



THE THIRTY-FIRST SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-31)

**THEME: “CLOSING THE EARLY WARNING GAP TOGETHER WITHIN THE SADC
REGION”**

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 BACKGROUND

The SADC Secretariat has been convening the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) meetings over the past 28 years. The Secretariat, through its Climate Services Centre, is convening the Thirty-First Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-31), which will be preceded by a Climate Experts Meeting (CEM). The latter aims at building the capacity of climate experts from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SADC region. SARCOF-31 meetings are financially supported by the European Union (EU) funded under the SADC Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Application Programme (SADC ClimSA). The meeting will be held in Lusaka, Zambia from 11-22 August 2025. The CEM will be physical, and the Forum will be conducted in hybrid format thus enabling a wider range of stakeholders to participate in the meeting and benefit from the SARCOF products.

Within the framework of the SADC-ClimSA programme, SADC-CSC is also required to establish sector-specific regional user interface platforms (UIPs) based on WMO guidelines so as to promote effective decision-making. This is a vital part of Output 1 of the ClimSA project, enhancing the interaction between users, researchers, and climate services providers at regional and national levels through UIPs. As per the requirements of the SADC-ClimSA deliverables and in line with the WMO Global Framework for the Climate Services (GFCS), the SADC-CSC managed formalization of two (2) of the four (4) planned Regional Sectoral User Interface Platforms (RSUIPs) that is Agriculture and DRR RSUIPs while the Water and Energy sectors requested more time for further consultation with their user communities. The upcoming SARCOF will provide a further opportunity to formalize the Water and Energy sectoral RSUIPs. The engagement with sector-specific users during SARCOF is expected to further strengthened engagement with stakeholders and enhance co-production of early warning products in line with the aspirations of the SADC Early Warning for All Roadmap .

The SADC Secretariat through the Climate Service Centre is planning to conduct four key activities under the ClimSA programme which includes the Climate Expert Meeting, the Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-31), Showcasing of Climate Services, UK Wiser Southern Africa Programme meeting as well as validation of the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF SARCOF-31

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

- 1) Conduct the CEM: 01 – 07 September 2025
- 2) Validate the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System: 08 September 2025
- 3) SARCOF-31, Climate outlook forum: 08 - 11 September 2025
- 4) Launch the SADC CSC new website: 11 September 2025

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 The specific objectives of the training workshop for the SARCOF-31 Climate Experts are:

- (i). To review and verify the OND 2024 and JFM 2025 seasonal outlook issued during SARCOF-29 for the SADC region together with seasonal outlooks issued during SARCOF-30;
- (ii). Sectoral review and evaluate the impacts of the OND 2024 and JFM 2025 seasonal outlook;
- (iii). To downscale the global climate output to regional and national level;
- (iv). To discuss the status of projected global climate drivers and their likely impacts on the climate sensitive sectors within SADC region;
- (v). Generate Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons for the second half of the rainy season and,
- (vi). Issue OND 2025, NDJ 2025/26, DJF 2025/26 and JFM 2026 seasonal climate forecasts

2.2 The specific objectives of the Climate Outlook Forum are:

- (i). To review and verify the OND 2024 and JFM 2025 seasonal outlook issued during SARCOF-29 for the SADC region;
- (ii). Sectoral review and evaluate the impacts of the OND 2024 and JFM 2025 seasonal outlook;
- (iii). To preview the potential impacts of the coming season based on the consensus outlook; and Sectoral advisories
- (iv). Strengthen regional and national UIPs to enhance co-production of response guidance strategies for the WEF and the DRR sectors.

2.3 The specific objectives of the SADC ClimSA programme Climate Services:

- Present the climate change projections for the SADC region over the near, middle and far futures under different scenarios;
- Launch the new SADC CSC website; and
- Showcasing of developed new products and user tailored products and services.

2.4 Specific Objectives for the Validation of the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System:

- Present the draft Regional Multi-Hazard Monitoring Framework and Schematic Design of the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System;
- Present draft Tools and Instruments for Regional Early Warning Monitoring and Alerting;
- Present Data Sharing Instruments to support SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

2.5 The specific objectives of the UK WISER Southern Africa Programme – upcoming projects:

- Present the climate change projections for the SADC region over the near, middle and far futures under different scenarios;
- Launch the new SADC CSC website:
 - Showcasing of developed new products and user tailored products and services.

3.0 PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SADC SARCOF-31

3.1 Participants for the CEM and SARCOF-31

Participants for CEM will include climate prediction experts from the National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the SADC region and the SADC-CSC team. The SARCOF-31 forum will also include climate scientists from universities, research institutions, as well as regional and international user's organizations. Various regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and development partners will also attend.

Participants will include:

- (i). Climate Experts from the SADC Member States
- (ii). SADC Secretariat Directorate representatives, from DRR, FANR, Water, Energy, SHD, ORGAN, and PRU.
- (iii). National Users from different key socio-economic areas (e.g., agriculture, energy, water resources, health, disaster risk management, transport, and private sector)
- (iv). EU Delegation Botswana
- (v). World Meteorological Organization
- (vi). African Union Commission
- (vii). United Nations agencies and other partners
- (viii). Other Regional Climate Centers (RCCs)
- (ix). Global Producing Centers (GPCs)

3.2 Participants for SADC ClimSA programme Climate Services meeting:

- (i). Climate Experts from the SADC Member States NMHSs;
- (ii). SADC Secretariat Directorate representatives, from DRR, FANR, Water, Energy, SHD, ORGAN, and PRU;
- (iii). National Users from different key socio-economic areas (e.g., agriculture, energy, water resources, health, disaster risk management, transport, and private sector) and;
- (iv). ClimSA Technical Partners: WMO, JRC, EUMETSAT and OACPS Secretariat.

3.3 Participants for UK Wiser Southern Africa Programme meeting

- (i). NMHS Directors from all SADC Member States.
- (ii). SADC Secretariat Director of Infrastructure

- (iii). SADC CSC

4.0 EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

4.1 CEM and SARCOF-31

- (i). Regional Climate Outlook from SARCOF-29 (OND 2024 and JFM 2025) reviewed;
- (ii). Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons for the 2025/26 rainfall season generated and disseminated;
- (iii). Strengthened regional and national UIPs with co-production techniques; and
- (iv). Advisory and early warning bulletin produced and disseminated;

4.2 SADC ClimSA programme Climate Services meeting

- (i). Climate Services produced by the SADC ClimSA programme showcased to users, and;
- (ii). SADC CSC new website launched.

4.3 SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System:

- (i). Regional Multi-Hazard Monitoring Framework and Schematic Design of the SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System validated;
- (ii). Capacity to use Tools and Instruments for Regional Early Warning Monitoring and Alerting developed.
- (iii). Agreement on Data Sharing Instruments to support SADC Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

4.4 The UK Wiser Southern Africa Programme meeting

- (i) UK WISER Southern Africa programme explained
- (ii) Regional projects specific to the SADC region detailed
- (iii) Projects implementation plan co-developed

5.0 MEETING FORMAT

The SARCOF-31 Forum will be conducted in a hybrid format and all other events will be conducted physically and will be hosted by a hotel in Lusaka, Zambia yet to be identified as follows:

- i. Training workshop for the Climate Experts: 01 – 07 September 2025
- ii. SARCOF-31 Forum and dissemination: 08 – 11 September 2025
- iii. Convene the SADC ClimSA Climate Services meeting: 11 August 2025

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