



PRESS RELEASE

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-28) AIMS TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL CLIMATE SERVICES VALUE CHAIN

13 January 2024, Gaborone, Botswana: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, through its Climate Services Centre (CSC) is convening the 28th Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-28) in Maputo, Mozambique between 29 - 31 January 2024, to review the impacts of the October-November and December (OND) 2023 rainfall season's predictions, issue the seasonal outlook for February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM) 2024 together with advancing the establishment of Regional Sectoral User Interface Products (RSUIPs).

This Forum dovetails SARCOF-27 that was held in Mauritius from 26 - 28 September 2023, which forecasted that most of the SADC Region was likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall for the period OND 2023, and normal to above normal rainfall in the period December, January and February (DJF) 2023/24. SARCOF-28 will review and discuss the impacts of the season's outlook for February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM) 2024 on each sector based on the consensus outlook which will be generated during the pre-SARCOF event of Climate Experts that will be held in Maputo, Mozambique from 22 – 28 January 2024.

The Climate Experts Meeting (CEM) which is aimed at building capacity of Climate Experts from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SADC Region will also discuss the status of global climate drivers and their likely impacts on the climate sensitive sectors within the SADC Region. The CEM will generate a Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons for the second half of the rainy season which will form the bedrock of deliberations during SARCOF-28.

SARCOF is a flagship event for the SADC-CSC that is currently organised through the Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Application Programme (ClimSA) which is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the SADC Secretariat. SADC-CSC aims to strengthen co-exploring user needs and establish sector-specific Regional User Interface Platforms (RUIPs) to promote co-production of climate services products. This Forum will boost the interaction between users, researchers, and climate services providers at regional and national levels through the User Interface Platforms (UIPs). The engagement with sector-specific users during SARCOF-28 is expected to further enhance co-production, an initiative considered paramount towards the involvement of stakeholders in developing tailored climate services and strengthening of the regional climate services value chain.

Participants of CEM will be climate prediction experts from the NMHSs in the SADC Region, the SADC-CSC team and ClimSA Technical Assistance team whilst SARCOF-28 will attract climate information users and producers such as universities, research institutions, regional and international governmental and non-governmental organisations, development partners, as well as climate services stakeholders from the regional and national levels.

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SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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