



## **THIRTY-SECOND SOUTHERN AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-32) 28 – 30 January 2026**

**MBABANE, ESWATINI**

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

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

As part of its mandate the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) generates and disseminates meteorological, environmental and hydro-meteorological products. These products make valuable contribution to increasing the region's disaster preparedness for an efficient management of weather and climate-induced disasters. The CSC also trains Climate Experts from National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in climate prediction and the user communities in the application of climate products and services for optimum socio-economic development which is highly sensitive to vagaries of weather and climate.

The SADC-CSC will conduct two key activities in Mbabane, Eswatini under the ClimSA programme which includes the Climate Expert Meeting, the Southern African Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-32). Hosting these activities back-to-back will make efficient use of resources for SADC Secretariat, the Member States, and the UK WISER programme.

These events will be conducted as per below:

- i. **Climate Experts Meeting: 19 – 23 January 2026, (Tentatively Online);**
- ii. **Climate Experts Meeting: 26 – 27 January 2026, (Physical);**
- iii. **SARCOF-30 Forum, 28 – 30 January 2026, (Hybrid);**

As a region, SADC organizes annually the Southern African Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF), to ensure detection of climate variability for the rainy season, so as to support climate driven decision making for policy and operational users. The theme for SARCOF-30 **“CLOSING THE EARLY WARNING GAP TOGETHER IN SADC REGION”** is coined from the WMO World Meteorological Day theme for 2025 which is **“CLOSING THE EARLY WARNING GAP TOGETHER”**. Since SARCOF looks mostly on the Climate and its implications and impacts, more emphasis is put on the climate variability of the upcoming season and its implications on Water, Agriculture (crop and livestock), Health, Energy and DRR amongst others.

SARCOF-32 is being supported through the United Kingdom (UK) Met Office **Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER)** programme.

#### **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SARCOF 32**

The events aim at producing the forecast for the 2025 rainfall season. This will improve the contribution of all the NMHSs to the early warning and disaster preparedness. It will also inform better management of hydro-graphical basin and power dams.

**The specific objectives of the training workshop for the Climate Experts are:**

- (i). To review and verify the OND 2025 seasonal climate forecasts produced in August 2025 for SADC region;
- (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 FMA, MAM and AMJ 2026;
- (v). To continue implementation of the Objective Seasonal Forecast (OSF) approaches through lessons learned and enhancement needs identified through the SADC ClimSA programme.

**The specific objectives of the Climate Users Forum are:**

- (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). Strengthen regional UIPs to enhance co-development of response guidance strategies for sectors especially the WEF.

### **3. PARTICIPANTS FOR THE EVENTS**

#### **3.1 CEM and SARCOF-32**

Participants for SARCOF-32 will include climate prediction experts from the National Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the SADC region, 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 representatives from Infrastructure Directorate including Meteorology, CSC, Water, Energy, Transport, ICT and representatives from FANR, DRR 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). World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (v). African Union Commission (AUC)
- (vi). United Nation agencies and other partners
- (vii). Other Regional Climate Centers (RCCs)
- (viii). Global Producing Centers (GPCs)

## **4. EXPECTED KEY RESULTS**

### **4.1 CEM and SARCOF-32**

- (i). Regional Climate Outlook from SARCOF-31 (OND 2025) reviewed;
- (ii). Regional seasonal climate outlook for the overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons for second half of rainy season of 2025/2026 for FMA, MAM and AMJ 2026 generated.
- (iii). Increased adoption and implementation of climate services and tools across SADC;
- (iv). Strengthened regional UIPs with co-production techniques;
- (v). Advisory and early warning bulletin generated and disseminated;
- (vi). Strengthened collaboration with regional stakeholders; and
- (vii). Enhanced understanding of Anticipatory Action and Impact-Based Forecasting at the Seasonal timescales.

## **5. MEETING FORMAT**

The training workshop for the Climate Experts will be conducted physically, SARCOF-32 Climate Users Platform Forum and dissemination will be conducted in a hybrid format. Both events will be held in Eswatini from 26 – 30 January 2026 as follows:

- (i). Climate Experts Meeting: 26 – 27 January 2026. (Tentatively Online)
- (ii). Climate Experts Meeting: 26 – 27 January 2026. (Physical)
- (iii). SARCOF-32: 28 – 30 January 2026 (Hybrid).

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