



Twenty-Eighth Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-28)

**Maputo, Mozambique
22 January – 2 February 2024**

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 BACKGROUND

This concept note outlines the background, objectives and expected results for a series of back-to-back events to be convened by SADC Secretariat in Maputo Mozambique 22 January to 2 February 2024, namely:

- The 28th Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-28);
- The 5th SADC ClimSA PMC sub-committee (steering committee) meeting; and
- The SADC Sub-sectoral Committee on Meteorology (SCOM) extraordinary session.

These events are financially supported by the European Union (EU) funded under the Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Application Programme (ClimSA)

1.1 SARCOF-28

The SADC Secretariat has been convening SARCOF meetings over the past 27 years, and starting in January 2024, the Secretariat, through its Climate Services Centre, is convening the Twenty-Eighth Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-28), which consists of the Climate Experts Meeting (CEM) and the Climate Outlook Forum. The CEM aims at building capacity on seasonal forecasting techniques for climate experts from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SADC region and ultimately co-produce the Regional Climate Outlook. This event will be a physical event.

As part of the Climate Outlook Forum, SADC-CSC will continue with the establishment of sector-specific regional user interface platforms (RUIPs) based on guidelines developed by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). A vital part of the ClimSA programme is “enhancing the interaction between users, researchers, and climate services providers at regional and national levels through UIPs”. SADC-CSC have been co-exploring user needs during previous SARCOF fora as well as through various SADC ClimSA activities and initiated the work with the RUIPs at SARCOF-27 in September 2023 in Mauritius. During this event, SADC-CSC promoted the RUIPs for the ClimSA priority sectors; the Water-Energy-Food nexus and cross-cutting Disaster Risk Reduction. The engagement with sector-specific users during SARCOF is expected to further strengthen engagement with stakeholders and 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.

Building on the above, SARCOF-28 Forum will continue the establishment of the sectoral RSUIPs, a set of co-production activities on climate monitoring products, and feedback and updates regarding the UIP Helpdesk and Community of Practice, which were introduced at SARCOF-27. This involves improved preparatory work with the sector focal points and continued engagement with RSUIPs participants between the fora.

The Forum will be conducted in hybrid format to allow a wider range of stakeholders to participate in the review and to benefit from the SARCOF products and community.

1.2 The 5th SADC PMC sub-committee meeting (Closed Sessions)

The function of the PMC sub-committee meeting is to:

- Overseeing the overall implementation of the SADC ClimSA programme;
- Agree on workplans for the programme; and
- Review implementation progress, activities and challenges.

In this regard, progress presentations and other relevant documents will be shared with the committee members prior to the meeting.

1.3 The extraordinary SCOM meeting (Closed Sessions)

The **Extraordinary SCOM** will be closed event where a separate Annotated Agenda will be prepared and shared with Committee members.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

The event aims to combine four key activities in the SADC ClimSA programme, namely:

- i. Conduct the CEM with experts from Member States National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS): 22-28 January 2024, physical meeting;
- ii. SARCOF-28, Climate outlook forum: 29-31 January 2024, hybrid meeting;
- iii. Convene the 5th SADC ClimSA PMC sub-committee (steering committee) meeting, 01 February 2024, hybrid meeting;
- iv. In addition, it is proposed that the extra-ordinary session on SCOM be convened on 01 (afternoon) and 02 February 2024.

By hosting these activities back-to-back, the event will make efficient use of resources for SADC Secretariat, the Member States, and the SADC ClimSA programme.

2.1 CEM specific objectives

- i. To review and verify the OND 2023 seasonal outlook issued during SARCOF-27 for SADC region and issue JFM 2024 seasonal climate forecasts;
- ii. To downscale the global climate output to regional and national level;
- iii. To discuss the status of global climate drivers and their likely impacts on the climate sensitive sectors within SADC region;
- iv. Generate Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons for the second half of the rainy season.

- v. To continue the improvement of SARCOF and its processes through the Objective Seasonal Forecast (OSF) and through lessons learned and enhancement needs identified through the SADC ClimSA programme.

2.2 Climate Outlook Forum specific objectives:

- i. To review and develop climate services for supporting regional resilience;
- ii. To review and discuss the impacts of the season's outlook on each sector;
- iii. To preview the potential impacts of the coming season based on the updated consensus outlook; and sectoral advisories;
- iv. Advance the establishment of regional sectoral UIPs (initiated at SARCOF-27) through the development of ToR for formally establishing these RSUIPs across the region
- v. Initiate the process of co-production of tailored climate monitoring products considering WEF and DRR sectoral needs identified as part of ClimSA program activities;
- vi. Continue stakeholder engagement initiated during previous SARCOFs under the ClimSA programme including progressing with other SADC CSC UIPs such as the Community of Practice and the Lunch and Learn sessions.

3.0 PARTICIPANTS FOR SARCOF-28

3.1 Participants for the CEM

Participants of CEM will be climate experts from the NMHSs of the SADC region, the SADC-CSC, and the ClimSA Technical Assistance team together with Experts from African regional Climate Centres (RCCs).

3.2 Participants for SARCOF-28

Participants to the Climate Outlook Forum will include climate users and producers, such as from research institutions / universities, regional and international governmental and non-governmental agencies, development partners, as well as other climate services stakeholders from regional and national institutions.

Participation is anticipated as follows:

- i. Climate Experts from the SADC Member States;
- ii. SADC Secretariat representatives, from CSC, DRR, FANR, Water, Energy, SHD, ORGAN, and CPRU;
- iii. National Users from key socio-economic sectors (such as agriculture, energy, water resources, health, disaster risk management, transport, and private sector);
- iv. EU Delegation in Botswana;
- v. ClimSA's Technical Partners such as World Meteorological Organization (WMO), EU-Joint Research Council (EU-JRC), Organisation for African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT);
- vi. African Union Commission;
- vii. United Nation agencies and other partners;
- viii. African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs); and
- ix. Global Producing Centres (GPCs).

4.0 EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

4.1 SARCOF-28

- i. Regional Climate Outlook from SARCOF-27 (OND 2023) reviewed.
- ii. Regional seasonal climate outlook for FMA and MAM 2024 produced and disseminated;
- iii. Strengthened regional UIPs with co-production techniques; and
- iv. Advisory and early warning bulletin co-produced and disseminated.

5.0 MEETING FORMAT

The events will be hosted by Mozambique's Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INAM) as follows:

- i. Climate Experts Meeting: 22 – 28 January 2024, **Physically**
- ii. SARCOF-28 Forum and dissemination: 29 – 31 January 2024, **Hybrid**
- iii. 5th PMC sub-committee (steering committee) meeting– 01 February 2024 (am) (**Closed Hybrid Sessions**)
- iv. SADC extra-ordinary SCOM Meeting on Meteorology (01 February (pm) - 02 February 2024) (**Closed Hybrid Sessions**)



ClimSA

INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Union

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