



SADC

Drought Monitoring Centre

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PRESS STATEMENT

Climate experts from the National Meteorological Services within the SADC region have concluded that during the period October 2007 to March 2008, most of the SADC Region is likely to receive good rains. However, parts of DRC, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania and Mauritius are likely to receive less rain during October-November-December (OND).

During the period January-February-March (JFM) less rain is expected over the northernmost and extreme south-western parts of the region including Mauritius.

Climate scientists from the region meet annually prior to the commencement of the summer season to review the state of the Global Climate System, its implications for the SADC region and issue a seasonal outlook for the ensuing summer season. This year, scientists met in Maseru, Lesotho from 3rd to 14th September to look at the rainfall prospects for the period October 2007 to March 2008 in the SADC region.

The scientists took into account principal factors such as the Sea Surface Temperatures in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The current state

of the equatorial Pacific Ocean is at the neutral state and projections point toward the likelihood of a La Niña during the next couple of months.

It is expected that the La Niña phenomenon will influence the weather patterns over the region although it is not the only influencing factor.

The scientists have advised that the regional seasonal prediction is relevant only to seasonal time scales and relatively large areas; nevertheless local and month to month variations may occur. Users are strongly advised to contact their respective National Meteorological Services for further interpretation, updates and additional guidance.

The Eleventh Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF - 11) was organized by SADC Drought Monitoring Centre in collaboration with the Government of Lesotho through the Lesotho Meteorological Services, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization.

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