



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

CLIMATE SERVICES CENTRE (SADC-CSC)

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INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME



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BENEFICIARIES



A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **The rainfall during October:** In October 2025, heavy rainfall above 160 mm was limited to northern DRC, northern Angola, northern Tanzania and northeastern South Africa, while most of the region, including Madagascar, remained dry. Anomalies showed above-normal rainfall in central South Africa, southern Botswana, northeastern Namibia and northern Tanzania, with much of the eastern and southern parts of the region staying very dry.
- **Drought monitoring:** In October 2025, severe drought persisted across northern DRC, central Angola, western Namibia, southwestern South Africa, and large parts of central and northern Madagascar, while only small border areas between DRC and Tanzania and around Zimbabwe–Botswana–South Africa experienced wetter conditions. Most central areas of the region remained close to normal, but much of the surrounding region, including Madagascar, continued to face moderate to very dry conditions.
- **Dry days:** Dry conditions persisted widely in October 2025, with prolonged spells of 20–30 consecutive dry days affecting southwest South Africa, western Namibia and Angola, as well as much of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, eastern Zambia and Madagascar. Shorter dry periods occurred in the DRC, northern Tanzania, northern Angola and parts of South Africa, while central areas including South Africa, Botswana, eastern Angola and western Zambia experienced moderate dry spells lasting 15–18 days.
- **The minimum temperature anomalies:** In October 2025, very low minimum temperatures of around 4°C were confined to interior South Africa, Lesotho, western Namibia, eastern Zimbabwe and parts of central Madagascar, while most of the subcontinent remained above 20°C. Temperature anomalies were mostly warmer than normal across the region, with notable cooler-than-normal conditions in northern Zambia and isolated areas of South Africa.
- **Maximum temperatures anomalies:** In October 2025, mean maximum temperatures of 26–36°C dominated most of the subcontinent, while cooler conditions of 20–26°C appeared mainly in South Africa, eastern Madagascar and isolated parts of Tanzania, Angola and northeastern DRC. Temperature anomalies were mostly warmer than normal—reaching above +5°C in central DRC—with pockets of cooler-than-normal conditions in western Angola, western Namibia, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania.
- **Day and nighttime heat waves:** In October 2025, central DRC experienced prolonged heat stress, with daytime heatwaves lasting up to 24 days and night-time heatwaves reaching about 30 days, while only short heatwave episodes occurred in isolated areas of Angola, Namibia, Tanzania,

Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar; the rest of the region recorded no significant heatwaves.

- **Rainfall and temperature outlook for November:** Above-normal rainfall is likely in November 2025 across several isolated areas of the SADC region, including parts of the DRC, Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa and all of Madagascar, while most of Mozambique and scattered areas elsewhere are expected to remain near normal. Temperatures are forecast to be above normal across most of the region, with the strongest signal over northern Namibia, Angola and the DRC, although eastern areas—mainly in Mozambique—and isolated parts of Madagascar may experience below-normal temperatures.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During October 2025, substantial rainfall of above 160mm was observed over the northernmost parts of the SADC region, particularly across most of the DRC, northern Angola, the northernmost fringe of Tanzania, and within northeastern parts of the Republic of South Africa. The rest of the region, including the island of Madagascar remained generally dry, despite the existence of isolated areas of occurrence of accumulated precipitation of about 60mm, [Figure 1, left].

Rainfall anomalies for October indicate markedly above normal conditions within large parts of central South Africa, south of Botswana, northeast of Namibia and the northern fringes of Tanzania. Near normal conditions were observed in isolated areas, mostly covering DRC, Angola, South Africa, Namibia, western Zambia and Botswana. The rest of the region, particularly the eastern parts of the region, most of the southern tip of the continent, the western fringes of Namibia and Angola, and Madagascar remain very dry, [Figure 1, right].

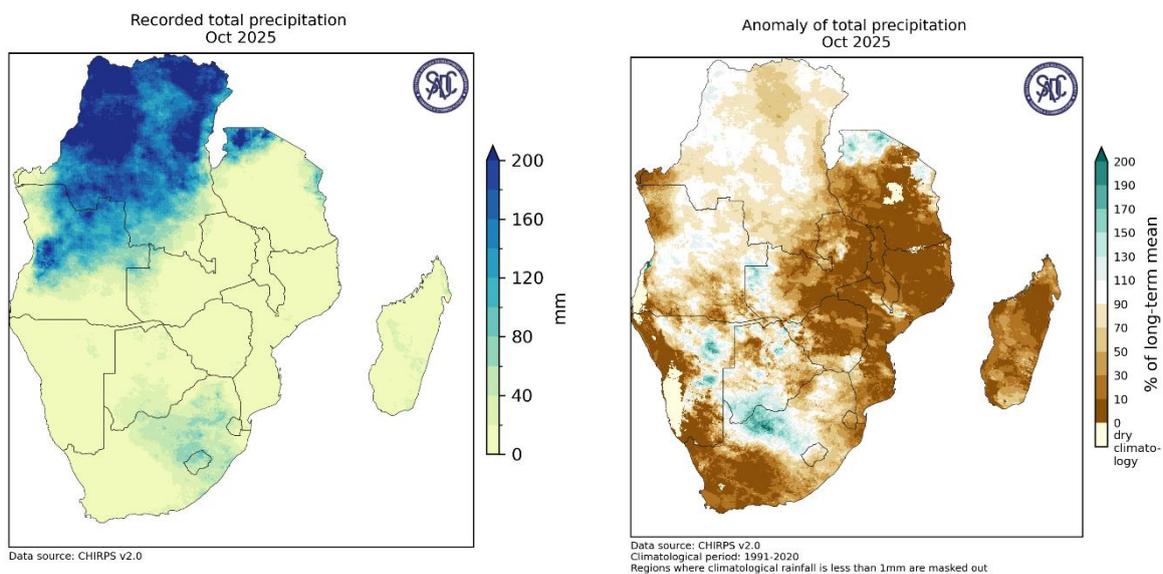


Figure 1: Observed rainfall (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for the month of October 2025.

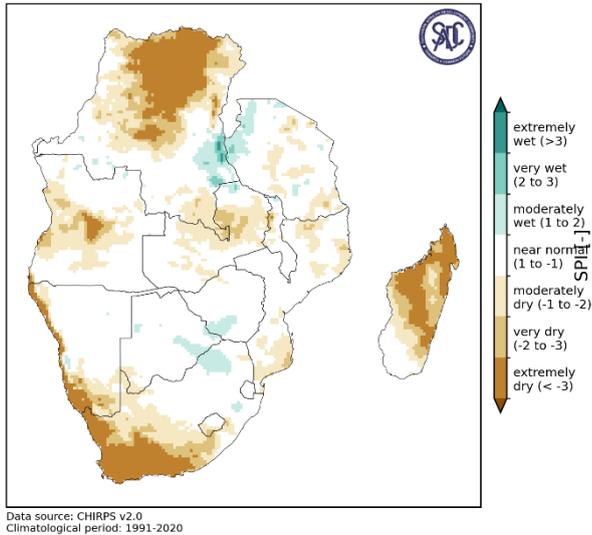
1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

During October 2025, the 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-12) indicated severely dry conditions across the northern parts of the DRC, central Angola, the western fringes of Namibia, southwestern South Africa, and most of central and northern Madagascar. Moderately wet to very wet conditions were recorded in the DRC and Tanzania, particularly near the border between the two countries, as well as near the border region of Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. The rest of the region, including the southern tip of Madagascar, experienced near-normal conditions [Figure 2, left].

The 3-month SPI (SPI-3) revealed near-normal conditions across most central areas of the region, including much of South Africa, eastern Namibia, Botswana, western Zambia, most of Angola, the northern fringes of Tanzania, and parts of western and eastern DRC. The rest of the region, including the island of Madagascar, ranged from moderately dry to very dry conditions [Figure 2, right].

ded 12-month Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)
Oct 2025



Recorded 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Oct 2025

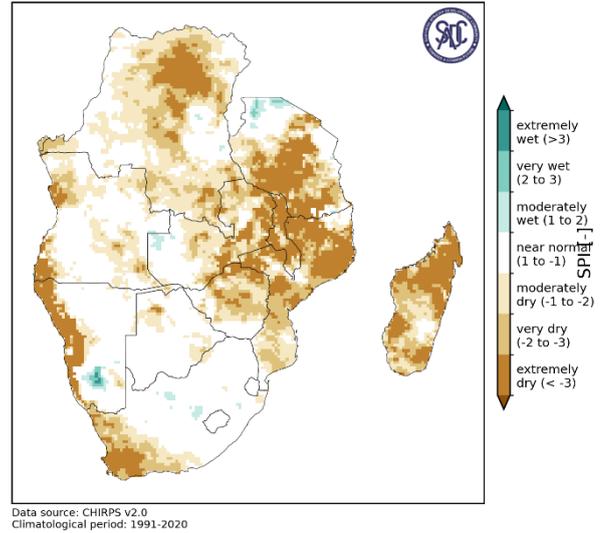


Figure 2: Drought assessment: SPI for 12-months (left) and 3-months SPI (right).

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

A prolonged spell of dry conditions lasting between 20 and 30 consecutive days was recorded across the western parts of the subcontinent, including southwest South Africa, the western fringes of Namibia and Angola, and the eastern side of the region covering most of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, eastern Zambia and much of Madagascar. In contrast, short-term dry periods of 0 to 6 days were observed across much of the DRC, the northernmost part of Tanzania, the northern half of Angola, and isolated areas of South Africa. Additionally, dry periods of approximately 15 to 18 days occurred in isolated areas across the region, mainly within the central parts of the subcontinent, including portions of central South Africa, Botswana, eastern Angola and western Zambia [Figure 3].

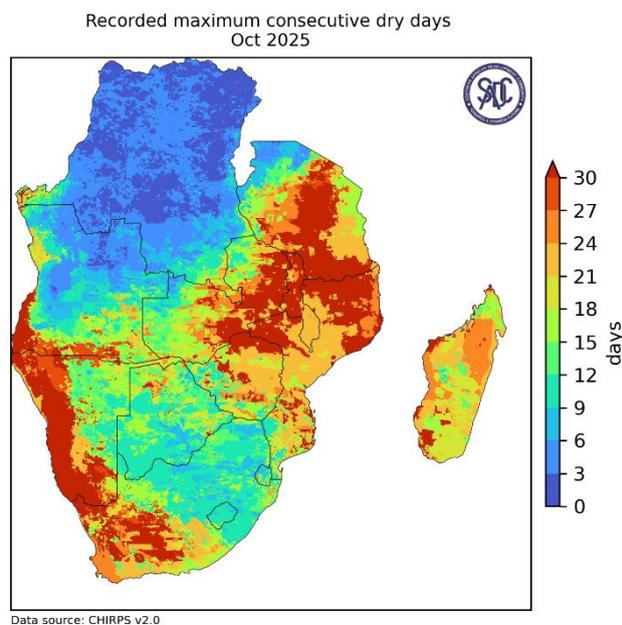


Figure 3: Dry spells prevalence during the month of October 2025.

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

Most of the subcontinent did not record any extreme precipitation events over a single day during the month of October 2025. Most of the sub-continent including the island of Madagascar recorded almost near null precipitation in October 2025. However, highest rainfall in a single day of near 25-50 mm were recorded in isolated areas within most of the northwestern DRC, within isolated parts of Angola, South Africa and Tanzania, [Figure 4].

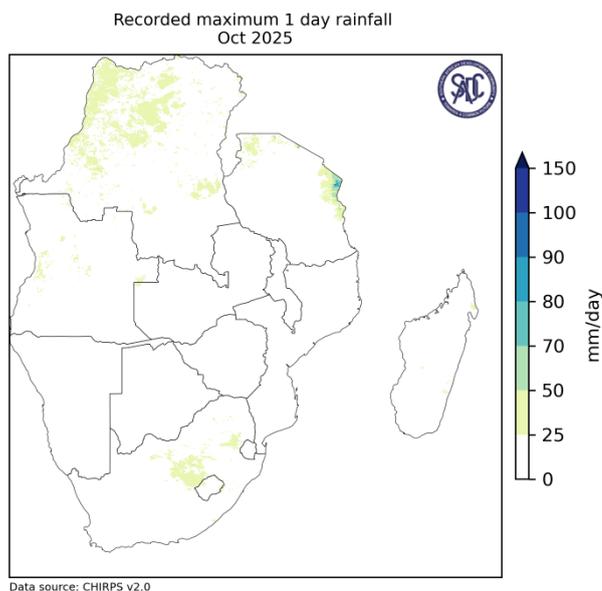


Figure 4: Maximum rainfall recorded over a one-day period during the month of October 2025.

2. REGIONAL TEMPERATURE

2.1 Minimum Temperature

In October 2025, the lowest mean minimum temperatures, reaching around 4°C, were observed across much of interior South Africa, Lesotho, the western fringes of Namibia, eastern Zimbabwe and parts of central Madagascar. The rest of the subcontinent recorded mean minimum temperatures above 20°C [Figure 5, left].

Mean minimum temperature anomalies were predominantly positive across most parts of the subcontinent, including much of western Madagascar, the bulk of the DRC, Tanzania, Angola, eastern Namibia, western Botswana, and parts of Mozambique and South Africa. Negative anomalies of about -4°C were recorded across northern Zambia and in isolated parts of South Africa, while near-zero anomalies were scattered across the region [Figure 5, right].

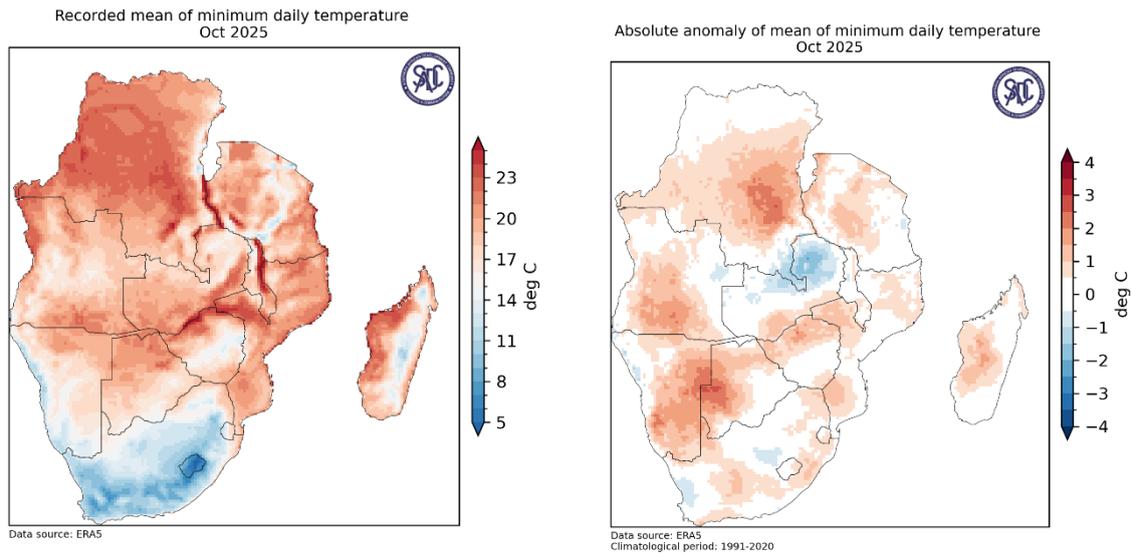


Figure 5: Observed average minimum temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for October 2025.

2.2 Maximum Temperature

Recorded mean maximum temperatures across the region in October 2025 ranged from 26°C to 36°C over most of the subcontinent, including central DRC, central Tanzania, much of Mozambique, western Madagascar, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and western Zimbabwe. In contrast, lower maximum temperatures of 20°C to 26°C were observed in the southernmost parts of the region—particularly in South Africa, eastern Madagascar and isolated areas of Tanzania, western Angola and northeastern DRC [Figure 6, left].

Maximum temperature anomalies in October 2025 were predominantly positive across the subcontinent, including much of Madagascar, where values reached up to +3°C. Negative anomalies of about -2°C were recorded over much of western Angola, the western fringes of Namibia, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania. Near-zero anomalies occurred across the subcontinent, particularly in its eastern countries. The highest anomalies, exceeding +5°C, were recorded in central DRC [Figure 6, right].

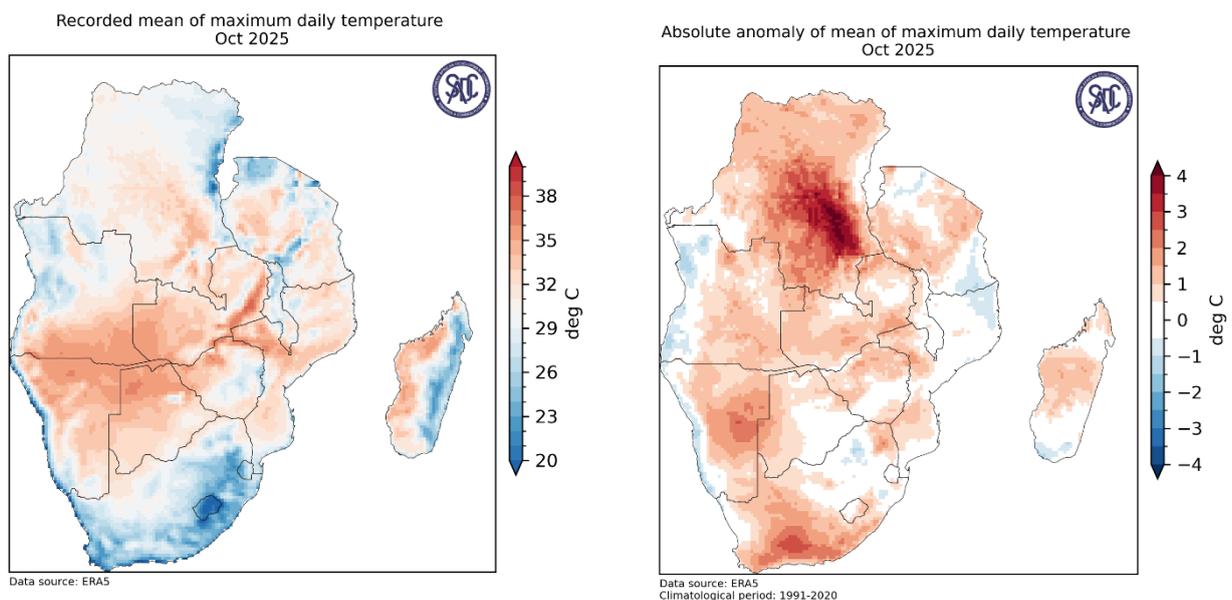


Figure 6: Observed maximum average temperature (left) and anomalies (right) for October 2025.

2.3 Heatwaves

Daytime heatwaves lasting up to 24 days were recorded in October 2025 across several parts of the region, particularly in central DRC. In isolated areas of Tanzania, central Angola, central Namibia and Madagascar, daytime heatwaves of less than 12 days were observed. The rest of the region did not record daytime heatwaves [Figure 7, left].

Night-time heatwaves of around 30 days were observed in October 2025, mainly over central DRC. In other countries—particularly central Angola, Botswana, parts of Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and most of Madagascar—night-time heatwaves lasting less than 6 days were recorded. The remainder of the subcontinent did not record night-time heatwaves [Figure 7, right].

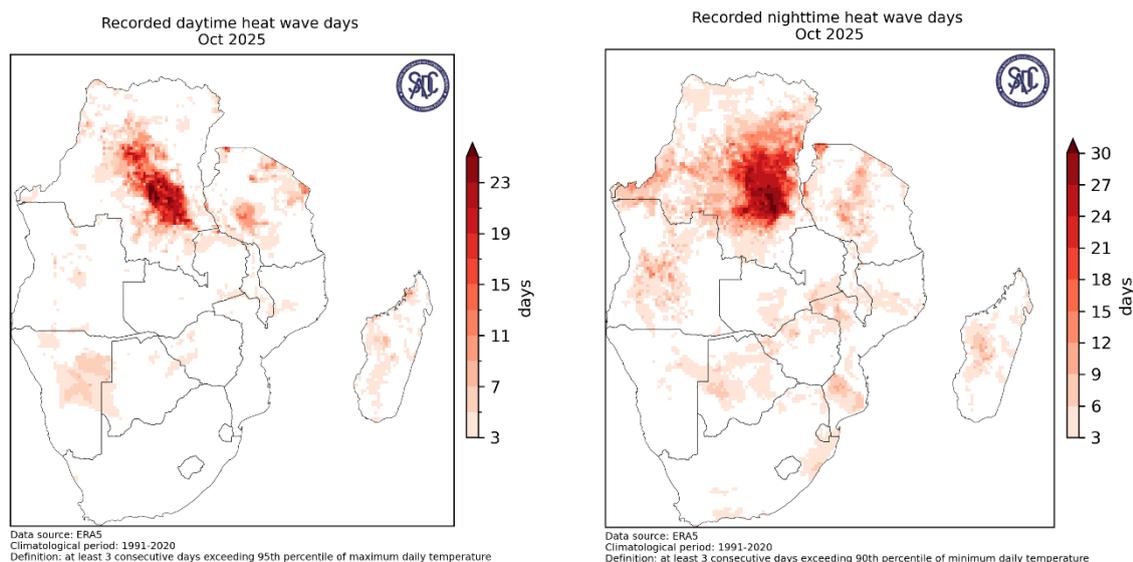


Figure 7: Heatwaves detected during the month of October 2025

3. REGIONAL MONTHLY OUTLOOKS

3.1 Rainfall Outlook

An increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall for November 2025 is expected in many isolated parts of the SADC region. These includes parts of DRC, east and north Angola, most of the west and central Zambia, Tanzania, the bulk of Botswana, South Africa and the whole Madagascar. Near normal conditions are expected within most of Mozambique, parts of South Africa, and in many isolated areas within the region, [Figure 8].

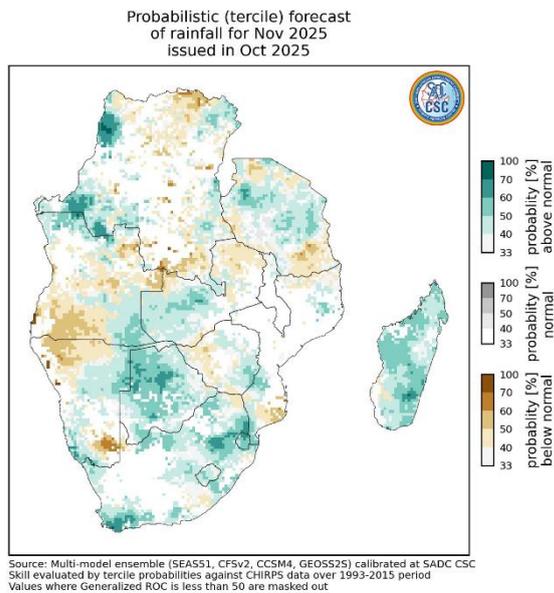


Figure 8: Rainfall probabilistic forecast for October 2025

3.2 Temperature Outlook

Above-normal temperatures are forecast across most of the SADC region for November 2025, including the entire island of Madagascar. The highest likelihood was estimated in within the northern parts of Namibia, Angola and the bulk of DRC. However, isolated areas in eastern parts of the subcontinent mainly located in Mozambique are expected to have temperatures below normal. Isolated parts in Madagascar are also expected to have temperatures below the normal [Figure 9].

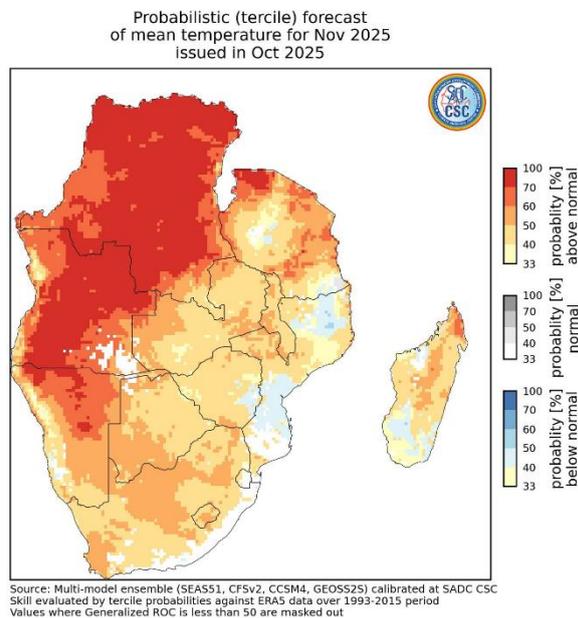


Figure 9: Temperature probabilistic forecast for October 2025

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 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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