



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

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A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **The rainfall during December:** During December 2025, rainfall across the SADC region was highly variable, with dry conditions dominating western areas, including Angola, Namibia, and western South Africa. Moderate to significant rainfall (120–200 mm) was recorded across central parts of the region, while isolated heavy rainfall exceeding 300 mm occurred in parts of the DRC, Zambia, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar. Rainfall anomalies indicated mixed conditions, with above-normal rainfall concentrated in northern areas and below-normal conditions prevailing across several western and south-western regions.
- **Drought monitoring:** During December 2025, soil moisture conditions across the SADC region showed marked spatial variability across both long- and short-term timescales. Dry to very dry conditions prevailed over parts of northern DRC, western Angola, the western fringes of Namibia, south-western South Africa, and central to northern Madagascar, with additional short-term dryness evident in central DRC and southern Madagascar. In contrast, wetter soil moisture conditions were confined to isolated areas, mainly in northern Mozambique, central Malawi, northern South Africa, central Namibia, north-eastern Botswana, and northern Madagascar, with additional pockets near the Botswana–South Africa border and parts of eastern DRC and northern Angola. Most of the remaining areas of the subcontinent experienced near-normal soil moisture conditions.
- **Dry days:** During December 2025, dry spell conditions across the SADC region showed strong spatial contrasts. Prolonged dry spells lasting between 24 and 30 consecutive days were concentrated along the western fringes of the subcontinent, particularly near the west coast of Angola, Namibia, and south-western South Africa, with similar extended dry conditions also observed in parts of northern Tanzania. Moderate dry spell durations occurred in central Tanzania, southern Mozambique, northern DRC, and central South Africa, while most of the remaining areas of the region experienced short dry spells of less than 10 days.
- **The minimum temperature anomalies:** During December 2025, mean minimum temperatures across the SADC region showed marked spatial contrasts, with the lowest values observed over the interior of South Africa and Lesotho, while warmer conditions prevailed across much of the subcontinent, particularly in eastern regions and along coastal areas. Temperature anomalies were predominantly positive across large parts of the region, with the strongest warming observed in western Namibia, western South Africa, western Tanzania, and parts of Madagascar. Most of the

remaining areas experienced near-normal conditions, with only isolated pockets of below-normal minimum temperatures recorded in Botswana and north-eastern DRC.

➤ **Maximum temperatures anomalies:**

➤ During December 2025, mean maximum temperatures across the SADC region were generally high, with most areas recording values between 28 °C and 36 °C, while relatively cooler conditions prevailed over central Angola, eastern DRC, parts of Zambia and Malawi, the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe, south-eastern South Africa, and central Madagascar. The highest mean maximum temperatures were observed over southern Namibia and western South Africa. Maximum temperature anomalies were predominantly positive across much of the subcontinent, although negative anomalies were recorded across parts of eastern Namibia, Botswana, the eastern half of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and isolated areas of south-eastern Madagascar.

➤ **Day and nighttime heat waves:** During December 2025, heatwave conditions across the SADC region showed marked spatial contrasts between daytime and night-time events. Prolonged daytime heatwaves lasting around 21 days were concentrated mainly over the northern parts of the subcontinent, including northern Namibia, Angola, the DRC, and Tanzania, with shorter-duration events recorded in western South Africa and parts of Madagascar. Night-time heatwaves were more widespread, affecting much of the northern half of the subcontinent and central Madagascar, with an additional persistent pocket in western Tanzania. In contrast, much of the southern half of the region experienced little to no heatwave activity.

➤ **Rainfall and temperature outlook for February 2026:**

For February 2026, rainfall and temperature outlooks indicate contrasting but largely wetter and warmer conditions across much of the SADC region. An increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall is forecast over central parts of the subregion, including most of the DRC, Zambia, large parts of southern Mozambique, eastern Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, while below-normal rainfall is expected mainly over the western parts of the subcontinent, much of Tanzania, and the northern tip of Mozambique. Temperature outlooks indicate a strong signal for above-normal conditions across most of the region, including nearly all of Madagascar, with only limited areas — particularly in eastern Namibia and parts of northern South Africa and Botswana — expected to experience near- to below-normal temperatures.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During December 2025, rainfall distribution across the SADC region was highly variable. The northernmost parts of the region, including northern DRC and parts of Tanzania, as well as the southernmost areas of Madagascar, experienced moderate to poor rainfall. Total monthly accumulations were generally below 100 mm, with some locations receiving near 30 mm or less. The western fringes of the region, particularly in Angola, accumulated near-zero rainfall. Similarly, most western parts of Namibia and the western half of South Africa recorded little to no accumulated precipitation. The central parts of the SADC region — covering most of Angola, the southern half of the DRC, much of Tanzania, Botswana, the north-western half of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique — accumulated rainfall in the range of 120–200 mm during December 2025. Localised areas of heavy rainfall accumulation exceeding 300 mm were observed in isolated parts of the DRC, central Zambia, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar [Figure 1, left].

Rainfall anomaly patterns indicated markedly above-normal conditions over the northern DRC, north-western Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and much of northern Madagascar, excluding coastal areas of the island. Above-normal rainfall was also recorded in eastern Namibia, isolated areas within Namibia, and northern South Africa. Conversely, below-normal rainfall anomalies were observed across most of Angola, the western fringes of Namibia, south-western South Africa, the northern tip of Madagascar, and isolated parts of the region, including much of Zimbabwe, parts of north-eastern Zambia, and central DRC. Many isolated areas recorded near-neutral anomalies [Figure 1, right].

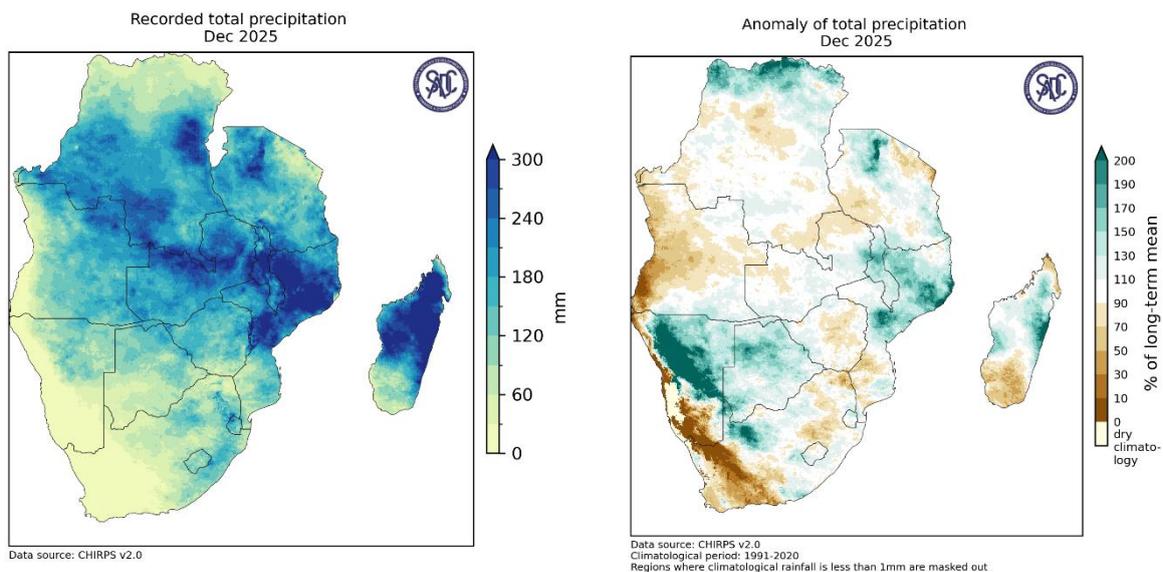


Figure 1: Observed rainfall (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for the month of December 2025.

1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

During December 2025, long-term soil moisture conditions, as reflected by the 12-month Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), indicated moderately to severely dry conditions across parts of northern DRC, western Angola, the western fringes of Namibia, south-western South Africa, and much of central and northern Madagascar. Near-normal conditions prevailed across large portions of the region, including southern DRC, eastern Angola, most of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, eastern South Africa, and parts of south-western and eastern Madagascar. Isolated areas of moderately to very wet soil moisture conditions were observed in

parts of northern Mozambique, near the Botswana–South Africa border, southern Zimbabwe, northern Angola, Malawi, and eastern DRC [Figure 2, left].

Shorter-term soil moisture conditions, based on the 3-month SPI, showed dry to very dry conditions across the western fringes of Angola and Namibia, parts of central DRC, southern and south-western South Africa, and southern Madagascar. Near-normal soil moisture conditions were observed across much of the subcontinent, particularly over central areas of the SADC region, including most of the DRC, Zambia, eastern Angola, parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Tanzania, and central Madagascar. Moderately wet to very wet conditions were recorded in northern Mozambique, parts of north-eastern Botswana, central Malawi, northern South Africa, central Namibia, and northern Madagascar [Figure 2, right].

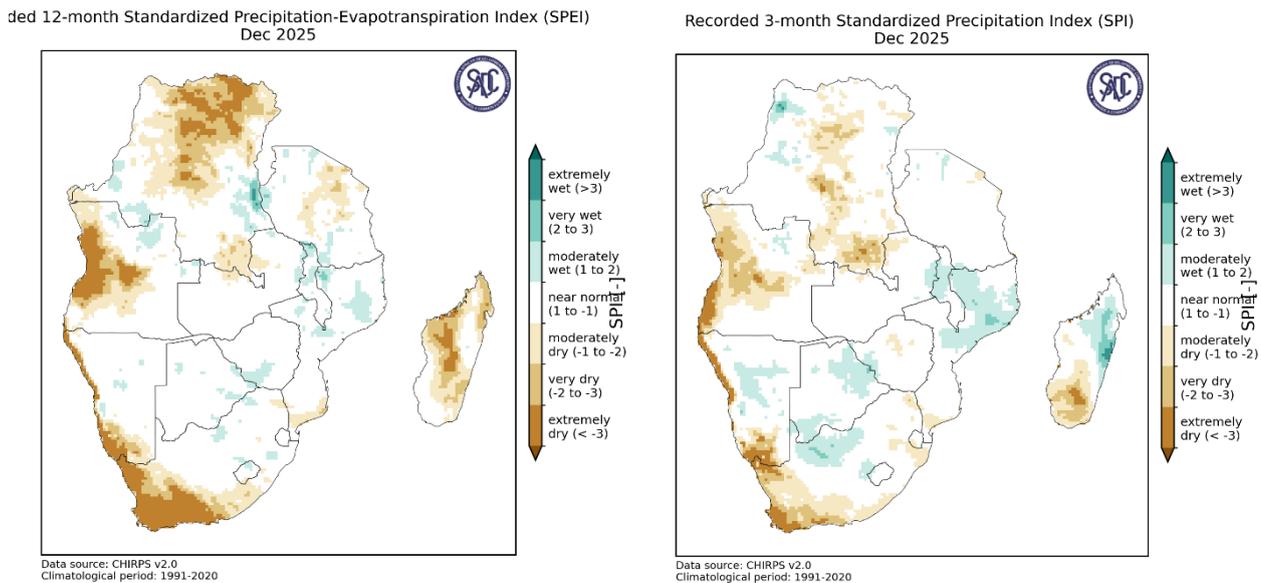


Figure 2: Drought assessment: SPI for 12-months (left) and 3-months SPI (right).

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

A prolonged spell of dry conditions, lasting between 24 and 30 consecutive days, was observed along the western fringes of the subcontinent, particularly near the west coast of Angola, Namibia, and south-western South Africa. Similar prolonged dry spells were also recorded in parts of northern Tanzania. Shorter dry spells, ranging from 0 to 9 days, were recorded across much of the SADC region, including most of the southern third of the DRC, western Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, northern Mozambique, eastern Angola and Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, north-eastern South Africa, and most of Madagascar. Dry spells ranging from 12 to 21 days were observed in central Tanzania, southern Mozambique, northern DRC, and central South Africa, [Figure 3].

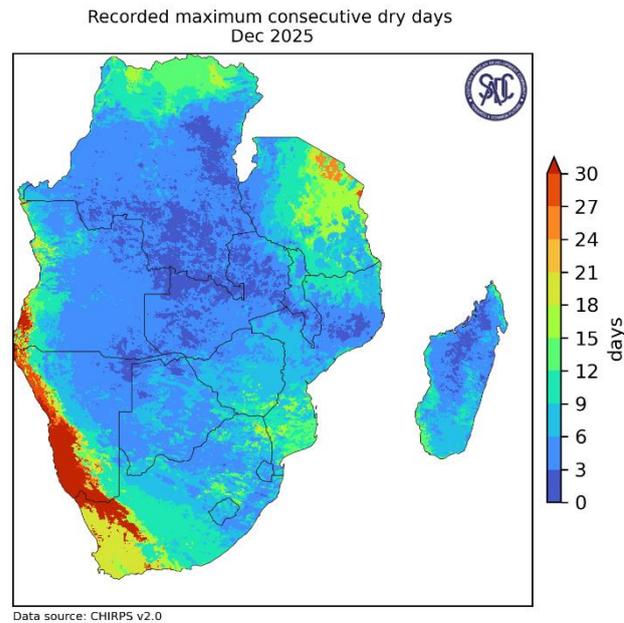


Figure 3: Dry spells prevalence during the month of December 2025.

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

Most of the subcontinent did not experience extreme single-day precipitation events during December 2025, with large areas, including much of Madagascar, recording little to no rainfall. Substantial daily rainfall totals ranging from 25 to 50 mm were recorded across much of the southern third of the DRC, most of Tanzania, parts of central Zambia, north-eastern South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Isolated areas in Mozambique and Madagascar recorded daily rainfall totals of around 70 mm.

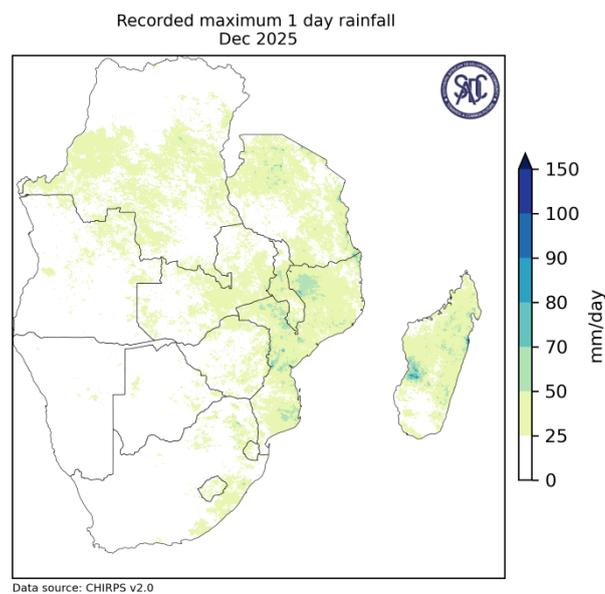


Figure 4: Maximum rainfall recorded over a one-day period during the month of December 2025.

2. REGIONAL TEMPERATURE

2.1 Minimum Temperature

In December 2025, the lowest mean minimum temperatures, reaching around 4 °C, were observed over much of the interior of South Africa and Lesotho, whereas the bulk of the SADC region — covering most of the DRC, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Madagascar — recorded mean minimum temperatures in the range of 20 to 23 °C. The eastern parts of the subcontinent, including southern Tanzania, Malawi, most of Mozambique, and the west coast of Madagascar, recorded mean minimum temperatures above 23 °C [Figure 5, left].

Mean minimum temperature anomalies were predominantly positive across large parts of the subcontinent, including southern and north-western Madagascar, with western Namibia, western South Africa, and western Tanzania recording the highest positive anomalies of around 3 °C. Other areas within the region also observed positive anomalies of about 2 °C, including southern parts of the DRC, eastern Angola, central Mozambique, parts of South Africa, and eastern Madagascar. The rest of the region recorded near-neutral anomalies, while negative anomalies of around 1.5 °C were recorded in isolated areas of Botswana and north-eastern DRC [Figure 5, right].

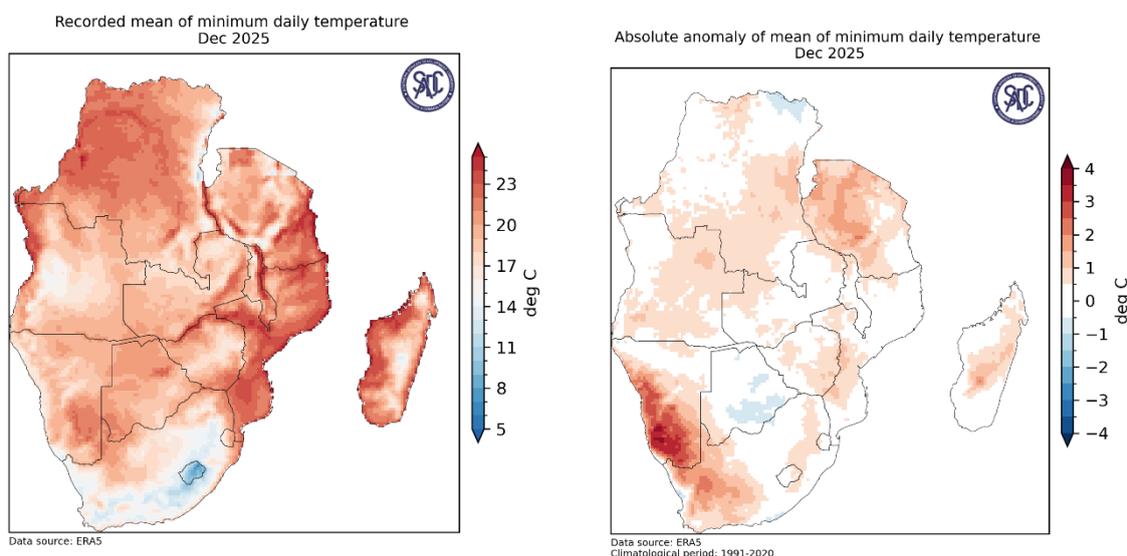


Figure 5: Observed average minimum temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for December 2025.

2.2 Maximum Temperature

In December 2025, mean maximum temperatures across most of the subcontinent ranged between 28 °C and 36 °C, covering much of the region, except for central Angola, eastern DRC, parts of Zambia and Malawi, the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe, south-eastern South Africa, and central Madagascar, where temperatures of around 24 °C were recorded. Mean maximum temperatures were particularly high over southern Namibia and western South Africa [Figure 6, left].

Maximum temperature anomalies during December 2025 were predominantly positive across much of the subcontinent, including isolated areas within Madagascar, with anomalies reaching up to about +3 °C. In contrast, negative anomalies of up to about -3 °C were recorded over parts of eastern Namibia, Botswana, the eastern half of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and isolated areas of south-eastern Madagascar.

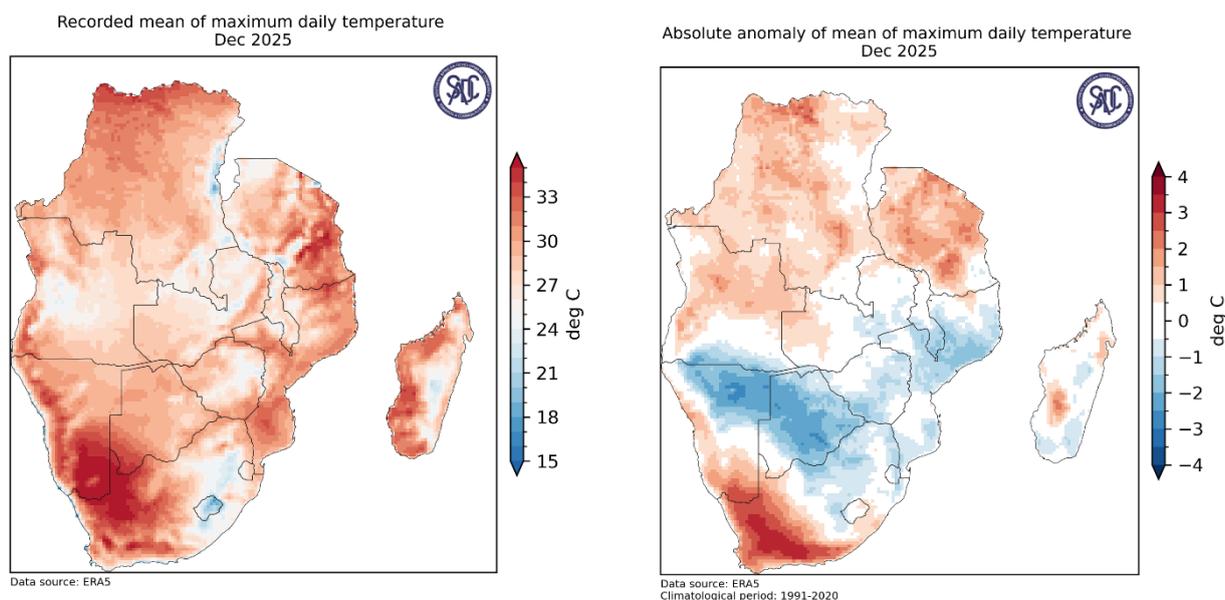


Figure 6: Observed maximum average temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for December 2025.

2.3 Heatwaves

During December 2025, prolonged daytime heatwaves lasting around 21 days were recorded across several parts of the region, particularly over the northern parts of the subcontinent, including northern Namibia, Angola, the DRC, and Tanzania. Additional isolated heatwave events lasting between 12 and 18 days were recorded in western South Africa and parts of Madagascar. The rest of the region, mainly located in the south-eastern parts of the subcontinent — including Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, southern Namibia, South Africa, and parts of Madagascar — did not record significant daytime heatwave conditions [Figure 7, left].

Night-time heatwaves were more widespread, occurring across much of the northern half of the subcontinent and central Madagascar, with durations of around 21 days. An isolated area of persistent night-time heatwaves was also observed in western Tanzania. The rest of the region, mainly across the southern half of the subcontinent, did not record notable night-time heatwave conditions [Figure 7, right].

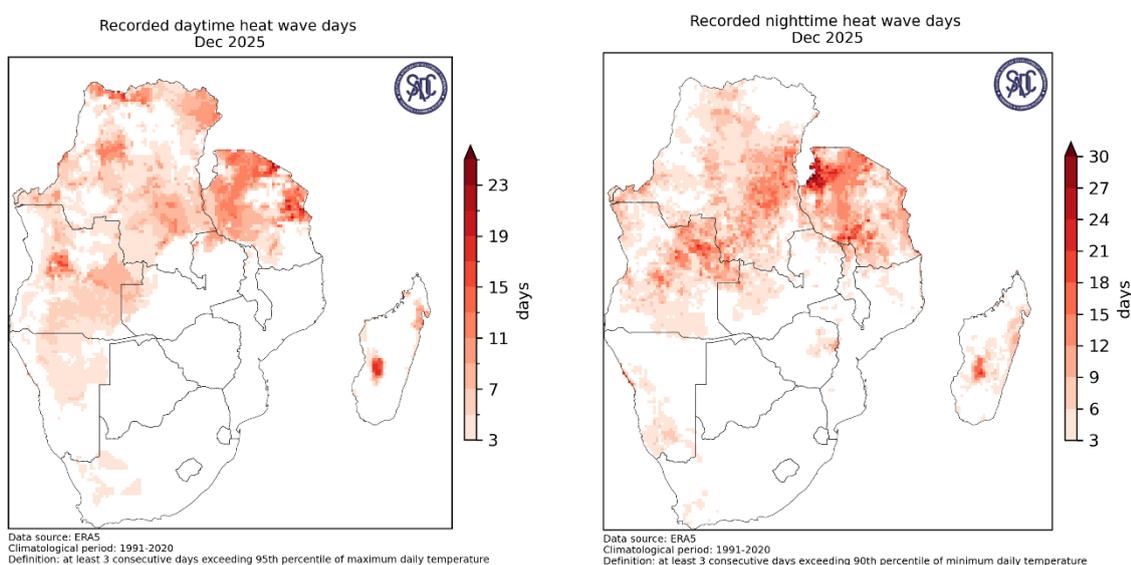


Figure 7: Heatwaves detected during the month of December 2025

3. REGIONAL MONTHLY OUTLOOKS

3.1 Rainfall Outlook

An increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall is forecast for February 2026 across much of the central parts of the subregion, including most of the DRC, Zambia, large parts of the southern third of Mozambique, eastern Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Near-normal rainfall conditions are expected in isolated areas, mainly across parts of the DRC, northern Angola, parts of Tanzania, and southern Madagascar. In contrast, below-normal rainfall is forecast for the northern tip of Mozambique, much of Tanzania, central DRC, and the western side of the subcontinent, including western Angola, western South Africa, and western Namibia [Figure 8].

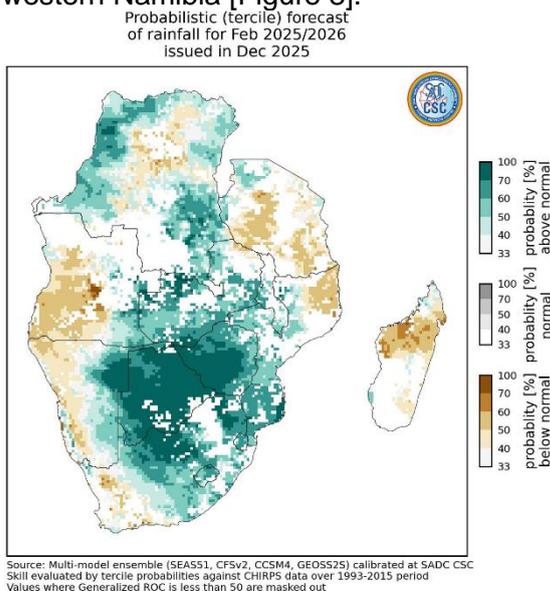


Figure 8: Rainfall probabilistic forecast for February 2026

3.2 Temperature Outlook

Above-normal temperatures are forecast to prevail across the bulk of the SADC region during February 2026, including nearly the entire island of Madagascar. The strongest signal for warmer-than-normal conditions is expected across much of the region, while pockets of near- to below-normal temperatures are forecast in limited areas, particularly in eastern Namibia and parts of northern South Africa and Botswana [Figure 9].

Probabilistic (tercile) forecast
of mean temperature for Feb 2025/2026
issued in Dec 2025

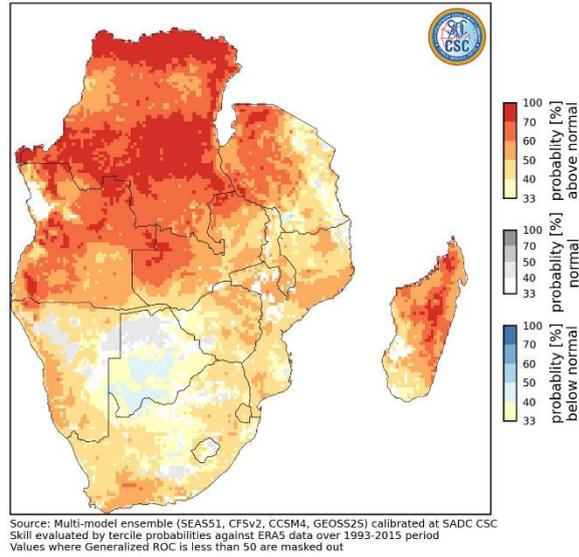


Figure 9: Temperature probabilistic forecast for February 2026

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 October 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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