



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

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BENEFICIARIES



A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **The rainfall during January 2025 was well above the monthly long-term average** over most of the contiguous SADC region, except over the extreme west covering southern Angola, western Namibia, western South Africa and norther DRC. The central part of the subcontinent located in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe was generally wet.
- Despite recent rainfall improvements, **dry conditions persisted** across most of the region, except in parts of North South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Madagascar, where soil moisture improved. Western areas, including Western DRC, Angola, Namibia, most of South Africa, and Madagascar, remained dry.
- **Dry days:** Prolonged dry spells occurred in central areas and western Madagascar, while fewer dry days were recorded in southwest South Africa, west Namibia, and southwest Angola.
- **Rainfall outlook:** Most of the subcontinent expected above normal rainfall. Temperature outlook shows that most of the region will record high average temperatures in January, except the central parts of the region.
- Above-normal rainfall is likely over most of the SADC region in February 2025, except for central DRC, eastern Angola, most of Tanzania, eastern Mozambique, east South Africa, and Madagascar, where below-normal rainfall is expected.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

The rainfall during January 2025 was considerable over most areas of the SADC region, particularly in the central part of the sub-region located in Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, north South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, DRC and Tanzania. Madagascar, where precipitation above 120mm were accumulated in one single month [Figure 1 left]. Anomalies of total precipitation shows that despite this rainfall records, the bulk of the region, including the islands, continued relatively dry, except the northern South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, most parts of Mozambique, isolated parts of DRC, Tanzania, and southwest Madagascar, [Figure 1 right].

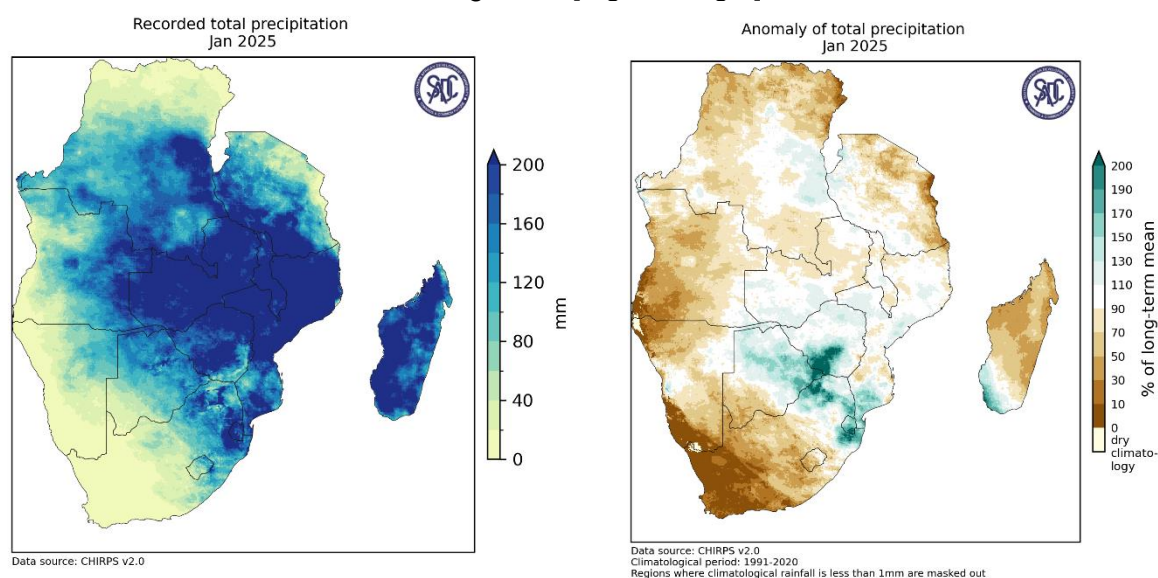


Figure 1: Observed rainfall (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for the month of January 2025

1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

Despite improvement in precipitation by comparison with the previous months, drought conditions defined by 12-month SPI (SPI-12), show that extremely dry conditions were still prevalent over most parts of the region, except within the central parts of the sub-region located in North South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and parts of Tanzania and Madagascar, [Figure 2 left].

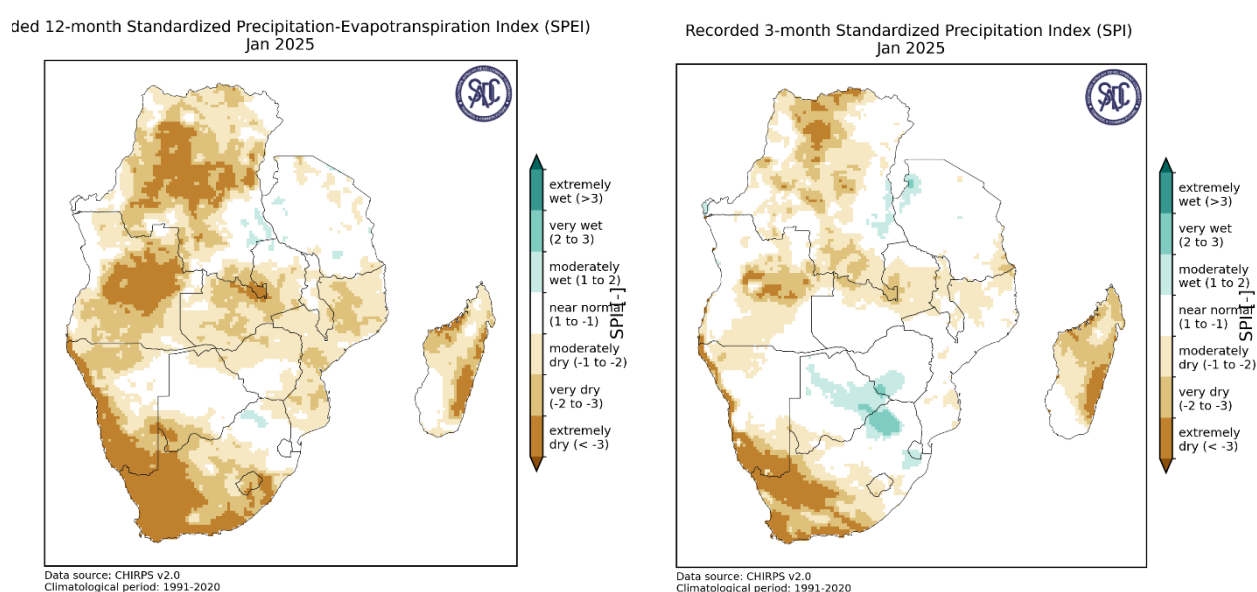


Figure 2: Drought assessment: SPI for 12-months (left) and 3-months SPI (right)

The recorded 3-month SPI shows that the recently recorded precipitation has improved considerably

the soil conditions mainly within parts of North South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, parts of Tanzania, and DRC, were moderately wet in January 2025. By contrast most of the region especially located on the western side of the region located in Western DRC, Angola, Namibia, most of South Africa, and most of Madagascar were moderately dry, [Figure 2 right].

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

Consecutive number of dry days ranging from 25 to 30 were recorded over isolated area of the subcontinent, located mainly within the central parts of the sub-continent, and the western Madagascar. The western fringe of the subcontinent located in southwest South Africa, west Namibia and southwest Angola recorded less than 2 days consecutive dry spells, whereas the rest of the region recorded dry days in the range of 2 to 8 days, [Figure 3].

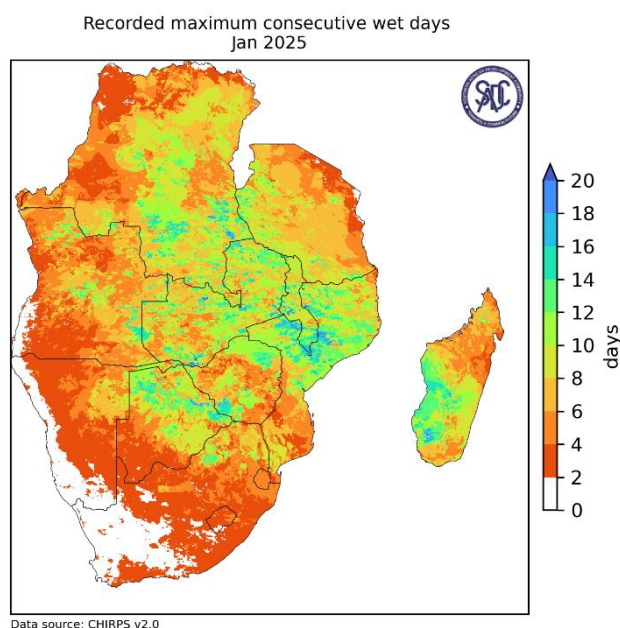


Figure 3: Dry spells prevalence during the month of January 2025

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

The whole subcontinent recorded no extreme precipitation in a single day period, in most of the western part of the sub-continent located in DRC, Angola, Namibia, Botswana and western South Africa. Within the rest of the region, mainly located within the countries in the east of the region recorded precipitation in the range of 25-50mm, [Figure 4].

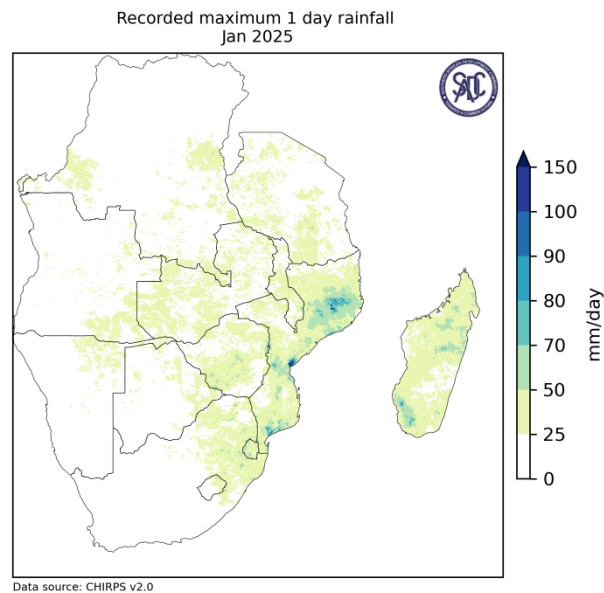


Figure 4: Maximum rainfall recorded over a one-day period during the month of January 2025

2. REGIONAL MONTHLY OUTLOOKS

2.1 Rainfall Outlook

For the month of February 2025, there is an increased probability for the above normal rainfall over most of the SADC region, except the central parts of DRC, eastern Angola, most of Tanzania, eastern Mozambique, fringes of east South Africa and most of Madagascar, where the probability of below normal rainfall is expected, [Figure 8].

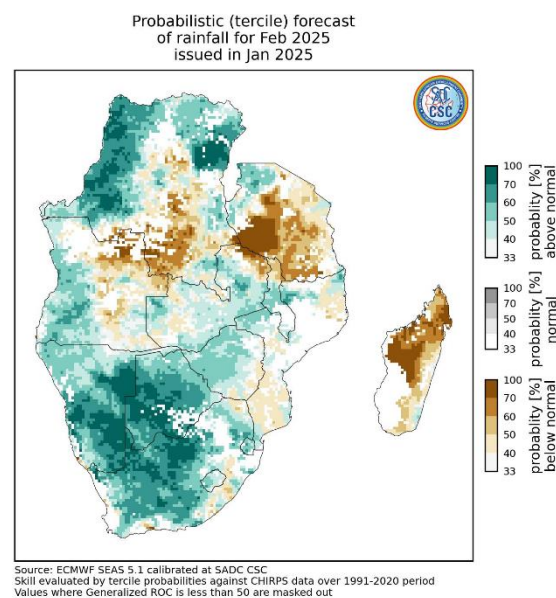


Figure 8: Rainfall probabilistic forecast for January 2025

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 may 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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