



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

CLIMATE SERVICES CENTRE (SADC-CSC)

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INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

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BENEFICIARIES



A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **The rainfall during August:** In August 2025, northern DRC and northern Tanzania received heavy rainfall (90–100 mm), while southern South Africa, eastern Madagascar, and parts of Angola and DRC had moderate rains. Most of the central subcontinent recorded near-normal conditions, with wetter than usual weather in central South Africa, northern Angola, and northern Tanzania, but very dry conditions in eastern DRC, eastern Tanzania, Mozambique, and western South Africa.
- **Drought monitoring:** In August 2025, soil moisture was generally near normal to moderately dry across central parts of the region, reflecting the seasonal winter decline in rainfall. Severe dryness affected northern DRC, central Angola, western Namibia, southern South Africa, and Madagascar, while only limited areas — eastern Botswana, northern Angola, and northern Tanzania — showed moderately wet soils. Madagascar remained extremely dry throughout.
- **Dry days:** In most of the region, including Madagascar, experienced a prolonged stretch of 27–30 dry days. In contrast, northern DRC and northern Tanzania recorded far fewer dry days (0–6), with similarly reduced dry periods observed in parts of central and southeastern South Africa.
- **The minimum temperature anomalies:** In August 2025, the lowest mean minimum temperatures were observed in the southern subcontinent, notably in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Angola, and Zambia, with values dropping from about 14°C in central areas to near 5°C at the southern tip. In Madagascar, cooler conditions were confined to the island's central strip, while much of the rest of the region recorded warmer nights reaching up to 23°C. Temperature anomalies showed cooler-than-normal conditions (around –4°C) across southern DRC, Angola, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, central Botswana, and parts of Madagascar, while the rest of the region was warmer than usual, with positive anomalies of about +4°C.
- **Maximum temperatures anomalies:** The maximum temperatures across most of the region, including western Madagascar, ranged between 26°C and 36°C, while cooler values of 17°C to 24°C were limited to southern South Africa, eastern Madagascar, Malawi, and southern Namibia. Anomalies revealed widespread warmer-than-normal conditions of about +3°C, though cooler anomalies of –3°C occurred in Angola, southern DRC, western Namibia and South Africa, and southern Madagascar, with scattered areas showing near-normal conditions..

- **Day and nighttime heat waves:** The daytime heatwaves lasting up to 13 days affected north and central Botswana, northwest South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, much of DRC, and western Madagascar. Night-time heatwaves of similar duration were recorded in central DRC, parts of Tanzania, southeastern South Africa, and southern Madagascar.
- **Rainfall and temperature outlook for August:** In September 2025, above-normal rainfall is likely in northern Angola, much of the DRC, and parts of Tanzania, while central areas such as Zambia, southern Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe are expected to remain near normal. Drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for Mozambique, isolated parts of South Africa, and portions of the DRC. Temperatures are expected to be above normal across most of the region, including Madagascar, with only small areas of eastern Angola, southwestern South Africa, central Botswana, and northern Mozambique projected to stay near normal.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During August 2025, substantial rainfall was observed over the northernmost parts of the SADC region, particularly across northern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the northern fringes of Tanzania, where precipitation totals reached approximately 90 to 100 mm. In contrast, moderate rainfall of about 30 to 50 mm was recorded over the southern tip of the region — particularly in parts of the eastern and western South Africa — as well as along the eastern coastline of Madagascar and within isolated parts of Angola and DRC [Figure 1, left].

Rainfall anomalies for August indicate markedly near normal conditions (null anomalies) across the central portions of the subcontinent, which include much of southern Angola, all of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Western Tanzania and areas of western Madagascar. Southeastern DRC, western Tanzania, western Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and the western areas of Madagascar. Above normal rainfall was experienced over most of the central South Africa, parts of north Angola and north Tanzania. The rest of the region, especially located in DRC, east of Tanzania, Mozambique, and west of South Africa were very dry [Figure 1, right].

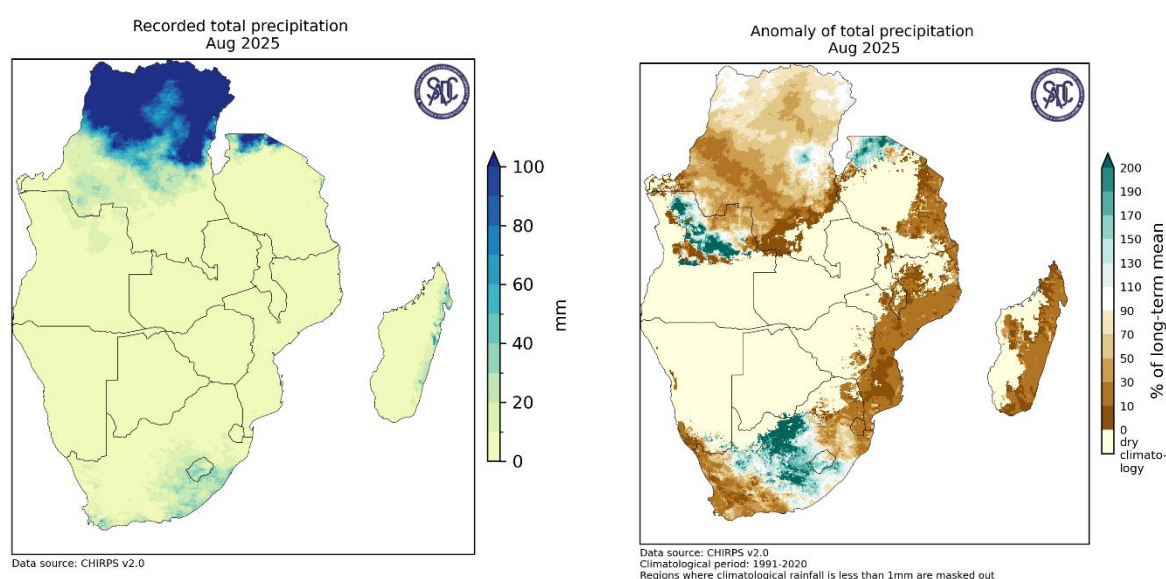


Figure 1: Observed rainfall (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for the month of August 2025.

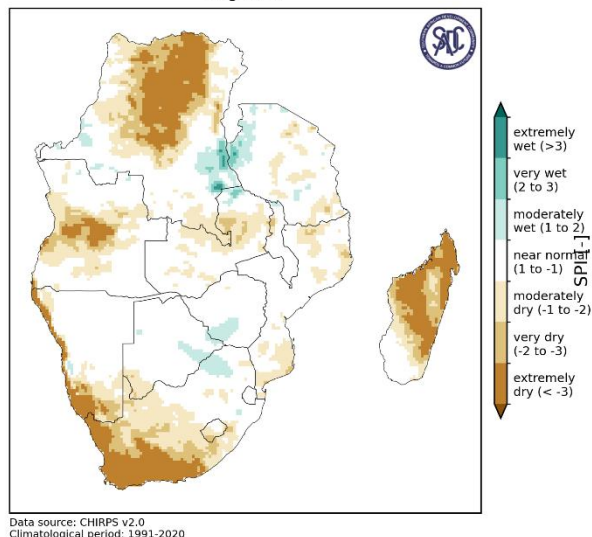
1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

The typical winter reduction in rainfall across southern Africa during August led to soil moisture levels ranging from near normal to moderately dry in most central areas, based on the 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-12). Extremely dry conditions were observed in the northern parts of the DRC, central Angola, western fringes of Namibia, the southern tip of South Africa, and much of Madagascar. However, moderately wet soils were found in eastern Botswana and along the DRC–Tanzania border [Figure 2, left].

The 3-month SPI (SPI-3) shows that soil moisture in August ranged from near normal to extremely very dry conditions within the whole region except the northernmost parts of Angola, parts of south Botswana and the northernmost tip of Tanzania, where isolated areas with moderately wet soil moisture were recorded. The whole Island of Madagascar was extremely dry [Figure 2, right].

ded 12-month Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)
Aug 2025



Recorded 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Aug 2025

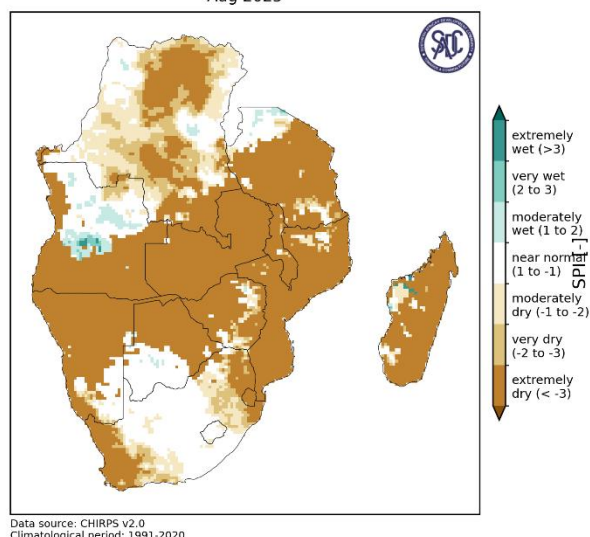


Figure 2: Drought assessment: SPI for 12-months (left) and 3-months SPI (right).

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

A prolonged stretch of dry days, ranging from 27 to 30 days, were recorded across most parts of the region, including the island of Madagascar. However, the northern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and a minor area on the northern part of Tanzania experienced significantly fewer dry days, ranging from 0 to 6 days. Likewise, these few dry days were also noted within the southern tip of the subcontinent located in central and southeast of South Africa, [Figure 3].

Recorded maximum consecutive dry days
Aug 2025

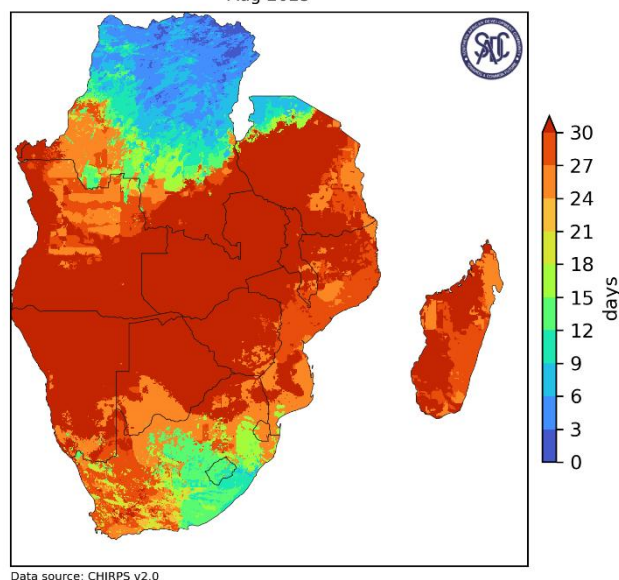


Figure 3: Dry spells prevalence during the month of August 2025.

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

Most of the subcontinent did not record any extreme precipitation events over a single day during the month of August. Most of the sub-continent including the island of Madagascar recorded almost near null precipitation in August 2025. However, highest rainfall in a single day of near

10mm was recorded in most of DRC, parts of north of Angola, the northernmost fringes of Tanzania, and within most of South Africa, Mozambique and east of Madagascar, [Figure 4].

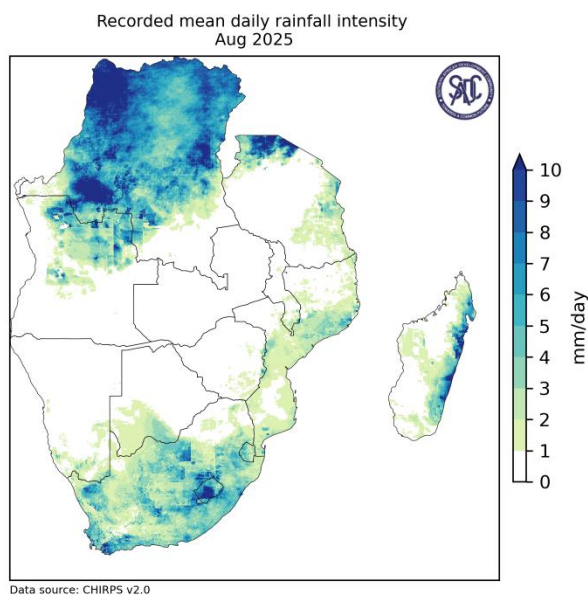


Figure 4: Maximum rainfall recorded over a one day period during the month of August 2025.

2. REGIONAL TEMPERATURE

2.1 Minimum Temperature

In August, the lowest mean minimum temperatures were recorded in countries located around the southern parts of the subcontinent, particularly in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Angola, and Zambia. In Madagascar these mean of minimums temperatures were lower on the central strip of the Island. Overall, the mean minimum temperatures dropped from around 14°C in the central parts of the subcontinent to approximately 5°C near the southern tip of Africa in August 2025, [Figure 5, left]. In contrast, the rest of the region experienced significantly higher minimum temperatures, reaching 23°C.

Anomalies of mean minimum temperatures show that areas situated around the central parts of the region namely the southern part of DRC, most of Angola and Namibia, the whole Zambia, western and southern Tanzania, Zimbabwe and minor regions in central Botswana, and isolated parts in Central Madagascar, recorded negative minimum temperature anomalies with typical values around -4°C, whereas the rest of the region recorded positive anomalies of +4°C, [Figure 5, right].

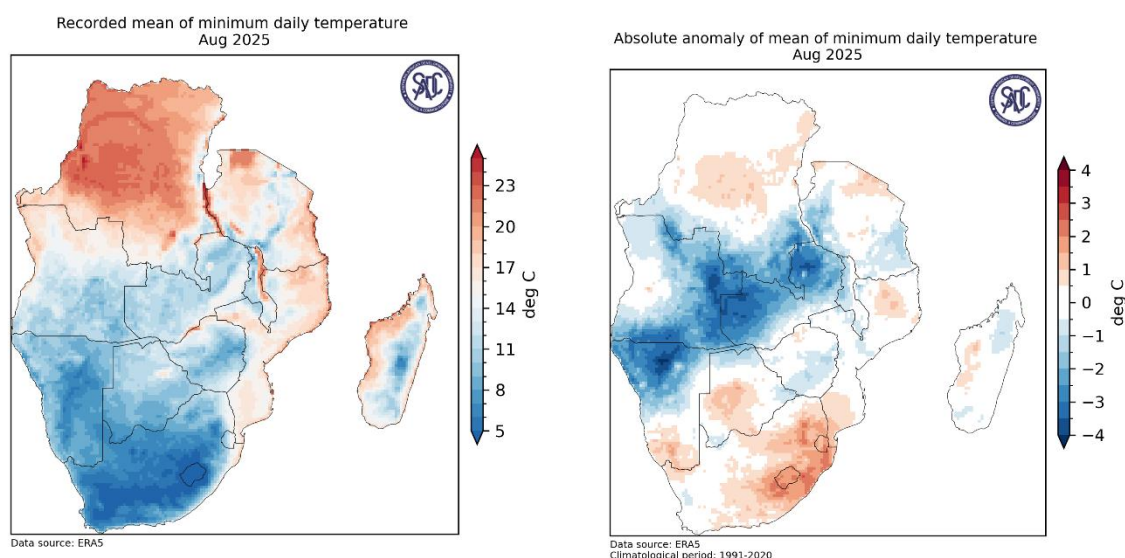


Figure 5: Observed average minimum temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for August 2025.

2.2 Maximum Temperature

Recorded means of maximum temperatures across the region ranged from **26°C to 36°C**. These temperatures dominated the whole areas of the region including the western side of the Island of Madagascar. By Contrast, the lowest maximums temperatures of **17°C to 24°C**, were observed in the southernmost parts of the region—particularly in South Africa, the eastern of Madagascar, Malawi and south of Namibia, [Figure 6, left].

Maximum temperature anomalies in August 2025, showed that much of the subcontinent, including Madagascar, experienced positive values of **+3°C** above the. In contrast negative anomalies of maximum temperature of **-3°C** were recorded within most of Angola, south DRC, the western fringes of Namibia and South Africa, and the southernmost tip of Madagascar. Null anomalies were also observed in some scattered areas within the whole SADC region.

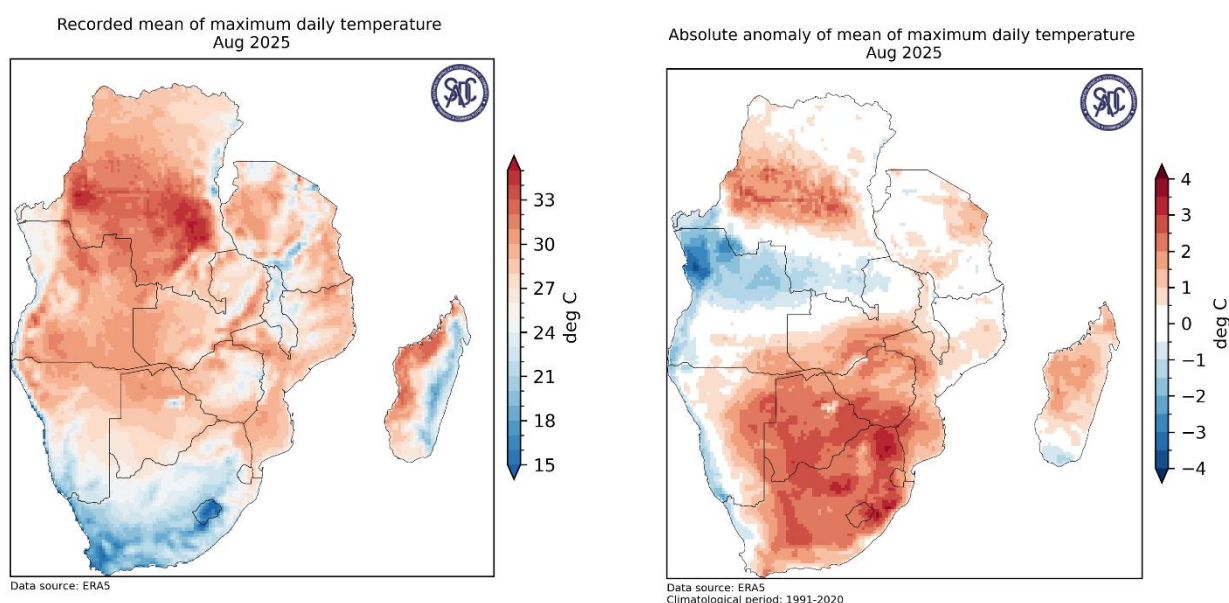


Figure 6: Observed maximum average temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for August 2025.

2.3 Heatwaves

Daytime heatwaves lasting up to 13 days were recorded within the central part of SADC located in north Botswana, most of Botswana, northwest of South Africa, Zimbabwe, parts of Mozambique, most of the DRC and the western areas of the Island of Madagascar, [Figure 7, left].

The night-time heatwaves of 13 days were observed in the central DRC, in isolated areas within Tanzania, parts of southeastern South Africa, and southern half of Madagascar [Figure 7, right].

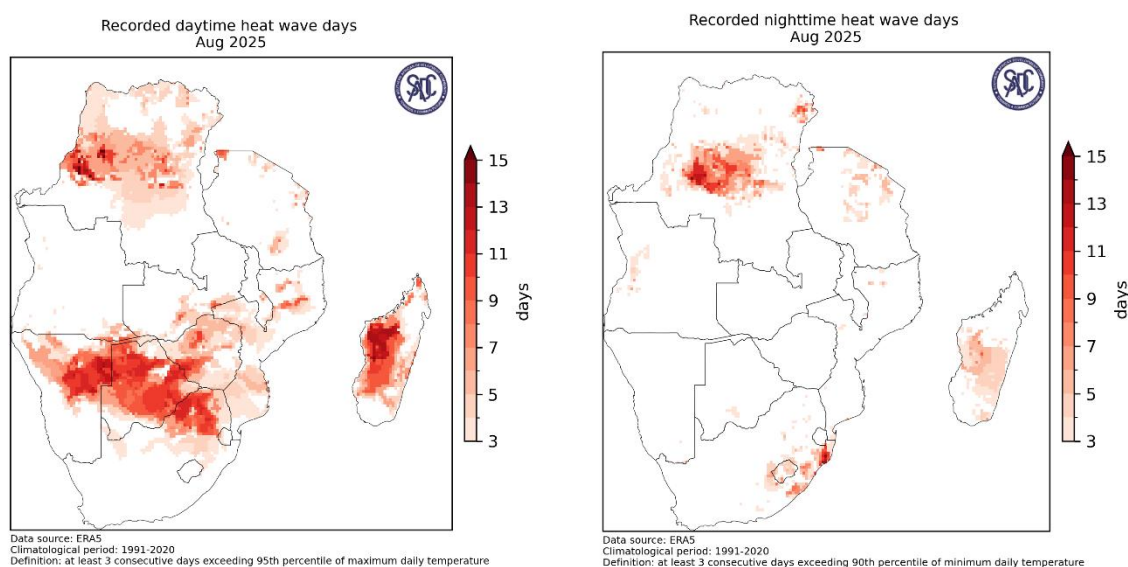


Figure 7: Heatwaves detected during the month of August 2025

3. REGIONAL MONTHLY OUTLOOKS

3.1 Rainfall Outlook

An increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall is forecast for September 2025 in isolated parts of the SADC region, including much of the DRC, northwestern and eastern Tanzania, and northern Angola. Most central areas of the subcontinent—covering Zambia, southern Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe—are expected to receive near-normal rainfall. In contrast, below-normal rainfall is likely in Mozambique, isolated parts of South Africa, and portions of the DRC [Figure 8].

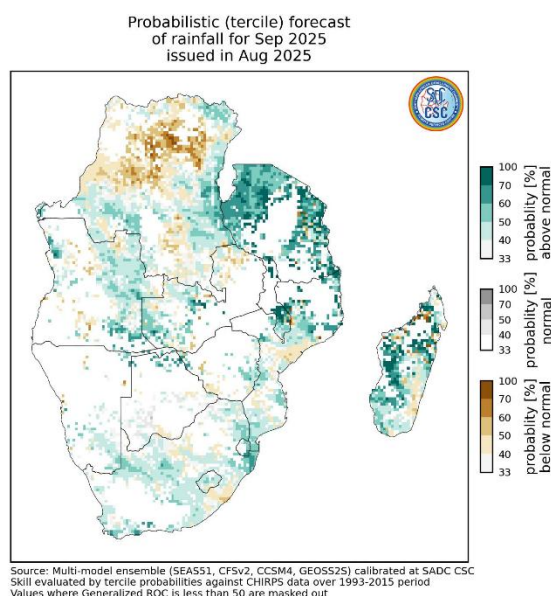


Figure 8: Rainfall probabilistic forecast for August 2025

3.2 Temperature Outlook

Above-normal temperatures are forecast across most of the SADC region for August 2025, including the entire island of Madagascar. However, isolated areas in eastern Angola, southwestern South Africa, central Botswana, and northern Mozambique are expected to experience near-normal temperatures [Figure 9].

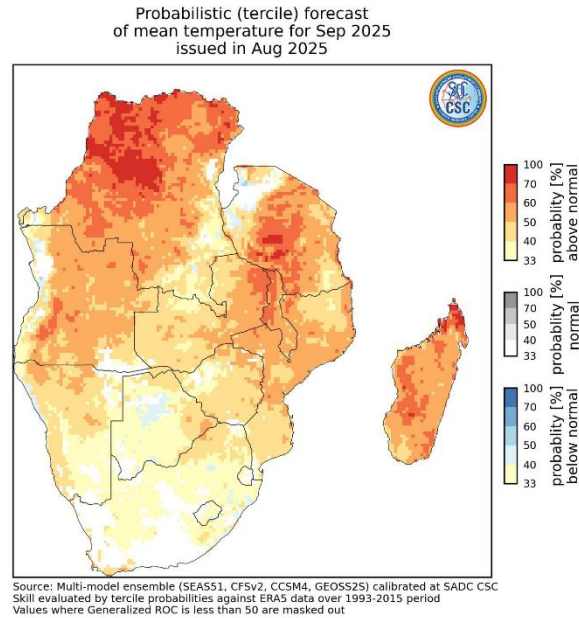


Figure 9: Temperature probabilistic forecast for August 2025

NOTE:

This bulletin used CHIRPS and ERA5 data. While these datasets are considered broadly representative to local conditions over the SADC region, the results presented here August differ from those derived using local observations from Member States.

Users are therefore, urged to consult the local National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for local conditions and detailed interpretation of the contents of this bulletin.



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