc.int)), Mr. Sunshine Gamedze ([sgamedze@sadc.int](mailto:sgamedze@sadc.int)) and Dr. Arlindo Meque ([ameque@sadc.int](mailto:ameque@sadc.int)); and put in copy Dr. Prithiviraj Booneeady ([pbooneady@sadc.int](mailto:pbooneady@sadc.int)).

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 24 August 2020****CO-OPERATING INSTITUTIONS**

Co-operating institutions include the following: SADC National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, African Development Bank (AfDB), European Union (EU), UN Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Southern Africa, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC); African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD); International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Famine Early Warning (FEWSNET); World Health Organization (WHO); European Centre for Medium- Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF); National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA); the United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMET), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), among others.

**WORKING LANGUAGE**

English, French and Portuguese will be the working languages for the forum.