



SARCOF-13 ANNOUNCEMENT

THEME: Applying Climate Prediction Information, for Sustainable Socio-economic Development and Disaster Risk Reduction

Place: Rainbow Towers, HARARE, Zimbabwe

DATE: 26 –27 August 2009

INTRODUCTION

Southern African Development Community (SADC) through the Drought Monitoring Centre is organizing the Thirteenth Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-13), in **Harare, Zimbabwe, 26-27 August 2009**. SARCOF-13 is a collaborative effort between the Government of Zimbabwe through Meteorological Services Department, SADC, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), and other partners. SARCOF-13 will immediately follow a seven-day Climate Experts Meeting of SADC national Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for the purposes of developing inputs for the Forum. *The Climate Expert Meeting is not open to public.*

Proper interpretation of seasonal forecasts and their application across various socio-economic decision-making processes still remain a challenge in the region. It is from this background that stakeholder participation in the SARCOF process with involvement of the climate information and prediction services practitioners and the user-community is always regarded as a priority at these forums. SARCOF is transforming into an effective and reliable source for climate information and prediction services in order for the multi-sectoral user community to benefit fully from the process.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of SARCOF-13 is to develop a consensus climate outlook for October 2009 to March 2010 rainfall season within SADC Member States. The forum will also discuss the potential impacts of the consensus seasonal climate outlook on other socio-economic sectors including food security, health, disaster risk management, water resources and hydropower management, among others. The forum will also review the October 2008 to March 2009 rainy season over the SADC region.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants to SARCOF-13 will include climate prediction experts from the national Meteorological/Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the SADC region and climate scientists from universities, research institutions, as well as regional and international organizations engaged in climate modeling, prediction and applications for the region. Various regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and development partners are also expected to attend. Due to limited resources, the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre will not be in a position to fund those attending SARCOF-13.

HOW TO ATTEND

Those wishing to attend can express their intention to do so through completing the attached request-for-participation form and **submitting it to the Meteorological Services of Zimbabwe not later than 14 August 2009.**

CO-OPERATING INSTITUTIONS

Co-operating institutions include all SADC National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre; ACMAD; International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI); World Meteorological Organization; Food and Agricultural Organization, Famines Early Warning; World Health Organization; European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts; NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Prediction; the United Kingdom Meteorological Office; among others.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English will be the working language for the Forum.

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION
THIRTEENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM
(SARCOF-13)
26-27 AUGUST 2009

*To be completed and sent to:
The Coordinator, SADC Drought Monitoring Centre,
P/Bag 0095 Gaborone, Botswana.*

Completed form to arrive before 14 August 2009.

Tel: +267-3953413; Fax: +267-3972848 E-mail: bgaranganga@sadc.int; ebungare@weather.utande.co.zw

Please indicate area of interest: (tick in the box)

Climate scientist/expert User of climate information

FAMILY NAME: _____

FIRST AND OTHER NAMES: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

POSITION: _____

PROFESSION: _____

FULL ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

There are limited slots for presentations relevant to the theme. Those intending to make a 10-minute presentation should send an abstract. The organizing committee will inform you if there is a slot for your presentation.

If you intend to make a presentation please indicate below.

TITLE PAPER: _____

In order for us to make transport arrangements indicate your itinerary by 14 August 2009.

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and place of the meeting:

- ◆ **Dates:** 26-27 August 2009
- ◆ **Location:** The Rainbow Towers, Harare, Zimbabwe

2. Entry Formalities:

- ◆ Entry visas can be obtained from the Zimbabwe Diplomatic Missions or Consulates in the participants' countries.

3. Currency

There is official use of multiple hard currencies such as United States Dollar, British Pound, and Botswana Pula. There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that may be imported into Zimbabwe. However, re-exportation of currency will require initial declaration of the amount initially imported. *Most banks in Zimbabwe have foreign exchange services. Banking hours are from 8:30 - 15:30hrs, Monday to Friday, 8:30-11:30hrs Saturday.*

4. Arrival and transport arrangements

Transport from and to Harare International Airport will be arranged if a travel schedule is provided well in advance. Provide the travel plan by **not later than 14 August 2009.**

5. Accommodation

We have arranged block booking at The Rainbow Towers Hotel at a special rate for **Bed and Breakfast** for participants to SARCOF-13.

6. Harare Climate

SARCOF 13 will be held during the transition period from the cool to hot season condition. As such weather in Harare is generally characterized by periods of dry, mild conditions. The long-term rainfall and temperature data for September are indicated below:

Element	Typical values
Rainfall	Highest 24 hour rainfall: 12 mm
	Highest monthly rainfall: 19 mm
	Mean monthly rainfall: 2 mm
	Lowest monthly rainfall: 0 mm
Temperature	Mean maximum temperature: 23.7 °C
	Mean minimum temperature: 8.7 °C
	Average of highest maximum temperature: 28.9 °C
	Absolute highest maximum temperature: 32.4 °C
	Average of lowest minimum temperature: 4.4 °C
Absolute lowest minimum temperature: 1.9 °C	
Relative Humidity	Average at 08:00 (local time) 52 %
	Average at 14:00 (local time) 34%
	Average at 20:00 (local time) 35%

Contact address

Any questions regarding the arrangements should be directed to:

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P/ Bag 0095

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