

SASSCAL Seasonal Forecast Assimilation

Rainfall period October-November-December (OND) 2026

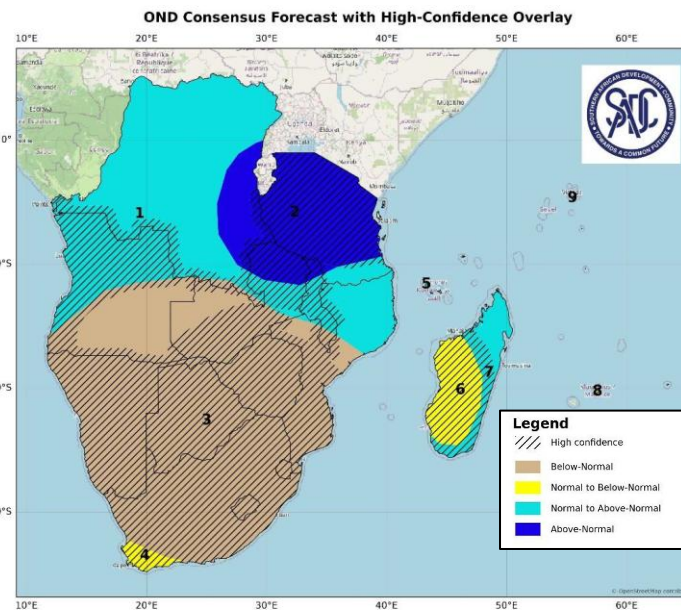
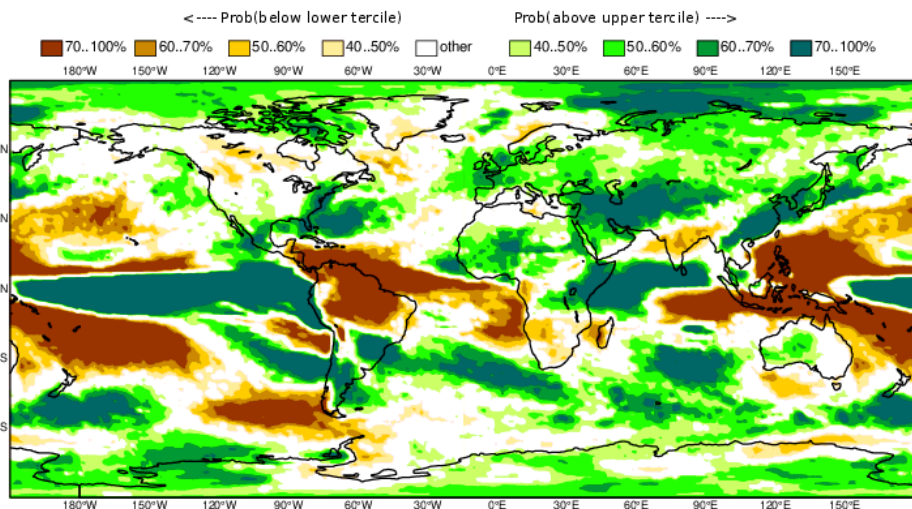
European Centre for Medium-Range
Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

ECMWF Seasonal Forecast
Prob(most likely category of precipitation)

Forecast start is 01/08/26, climate period is 1993-2016

Ensemble size = 51, climate size = 600

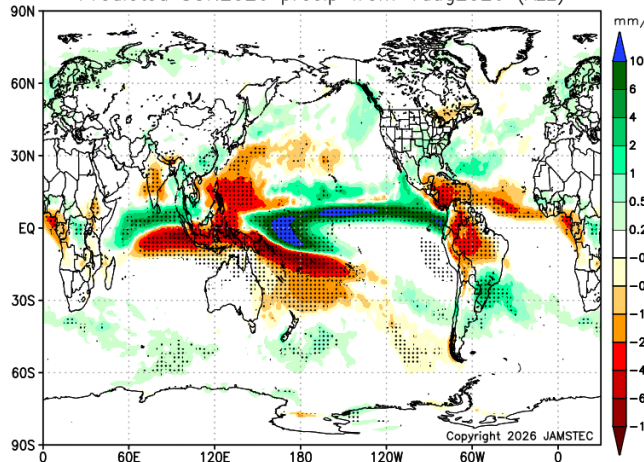
System 5
OND 2026



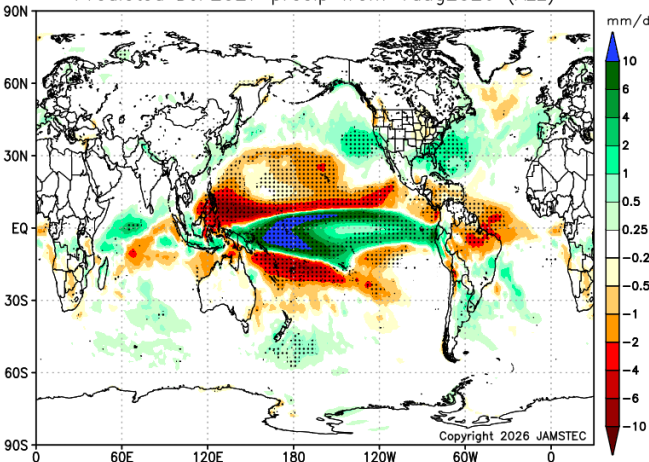
33rd Southern African Regional Climate Outlook
Forum (SARCOF-31)

Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and
Technology (JAMSTEC)

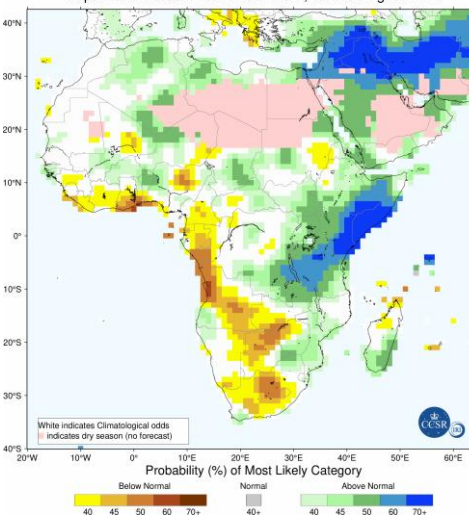
Predicted SON2026 precip from 1aug2026 (ALL)



Predicted DJF2027 precip from 1aug2026 (ALL)



CCSR/IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast for Precipitation for
September-October-November 2026, Issued August 2026



International Research Institute (IRI)

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For most of southern Africa, with the exception of the winter rainfall areas, the October to December quarter marks the first quarter of the rainfall year. It generally spells the onset of the rainfall season, with much greater downpours only expected as from January in most of southern Africa. But it does bring the first relief from the cold and dry winter months.

The SASSCAL historical map (1981-2025) for the average 3-month rainfall total for the October-November-December (Oct-Nov-Dec) provides a useful baseline, offering a broader perspective on what can typically be expected during this period of the year.

SASSCAL already previously reported on the [high probability of an unusually strong El Niño](#) developing towards in the 2026. The El Niño generally leads to agricultural and hydrological droughts in southern Africa (Caj et al 2025). Resulting in devastating effects on crop and livestock production, as well as water and food security.

For the Oct-Nov-Dec 2026 rainfall forecast, four seasonal forecasts have been consulted:

- SADC's own SARCOF-33 statement highlights the key oceanic and atmospheric drivers that influence rainfall variability over the southern African region, with likely strong to very strong El Niño conditions still strengthening in the tropical Pacific, and a high likelihood of a strong Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) developing by September 2026. As a result of these drivers and others, most of southern Africa is expected to encounter below normal rainfall during the OND quarter, with normal to above normal rainfall conditions expected mainly for the northern parts of southern Africa, namely northern Angola, northern Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, most of Tanzania and northern Malawi.
- The IRI and ECMW forecast generally agree on the areas of southern Africa, that may be drier during the OND 2026 quarter. These include large parts of Angola, the north-eastern parts of Namibia, most of Botswana and large parts of South Africa.
- JAMSTEC predicts only Botswana to receive below average rainfall for the December-January-February period, with most of southern Africa predicted to have average rainfall.

References:

1. SADC. 2026. [Statement from the thirty-third southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum](#) (SARCOF-33).
2. Caj et al. 2025. [Climate Impacts of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation in Africa](#).

Data Source: CHC CHIRPS 3.0 precipitation data from 1981 to 2025

Average 3-Month Rainfall Total for October to December (OND) (1981 to 2025)

