



OFFICIAL RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM THE THIRTY-SECOND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-32) HELD AT HILTON HOTEL IN MBABANE, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, 28 – 30 JANUARY 2026.

Issued by: Ms. Duduzile Nhlengethwa-Masina, Permanent Representative (PR) of the Kingdom of Eswatini with WMO and Director of Eswatini Meteorological Services

On behalf of all Permanent Representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) present here and through their representatives, I am pleased to officially release the Thirty-Second Southern African Regional Climate Outlook (SARCOF-32) Statement for the February to June 2026 rainfall season. This outlook was developed by Climate Experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services who participated in the Pre-COF session, conducted virtually last week and in person this week, graciously hosted by the Eswatini Meteorological Services and coordinated by the SADC Secretariat through the Climate Services Centre.

The statement represents the culmination of dedicated efforts of the national Climate Experts appointed by Directors of Meteorological and Hydrological Services of SADC Member States, with valuable predictor data from Global Producing Centres and regional partners. We extend our sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions whose expertise and collaboration contributed to the development of the climate outlook being released at this time.

May I, at this point share with you the Summary of the Statement.

SUMMARY

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall for most of the period from February to June 2026, except for the entire western coastal areas and north-eastern parts of the SADC Region. Below normal rainfall is expected only over Mauritius during the April to June (AMJ) 2026 period.

TEMPERATURES

Temperature outlook for the February to June 2026 season indicates that temperatures are expected to be mostly above long-term averages over the whole of the SADC, except for central parts of the region where cooler than normal temperatures are expected.

DRIVERS OF THE SEASON

The ENSO is projected to transit from a weak La Niña to neutral conditions during the upcoming. Another driver affecting the SADC's regional climate, is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) which is currently in a negative phase and is forecasted to transition into a neutral phase during the upcoming outlook period.

ADVISORY

NOTE: This Outlook is relevant only to seasonal (overlapping three-monthly) timescales 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). As such, it must not be interpreted as indicating probable rainfall anomalies at sub-regional, country-level and local spatial scales, and at shorter - sub-seasonal (monthly) time scales.

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

The link to the SARCOF-32 Statement will be shared by the SADC Secretariat for users to access all the relevant documentation generated during the forum.

I thank you All.

Annex: Summary Outlook Maps

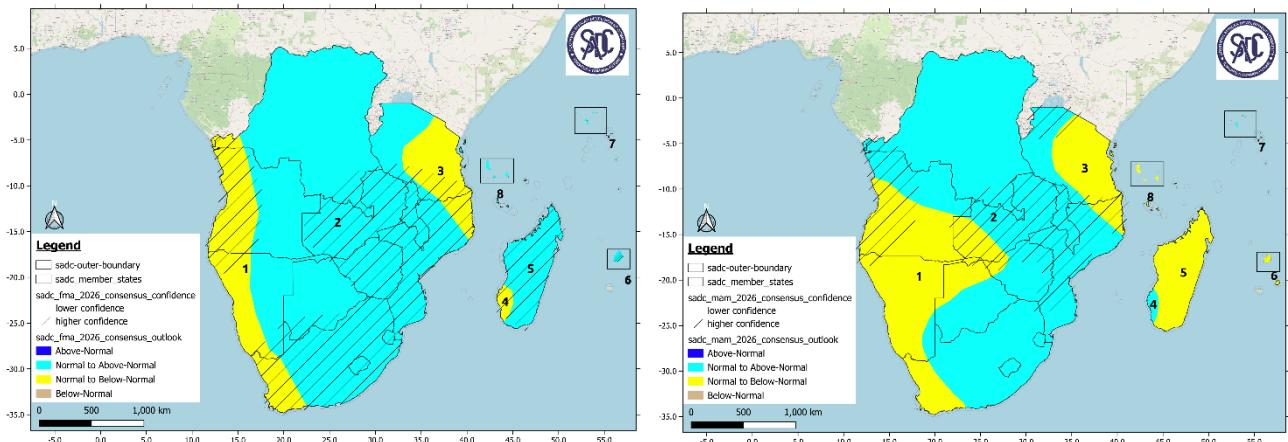


Figure 1: February to April (FMA - left) 2026 March – May (MAM – right) 2026 Rainfall Outlooks

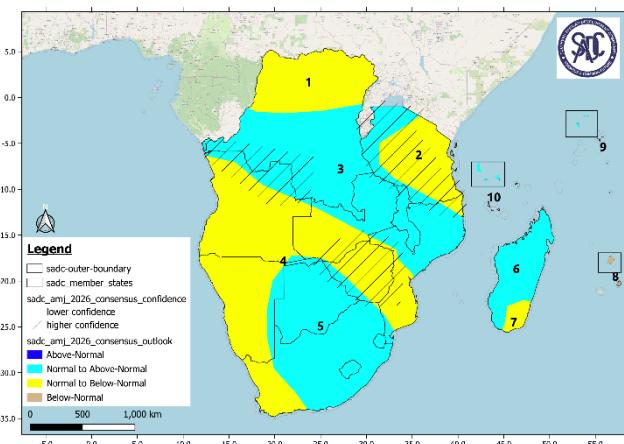


Figure 2: April to June 2026 Rainfall Outlook

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