STATEMENT FROM THE SEVENTEENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-17), HARARE, ZIMBABWE, 28 – 30 AUGUST 2013.

SUMMARY

Southern African Development Community (SADC) is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall for the period October to December (OND) 2013. However, south-westernmost Angola, coastal areas of Namibia, west coastal South Africa and northernmost Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are more likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

In the November-December 2013-January 2014 period, bulk of the SADC region is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, while the greater part of DRC, northernmost and south-western Angola and western fringes of Namibia and South Africa are likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

Bulk of both contiguous SADC and the islands states of Madagascar and Mauritius are likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall during December 2013 to February 2014. However, south-western Angola, most of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa and Lesotho are likely to receive above-normal to normal rainfall while the eastern half of Tanzania is likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

For the period January to March (JFM) 2014, the bulk of SADC is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall. However, the tongue stretching from eastern coast of northern Mozambique through central parts of the region extending to the south western central parts of the region are likely to receive above-normal to normal rainfall.

THE SEVENTEENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

The Seventeenth Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 28 to 30 August 2013 to present a consensus outlook for the 2013/2014 rainfall season over the SADC region. Climate scientists from the SADC National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) formulated this outlook. Additional products were received from other global climate prediction centres. This outlook covers the major rainfall season from October 2013 to March 2014. The outlooks are presented in overlapping three-monthly periods as follows: October-November-December (OND); November-December-January (NDJ); December-January-February (DJF); and January-February-March (JFM)

This Outlook is relevant only to seasonal (overlapping three-monthly) time-scales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month variations (intra-seasonal).
Users are strongly advised to contact the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of this Outlook, additional guidance and updates.

METHODOLOGY

Using statistical, other climate prediction schemes and expert interpretation, the climate scientists determined likelihoods of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall for each area (Figures 1 to 4) for overlapping three-monthly periods i.e. October-November-December (OND), November-December-January (NDJ); December-January-February (DJF); and January-February-March (JFM). Above-normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of recorded (30 year, that is, 1971 -2000 or 40 year 1961-2000 mean) rainfall amounts; below-normal is defined as within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is the middle third, centred on the climatological median. The scientists also took into account that El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is going to be in neutral phase with a bias towards a weak La Niña during most of the rainy season.

OUTLOOK

The period October to March is the main rainfall season over most of southern Africa. Owing to the differences and evolution patterns in the predominant rainfall-bearing systems, the rainy season has been subdivided into four overlapping three-month periods (i.e. OND, NDJ, DJF and JFM as defined above).

SPONSORSHIP

The seventeenth Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum was hosted by the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe. Support was provided by Government of Zimbabwe, SADC, African Development Bank and other partners.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013

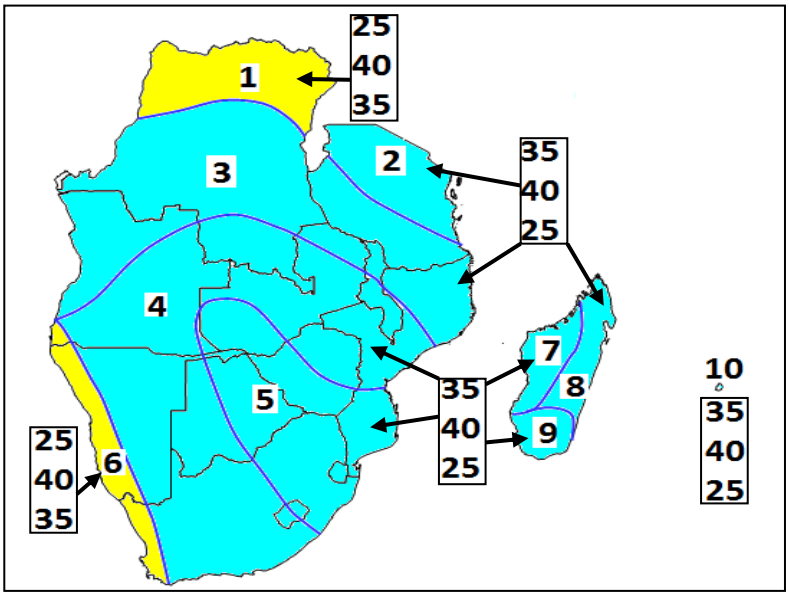

Fig 1: Rainfall forecast for October-December 2013

Zone 1: Northern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 2: Northern Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania, northern Malawi, northernmost Zambia, bulk of DRC and north-western half of Angola.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 4: Central Mozambique, southern Malawi, northern half of Zimbabwe, most of Zambia, southernmost DRC, south-eastern half of Angola, bulk of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa, western parts of Lesotho.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: Extreme south-western Zambia, Caprivi area, south-easternmost Angola, south-western half of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, most of northern South Africa, Swaziland and southern Mozambique.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: South-westernmost Angola and western coastal areas of Namibia and South Africa.
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Western Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Eastern Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 9: Southern Madagascar
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 10: Mauritius.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014

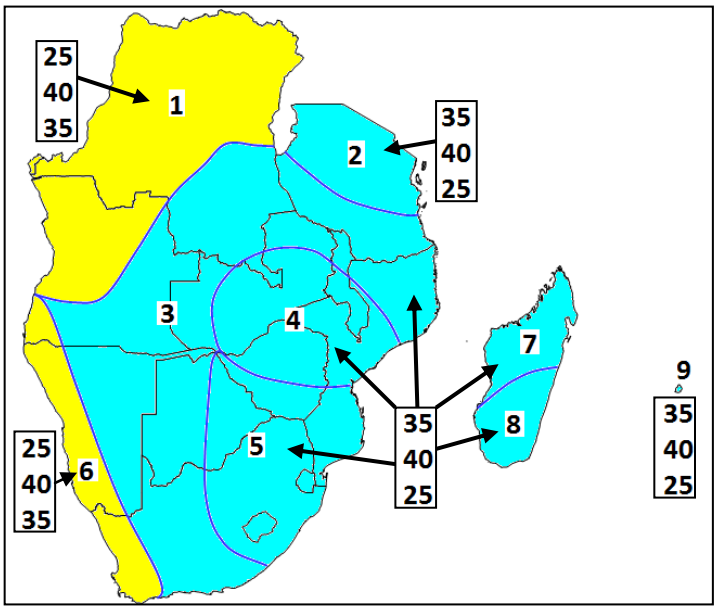

Fig 2: Rainfall forecast for November-December 2013-January 2014

Zone 1: Bulk of DRC and northernmost Angola.
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 2: Northernmost Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, bulk of Tanzania, northern Malawi, northern and western Zambia, southern DRC, bulk of Angola, most of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 4: Southern Zambia, southern Malawi, northern half of Zimbabwe and central parts of Mozambique.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: Southern half of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, north and central South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and southern Mozambique.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: South-westernmost Angola, western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Bulk of Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Southernmost Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 9: Mauritius.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

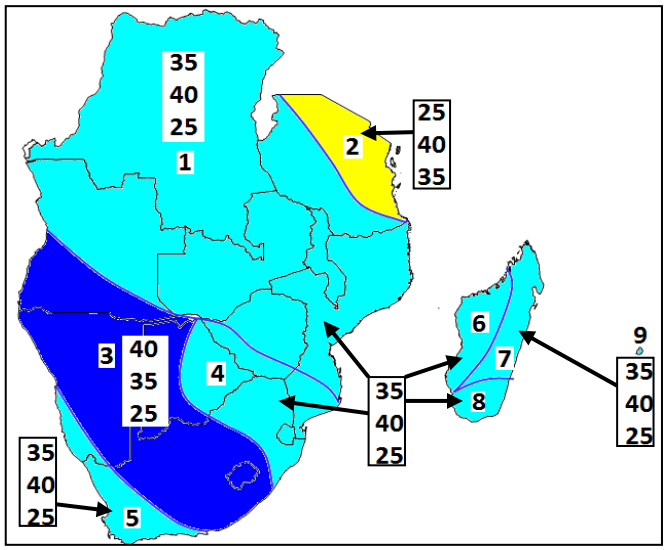

Fig 3: Rainfall forecast for December 2013-January-February 2014

Zone 1: DRC, Zambia, Malawi, bulk of Angola, most of Zimbabwe, greater part of Mozambique and western half of Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 2: Eastern half of Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

Zone 3: South-western Angola, most of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa and Lesotho.
Increased chances of above-normal to normal rainfall

Zone 4: Southern third of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, north and central South Africa, eastern Lesotho, Swaziland and southern Mozambique..
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: South-western fringe of Namibia and south-western South Africa.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: Western Madagascar.

Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Eastern Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Southernmost Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 9: Mauritius.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2014

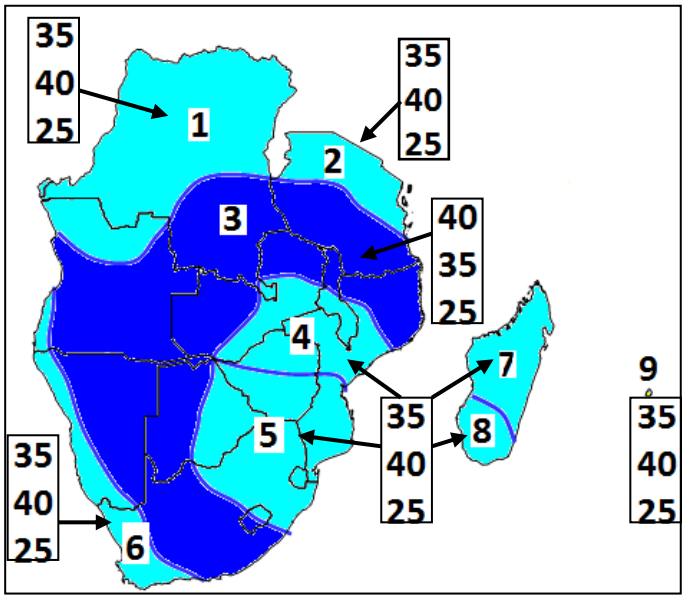

Fig 4: Rainfall forecast for January-February-March 2014

Zone 1: Bulk of DRC and northernmost Angola.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 2: Northernmost Tanzania.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 3: Northern Mozambique, bulk of Tanzania, northern Malawi, northern and western Zambia, southern DRC, bulk of Angola, most of Namibia, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa and western parts of Lesotho.
Increased chances of above-normal to normal rainfall

Zone 4: Southern Zambia, southern Malawi, northern half of Zimbabwe and central parts of Mozambique.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 5: Southern half of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, north and central South Africa, eastern Lesotho, Swaziland and southern Mozambique.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 6: South-westernmost Angola, western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 7: Bulk of Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 8: Southernmost Madagascar.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

Zone 9: Mauritius.
Increased chances of normal to above-normal rainfall

FIGURE CAPTION

It is emphasized that boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas. Forecast information is provided only for countries that comprise the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. The numbers for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories, below-normal, normal and above-normal. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category, the middle number is for normal and the bottom number is for below-normal. For example in Figure 4, for Zone 3, there is a 40% probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; a 35% probability in the normal category; and 25% probability in the below-normal category.

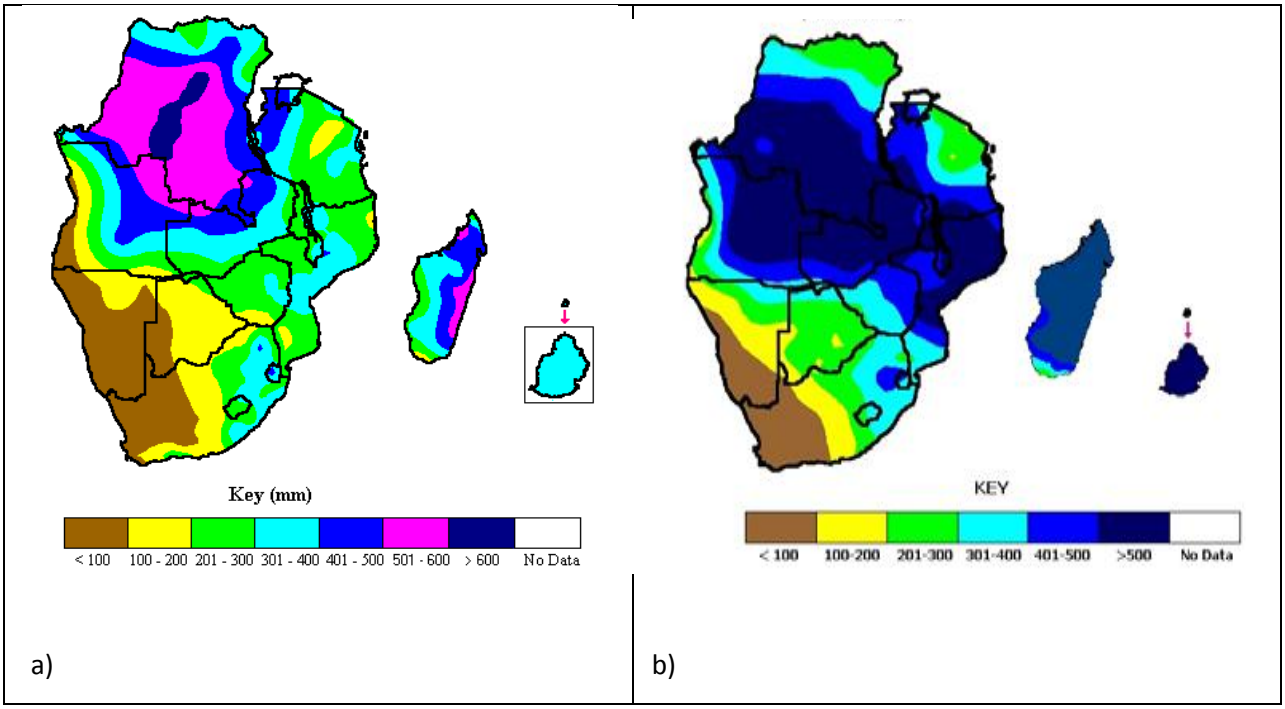

Figure 5 Long-term mean rainfall over SADC countries (a) October-November-December (1971-2000), (b) November-December-January (1961-1990)

The long-term mean October-November-December rainfall increases from southwest to northeast over contiguous SADC in either case. Over Madagascar the rains increase from west to east, while the rains are more uniformly distributed in Mauritius, Figure 5(a). The November-December-January long-term mean total rainfall shows maxima of above 500 millimetres over much of Malawi, Zambia, Angola, southern half of DRC, central and northern Mozambique as well as Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles, Figure 5(b). The remainder of the region receives rainfall less than 400 millimetres gradually decreasing southwestwards to southwest South Africa and Namibia where the mean rainfall is below 100 millimetres. The legend shows the amounts in millimetres.

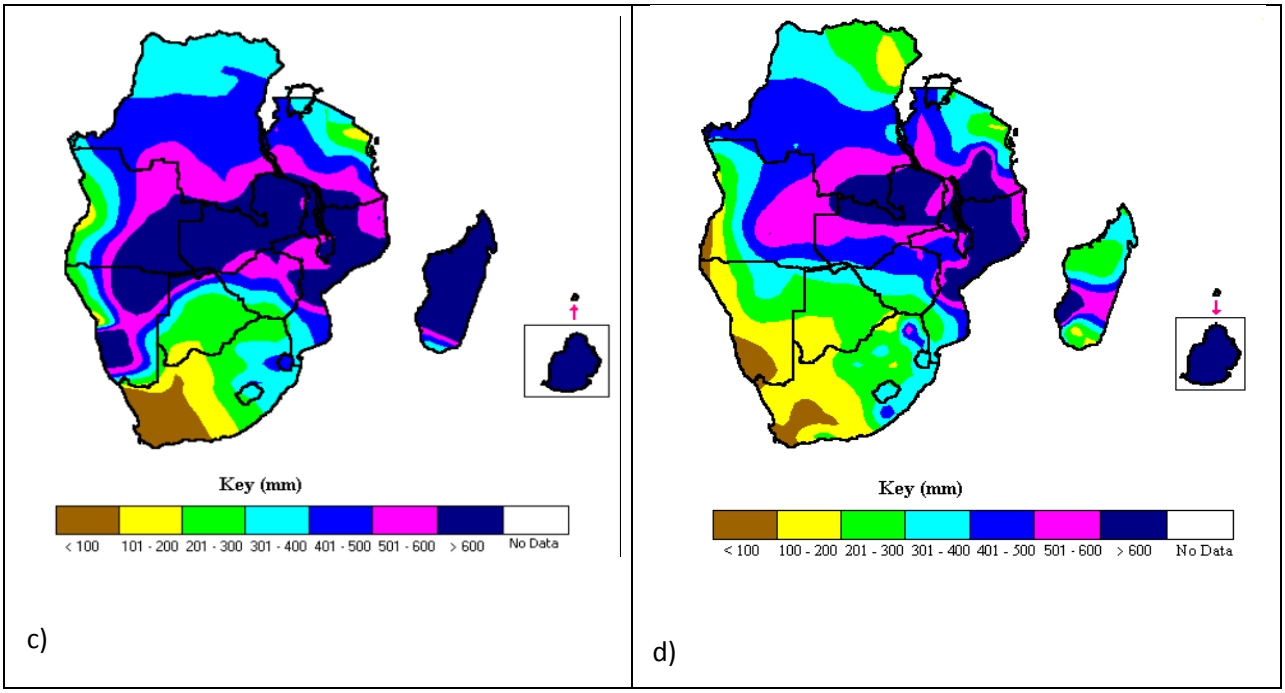

Figure 5 Long-term mean rainfall over SADC countries (c) December-January-February (1961-2000) and (d) January-February-March (1971-2000)

The long-term mean for December-January-February rainfall shows maxima of above 600 millimetres over much of Malawi, Zambia, Angola, southern half of DRC, central and northern Mozambique as well as Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles, Figure 5(c). The remainder of the region receives rainfall less than 400 millimetres gradually decreasing southwestwards to southwest South Africa and Namibia where the mean rainfall is below 100 millimetres. The January-February-March shows a significant reduction in the rainfall received in most of the southern parts of the region with the central and eastern parts remaining wet, Figure 5(d). Mauritius shows sustained rainfall pattern over the while Madagascar shows a decline of rainfall in most parts except the extreme south western parts of the country.