



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

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INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME



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BENEFICIARIES



A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rainfall:** August totals exceeded 100 mm over northern DRC and locally along eastern Madagascar, while most of the remaining mainland received less than 20 mm. Rainfall was below 70% of the long-term mean across many monitored areas.
- **Drought monitoring:** The 12-month SPEI was mainly near normal but retained dry pockets with values ranging from below –1 to below –3. The 3-month SPI showed more extensive severe to extreme dryness, with values below –2 and locally below –3.
- **Dry spells:** Twenty-seven to 30 consecutive dry days affected much of the western and central mainland and western Madagascar. Northern DRC recorded the shortest dry spells, generally 0–9 days.
- **Extreme rainfall:** One-day rainfall was below 25 mm across most of the region. Totals of about 25–50 mm occurred over northern DRC, while eastern Madagascar recorded 25–70 mm and local values of approximately 70–90 mm.
- **Minimum-temperature anomalies:** Night-time temperatures were about 1–4 °C above normal over northern DRC, south-western areas and Madagascar, but 1–4 °C below normal across much of the central mainland.
- **Maximum-temperature anomalies:** Daytime temperatures were around 2–4 °C above normal over northern DRC, the southern mainland and eastern Madagascar. A central belt recorded near-normal to 1–3 °C below-normal conditions.
- **Heatwaves:** Daytime heatwaves locally reached 19–23 days or more, while night-time heatwaves were most persistent over northern and central DRC, where approximately 18–30 qualifying nights were recorded.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During August 2026, rainfall was concentrated over northern DRC and along the eastern side of Madagascar. Totals exceeded 100 mm across much of northern DRC and locally in eastern and north-eastern Madagascar. Central DRC generally received about 20–80 mm, with amounts declining southwards. Most of the remaining SADC mainland—including Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and most of South Africa—recorded less than 20 mm, apart from small coastal pockets [Figure 1, left].

Relative to the 1991–2020 average, rainfall was below 70% of the long-term August mean across much of the DRC, the eastern mainland from Tanzania to Mozambique, eastern and southern South Africa, and large parts of Madagascar. Extensive areas received less than 50% of their usual August rainfall. Near-normal to above-normal rainfall, approximately 90–200% of the long-term mean, was confined to small areas of south-western DRC and north-eastern Angola and isolated pockets of the eastern mainland, coastal South Africa and Madagascar. Because August is climatologically dry over much of southern Africa, high percentages may represent modest absolute totals; areas where climatological rainfall is below 1 mm are masked [Figure 1, right].

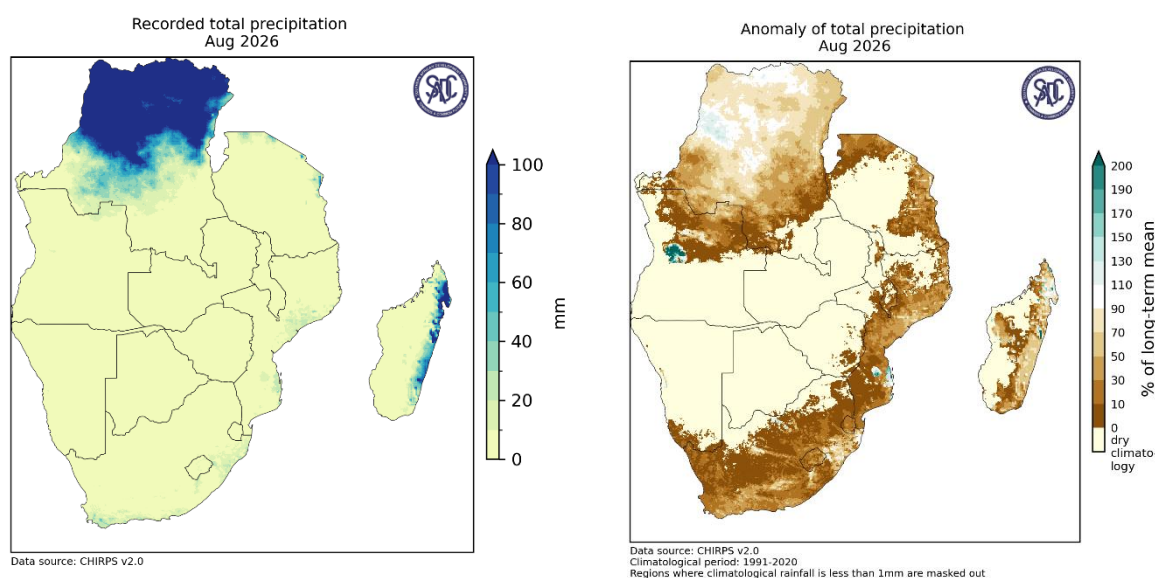


Figure 1: Recorded total precipitation (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for August 2026.

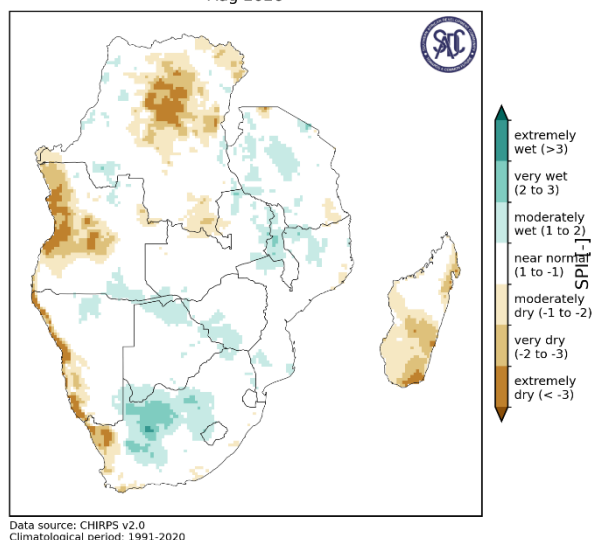
1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

The 12-month Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI-12) for August 2026 showed predominantly near-normal long-term moisture conditions. Moderate to extreme dry conditions, with SPEI values ranging from below -1 to below -3 , persisted over north-central DRC, western Angola, the Atlantic coastal belt of Namibia and western South Africa, and southern Madagascar. Moderately to very wet conditions, represented by values above $+1$, occurred over parts of Botswana, northern South Africa and southern Zimbabwe, with smaller wet pockets elsewhere [Figure 2, left].

The 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-3) showed substantially drier short-term conditions. Values below -2 , locally below -3 , covered large parts of Angola and extended across portions of Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, as well as much of Madagascar. Near-normal conditions remained over parts of the DRC, Botswana and South Africa. Localised moderately to very wet conditions, with values above $+1$, occurred mainly in eastern DRC and in a few small areas of the mainland and Madagascar [Figure 2, right].

ded 12-month Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)
Aug 2026



Recorded 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Aug 2026

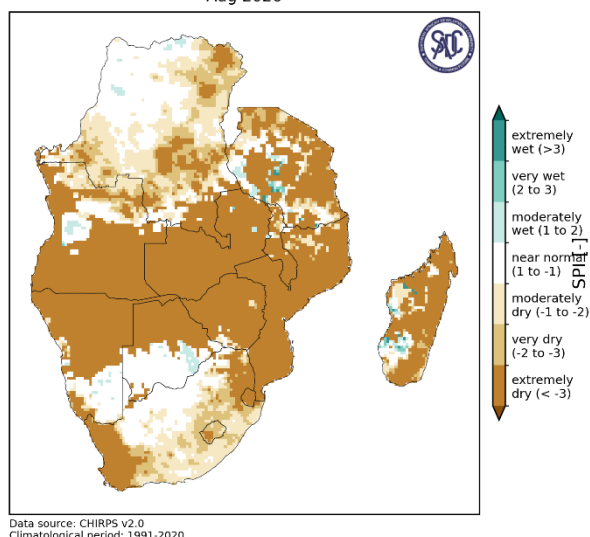


Figure 2: Drought assessment using the 12-month SPEI (left) and 3-month SPI (right) for August 2026.

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

Prolonged dry spells dominated much of the SADC region during August 2026. Sequences of 27–30 consecutive dry days affected most of Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, together with western Tanzania, much of the interior of South Africa and the western and central parts of Madagascar. Northern DRC recorded the shortest dry spells, generally 0–9 days, while central and southern DRC experienced approximately 9–21 days. Shorter sequences of about 12–24 days also occurred along parts of the eastern mainland, the southern coast of South Africa and eastern Madagascar [Figure 3].

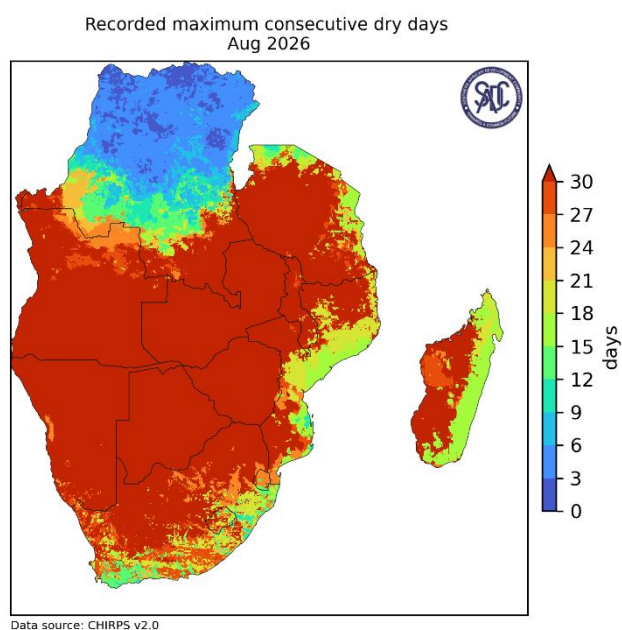


Figure 3: Maximum consecutive dry days recorded during August 2026.

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

Extreme one-day rainfall was uncommon during August 2026. Most of the SADC region recorded daily maxima below 25 mm. Northern DRC received local one-day totals of approximately 25–50 mm. The largest values occurred along eastern Madagascar, where about 25–70 mm was recorded and isolated locations reached approximately 70–90 mm. No widespread single-day rainfall event exceeding 90 mm was evident [Figure 4].

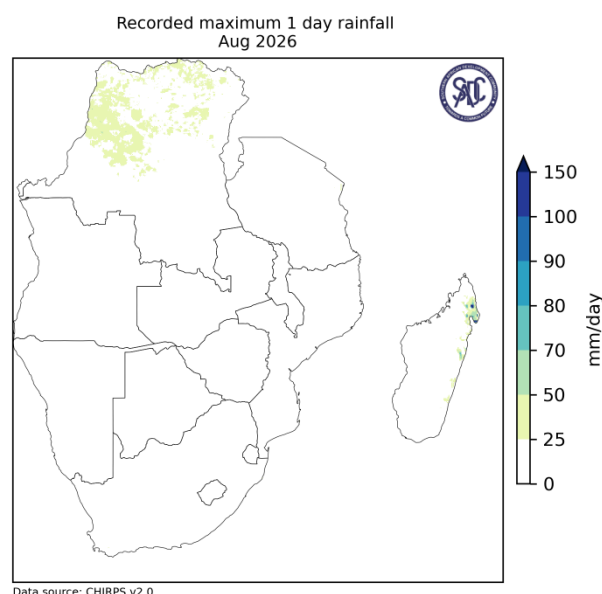


Figure 4: Maximum one-day rainfall recorded during August 2026.

2. REGIONAL TEMPERATURE

2.1 Minimum Temperature

The supplied mean-minimum-temperature map is labelled August 2025; its date should therefore be confirmed or the map replaced before publication. The displayed field shows a strong north–south gradient, with values above 20–23 °C over northern DRC and about 17–23 °C across parts of Tanzania, Mozambique and the warmer coastal areas of Madagascar. Much of the central mainland recorded approximately 8–17 °C, while the lowest values, generally 5–8 °C, occurred over southern South Africa, Lesotho and other elevated areas [Figure 5, left].

Minimum-temperature anomalies during August 2026 varied strongly across the region. Temperatures were approximately 1–3 °C above the 1991–2020 average over northern DRC, northern Tanzania, western Angola, southern Africa and Madagascar, with local warm anomalies approaching +4 °C over south-western Angola and northern Namibia. In contrast, anomalies of about –1 to –3 °C extended across southern DRC, central and eastern Angola, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, with local values near –4 °C. Conditions were closer to normal across much of the eastern mainland [Figure 5, right].

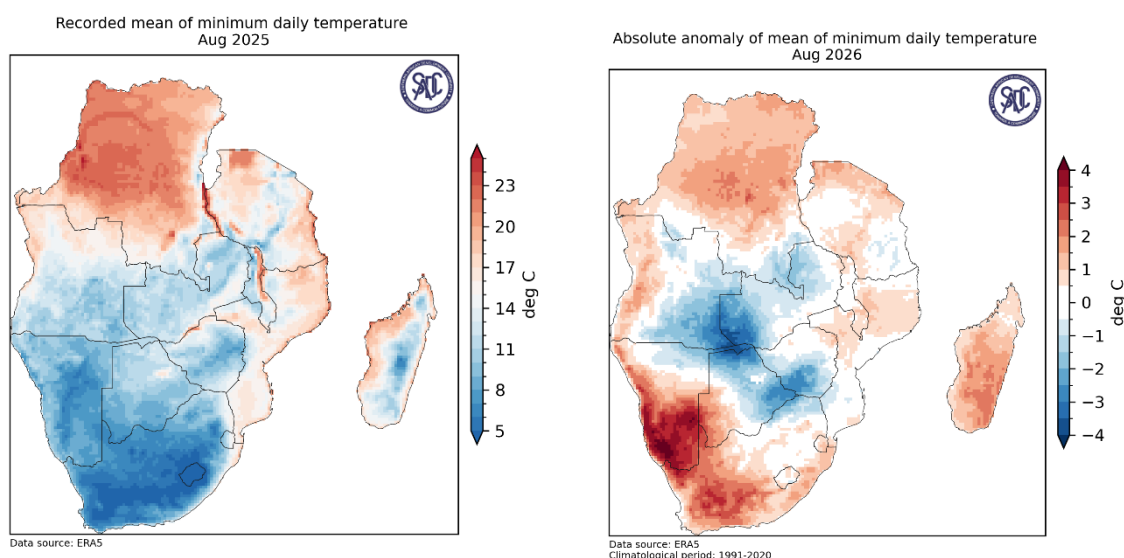


Figure 5: Mean minimum daily temperature (left; source map labelled August 2025) and absolute anomaly (right) for August 2026.

2.2 Maximum Temperature

Mean maximum temperatures exceeded 33 °C across parts of northern and central DRC and in a few local areas of Angola during August 2026. Values of approximately 30–33 °C affected much of the DRC, Angola and Tanzania, while the central mainland generally recorded 24–30 °C. The coolest daytime conditions, about 15–24 °C, occurred over southern South Africa, Lesotho and other elevated areas. Madagascar recorded approximately 21–33 °C, with warmer conditions in the west and north [Figure 6, left].

Maximum-temperature anomalies were positive over the northern and southern margins of the region. Temperatures were approximately 2–4 °C above the 1991–2020 average over northern DRC, southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and eastern Madagascar, with local anomalies reaching 4 °C or more. A central belt extending from southern DRC and northern Angola through Zambia to parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique was near normal to about 1–3 °C below normal, with isolated values approaching –4 °C [Figure 6, right].

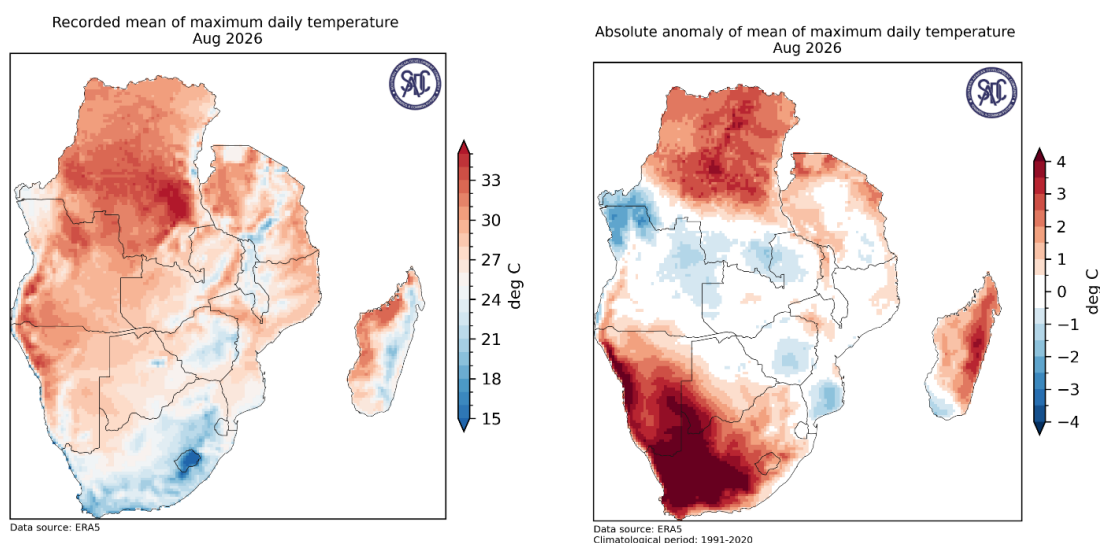


Figure 6: Mean maximum daily temperature (left) and absolute anomaly (right) for August 2026.

2.3 Heatwaves

Daytime heatwaves are defined as at least three consecutive days during which daily maximum temperature exceeds the 95th percentile. Night-time heatwaves are defined as at least three consecutive nights during which daily minimum temperature exceeds the 90th percentile.

During August 2026, approximately 7–15 daytime heatwave days affected large parts of northern DRC and scattered areas of Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Madagascar. The most persistent daytime heatwaves, lasting about 19–23 days or more, occurred locally in northern DRC, northern Tanzania and western Madagascar. Much of Angola, southern DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique experienced few or no qualifying daytime heatwave days [Figure 7, left].

Night-time heatwaves during August 2026 were most extensive over the DRC. Approximately 18–30 qualifying nights affected large parts of northern and central DRC, with local totals of 27–30 nights. Elsewhere, periods of about 6–15 nights occurred over parts of Tanzania and Madagascar and in isolated areas of the western, eastern and southern mainland. Most of Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa experienced few or no qualifying night-time heatwave nights [Figure 7, right].

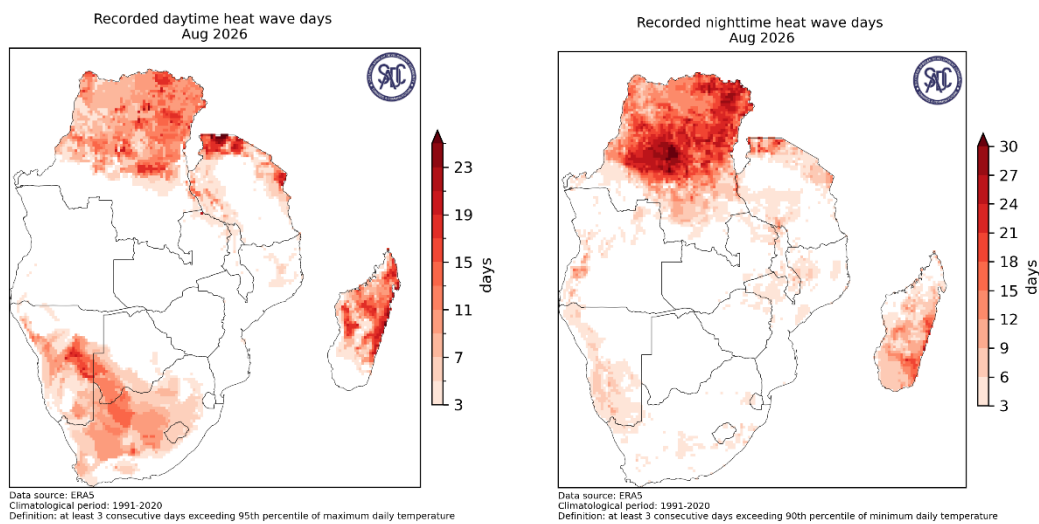


Figure 7: Number of daytime heatwave days (left) and night-time heatwave days (right) recorded during August 2026.

NOTE:

This bulletin uses CHIRPS and ERA5 data. While these datasets are considered broadly representative of local conditions over the SADC region, the results presented here may 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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