



INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

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INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME
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BENEFICIARIES



A. HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rainfall:** July totals exceeded 100 mm over northern DRC, while most of the region received less than 20 mm. Rainfall was generally below 70% of the long-term mean across the eastern mainland and Madagascar, with wetter-than-normal conditions confined to scattered areas.
- **Drought monitoring:** The 12-month SPEI retained very dry to extremely dry conditions in north-central DRC, western Angola, the Atlantic coastal belt and southern Madagascar. The 3-month SPI was wet across much of the western and central mainland but dry over eastern areas and Madagascar.
- **Dry spells:** Twenty-seven to 30 consecutive dry days affected most of the mainland and Madagascar. Northern DRC and the southern coast of South Africa experienced the shortest dry spells.
- **Minimum temperatures:** Night-time temperatures were 1–3 °C above normal over northern DRC and scattered eastern and southern areas, but 1–3 °C below normal across much of the central mainland. Local anomalies approached ± 4 °C.
- **Maximum temperatures:** Daytime temperatures were generally 1–4 °C above normal, with the strongest warm anomalies across the southern interior. Western Angola and isolated coastal areas were 1–3 °C below normal.
- **Extreme rainfall:** One-day rainfall was below 25 mm across most of the region. Localised totals of approximately 25–70 mm occurred mainly over northern DRC and parts of coastal South Africa.
- **Heatwaves:** Daytime heatwave counts reached 21–30 days locally in western Angola, northern Namibia and the eastern mainland. Night-time heatwaves were most persistent over northern and central DRC, where 18–30 nights were recorded.

1. REGIONAL RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During July 2026, rainfall was concentrated over northern DRC, where widespread totals exceeded 100 mm. Amounts decreased sharply southwards across the DRC, with approximately 20–80 mm over central areas and less than 20 mm in the south. Elsewhere, most of the SADC region, including Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Madagascar, recorded less than 20 mm. Limited totals of about 20–60 mm occurred along parts of the southern and south-western coast of South Africa [Figure 1, left].

The July 2026 anomaly showed widespread rainfall deficits in areas where the long-term July rainfall is sufficient for comparison. Rainfall was generally below 70% of the long-term mean across southern DRC and northern Angola and along the eastern mainland from Tanzania through Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to eastern and southern South Africa. Most of Madagascar was also drier than normal, with extensive areas receiving less than 50% of their usual July rainfall [Figure 1, right].

Near-normal to above-normal rainfall, approximately 90–200% of the long-term mean, occurred in parts of northern and central DRC and in isolated areas of the central and south-western mainland and coastal South Africa. Because July is climatologically dry across much of southern Africa, high percentage values may represent modest absolute totals. Areas where climatological July rainfall is below 1 mm are masked [Figure 1, right].

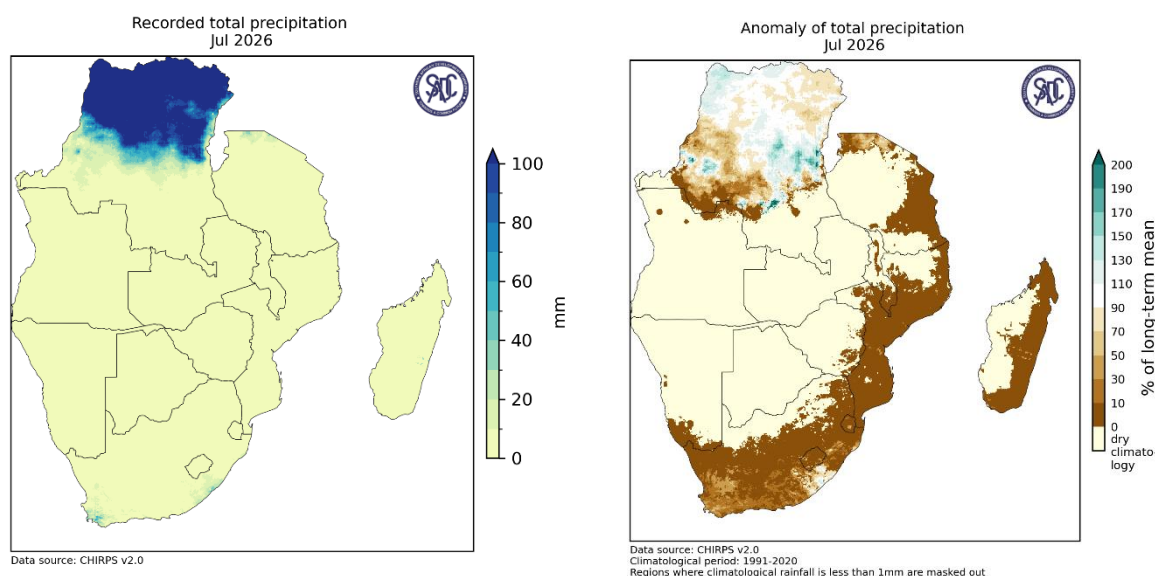


Figure 1: Recorded total precipitation (left) and rainfall anomaly (right) for July 2026.

1.1 Drought Monitoring

1.1.1 Seasonal and Annual Drought Assessment

The 12-month Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI-12) for July 2026 showed predominantly near-normal long-term moisture conditions. Moderate to extreme dryness, with SPEI values 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 and eastern Madagascar. Moderately to very wet conditions, represented by values above $+1$, occurred over Botswana, northern South Africa, parts of southern Zimbabwe and smaller pockets of the central and eastern mainland [Figure 2, left].

The 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-3) showed wetter short-term conditions across much of the western and central mainland. Moderate to very wet conditions, with SPI values above +1, affected southern DRC, large parts of Angola, western Zambia and parts of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Moderate to extreme dryness, with values below -1, occurred over northern and eastern DRC, much of Tanzania, eastern Mozambique and large parts of Madagascar. Near-normal conditions prevailed elsewhere [Figure 2, right].

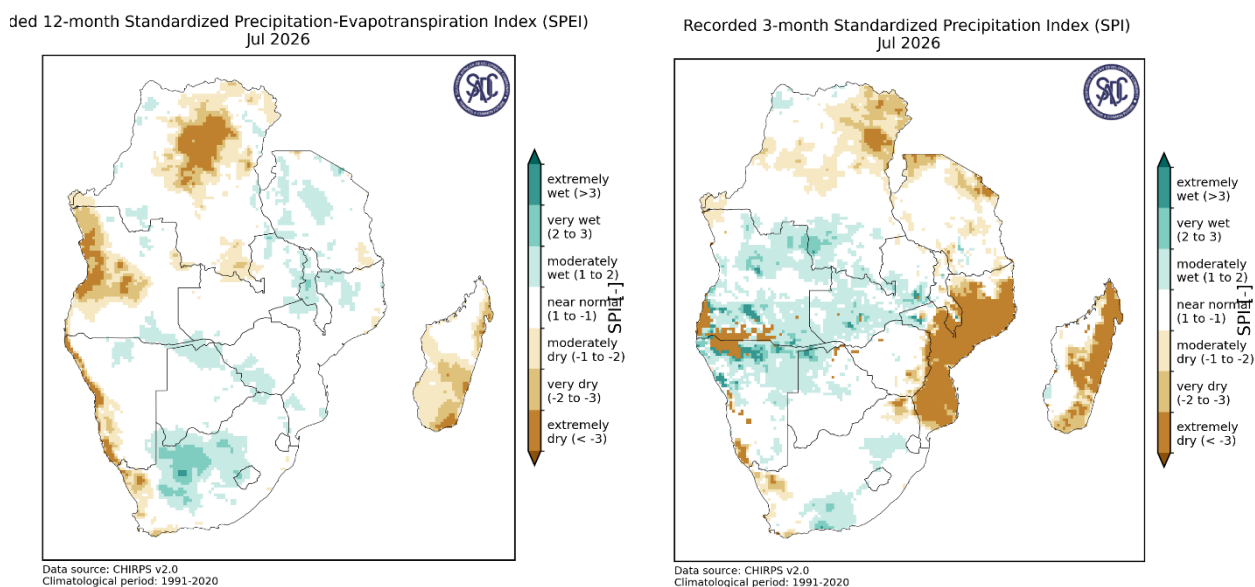


Figure 2: Drought assessment using the 12-month SPEI (left) and 3-month SPI (right) for July 2026.

1.1.2 Short term drought (dry spells)

Prolonged dry spells dominated the SADC region during July 2026. Sequences of 27–30 consecutive dry days affected most of Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique, together with northern and central South Africa and most of Madagascar. Northern DRC recorded the shortest dry spells, generally 0–12 days, while central and southern DRC experienced approximately 12–24 days. Dry spells of about 12–24 days also occurred along much of the southern coast of South Africa, with longer sequences farther north [Figure 3].

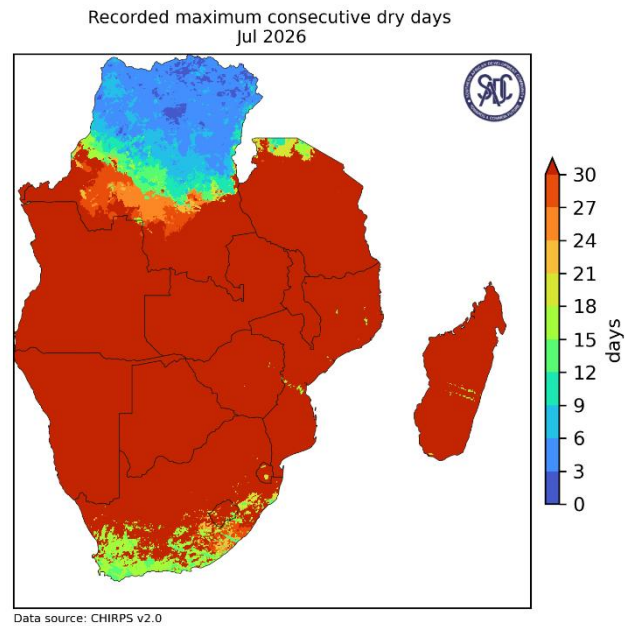


Figure 3: Maximum consecutive dry days recorded during July 2026.

1.2 Extreme Rainfall

Extreme one-day rainfall was rare during July 2026. Most of the SADC region recorded daily maxima below 25 mm, with extensive areas receiving little or no rainfall. The highest one-day totals occurred over northern DRC, where approximately 25–70 mm was recorded locally. Isolated totals of about 25–50 mm occurred along parts of coastal South Africa and in a few small areas elsewhere. No widespread single-day rainfall event exceeding 70 mm was evident [Figure 4].

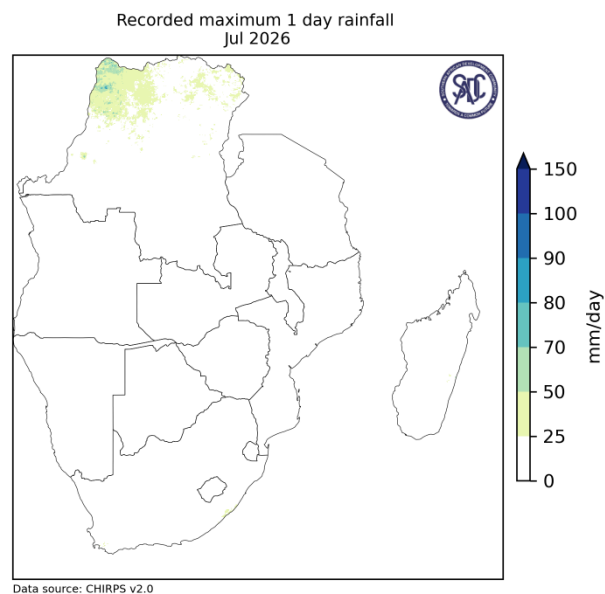


Figure 4: Maximum one-day rainfall recorded during July 2026.

2. REGIONAL TEMPERATURE

2.1 Minimum Temperature

Mean minimum temperatures during July 2026 followed a strong north–south gradient. Values above 20–23 °C occurred over northern DRC, while much of northern Angola, Tanzania and Mozambique recorded approximately 14–20 °C. Minimum temperatures of about 8–14 °C covered much of the central mainland. The lowest values, generally 5–8 °C, affected large parts of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Lesotho. Madagascar recorded approximately 8–17 °C, with the coolest conditions over the central highlands [Figure 5, left].

Minimum temperature anomalies varied considerably across the region. Temperatures were approximately 1–3 °C above the 1991–2020 average over northern and central DRC, northern Tanzania and scattered parts of Angola, the eastern mainland and southern Africa; local warm anomalies approached +4 °C in south-western Namibia. In contrast, anomalies of about –1 to –3 °C extended across southern DRC, central and eastern Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and parts of Mozambique and northern South Africa, with local values near –4 °C. Madagascar was mainly near normal, with scattered anomalies of approximately ± 1 °C [Figure 5, right].

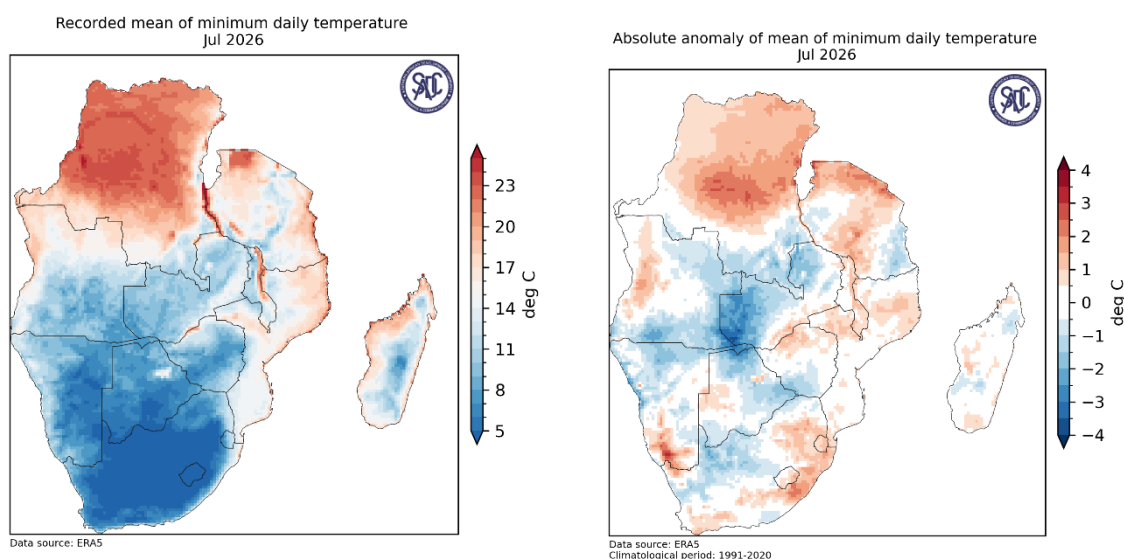


Figure 5: Mean minimum daily temperature (left) and absolute anomaly (right) for July 2026.

2.2 Maximum Temperature

Mean maximum temperatures exceeded 30–33 °C across much of northern and central DRC and northern Angola during July 2026. Values of approximately 27–30 °C affected large parts of Angola, Tanzania and Mozambique, while much of the central and southern mainland recorded 21–27 °C. The coolest daytime conditions, generally 15–21 °C, occurred over southern South Africa and Lesotho and in other elevated areas. Madagascar recorded approximately 21–30 °C, with warmer conditions in the west and north [Figure 6, left].

Maximum temperatures were predominantly above normal during July 2026. Positive anomalies of approximately +1 to +4 °C covered most of the region, with the strongest warm anomalies, locally +3 to +4 °C, affecting southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the interior of South Africa and eastern Madagascar. Warm anomalies of about +1 to +3 °C also affected much of the DRC and Tanzania. Conversely, parts of western

Angola and isolated eastern and southern coastal areas recorded anomalies of approximately -1 to -3 °C, locally approaching -4 °C [Figure 6, right].

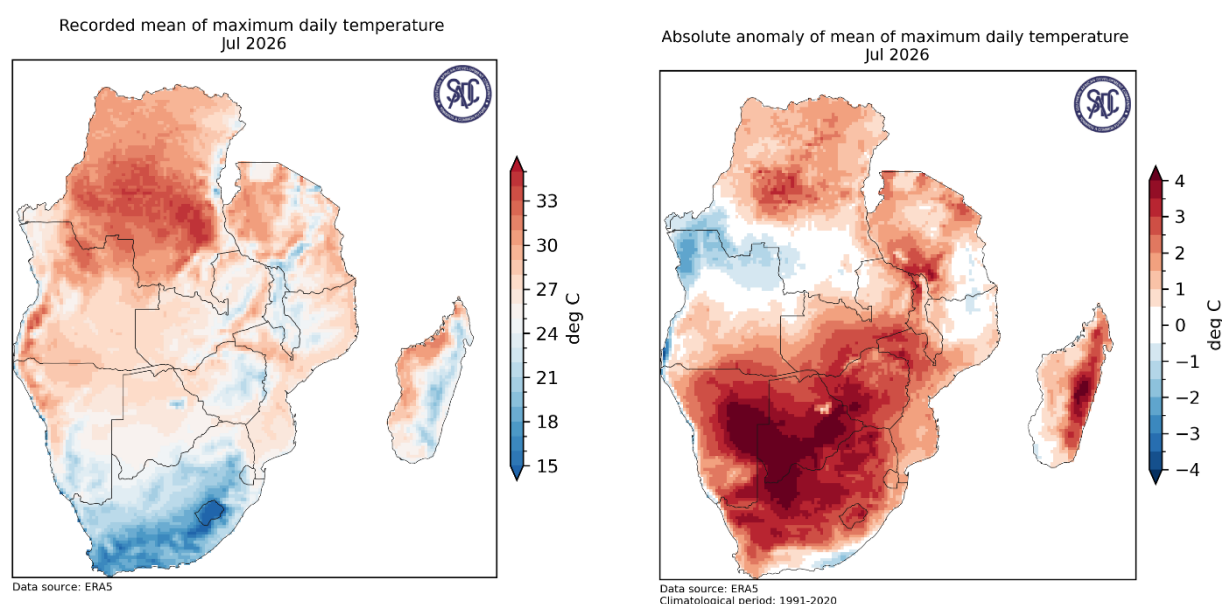


Figure 6: Mean maximum daily temperature (left) and absolute anomaly (right) for July 2026.

2.3 Heatwaves

For the July 2026 assessment, daytime heatwaves were defined as periods of at least three consecutive days during which daily maximum temperature exceeded the 95th percentile. Night-time heatwaves were defined as periods of at least three consecutive nights during which daily minimum temperature exceeded the 90th percentile.

During July 2026, approximately 9–18 daytime heatwave days were recorded across scattered parts of northern DRC, Angola, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Madagascar. The most persistent daytime heatwave conditions, with approximately 21–30 qualifying days, occurred locally over western Angola and northern Namibia, parts of the eastern mainland and western Madagascar. Central Angola, southern DRC and much of Mozambique experienced few or no qualifying daytime heatwave days [Figure 7, left].

Night-time heatwaves during July 2026 were concentrated over the DRC. Approximately 18–30 qualifying nights affected large parts of northern and central DRC, with local totals of 27–30 nights. Elsewhere, about 6–18 heatwave nights occurred over parts of Tanzania and in isolated areas of Angola and the eastern and southern mainland. Much of the southern half of the region and Madagascar experienced few or no qualifying night-time heatwave nights [Figure 7, right].

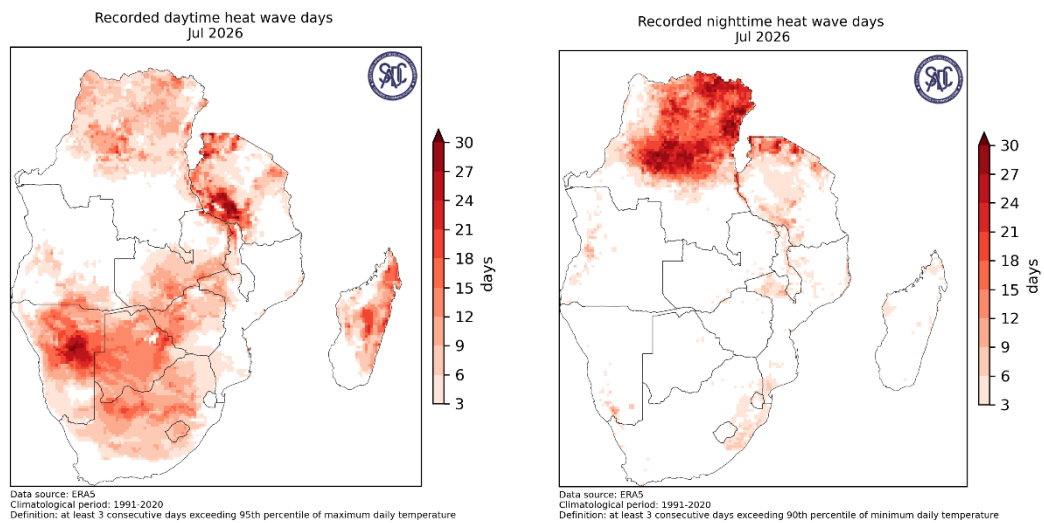


Figure 7: Number of daytime heatwave days (left) and night-time heatwave days (right) recorded during July 2026.

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.

