SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2026 OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA

SADC
CLIMATE SERVICES CENTRE (CSC)
and
MEMBER STATES

28 – 30 JANUARY 2026

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Met Office

WISER

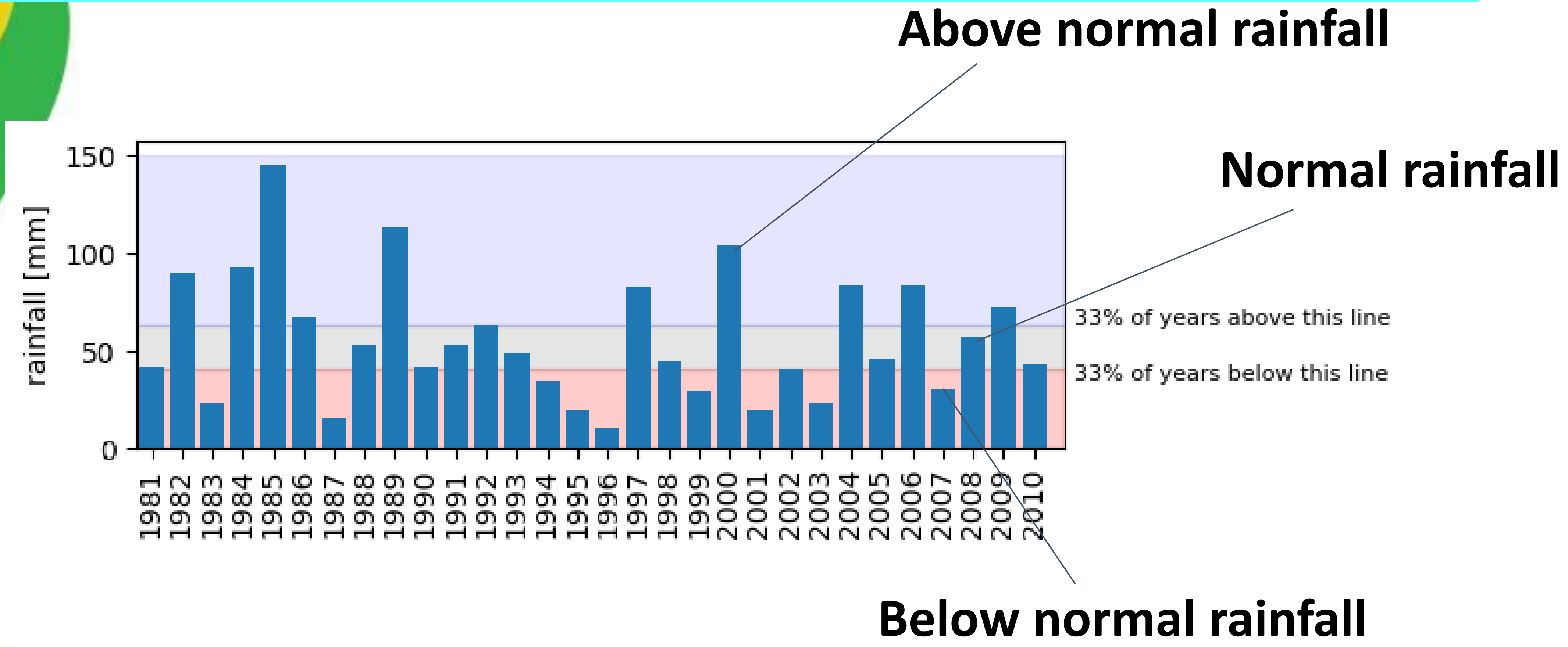
Background information

- The Climate experts meeting was conducted from 19-27 January 2026
- Using statistical analysis, other climate prediction schemes and expert interpretation, likelihoods of above-normal, normal-to-above, normal-to-below and below-normal rainfall for each zone have been forecasted for overlapping three-monthly periods
- Outlook is relevant for large areas and applicable at regional scale only. National or local area climate outlooks are available from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SADC region.

Understanding the forecast product

- Why forecast is always uncertain?
- What do the maps that we show mean?

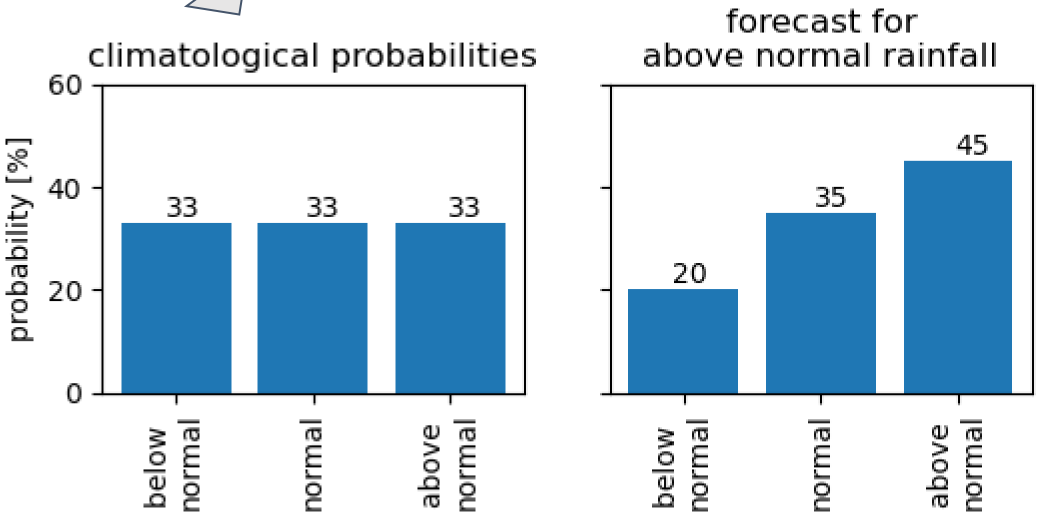
below normal - normal - above normal



Climatological and forecast probability

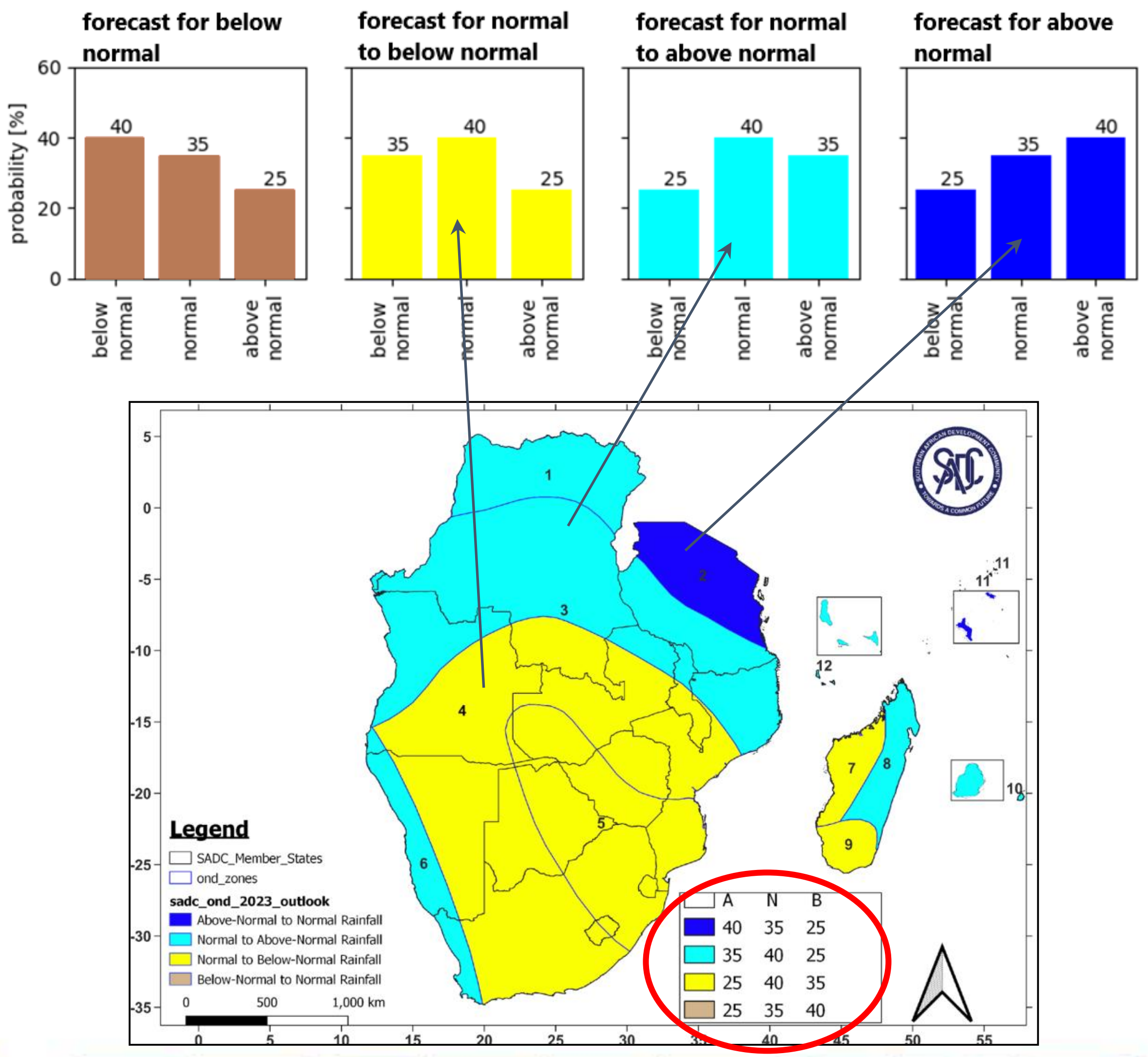
without forecast, we expect this

with forecast, we may expect this



Probabilistic forecast **does not tell us** whether the season **will be** above, or below.
It tells us **what is the chance** of above normal or below normal, or normal year

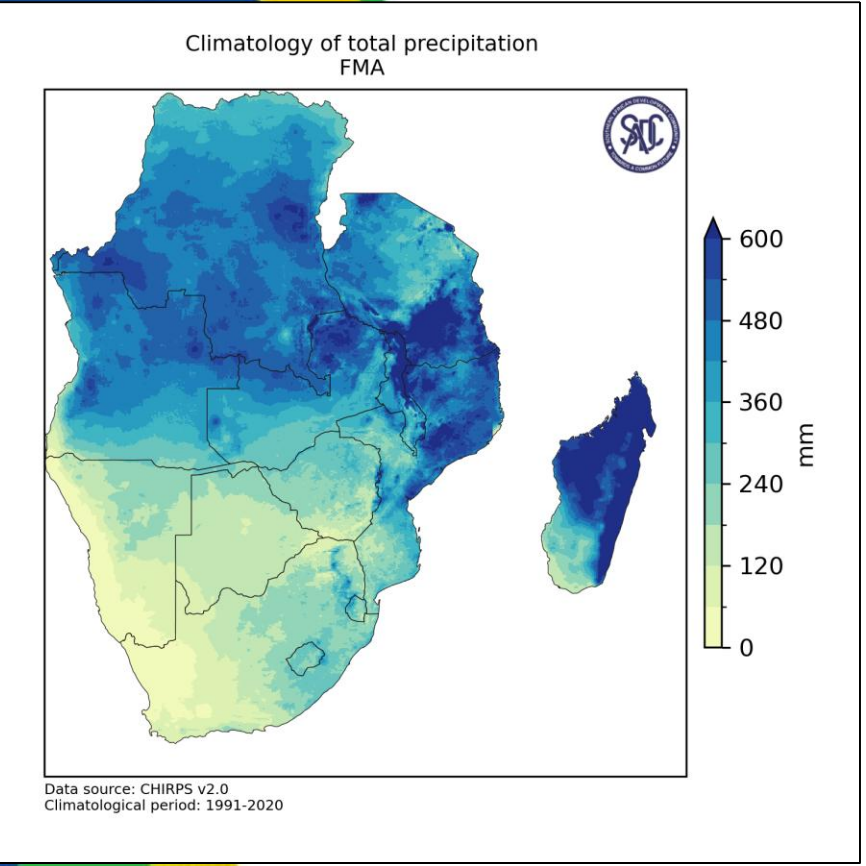
How to interpret the SARCOF forecast map

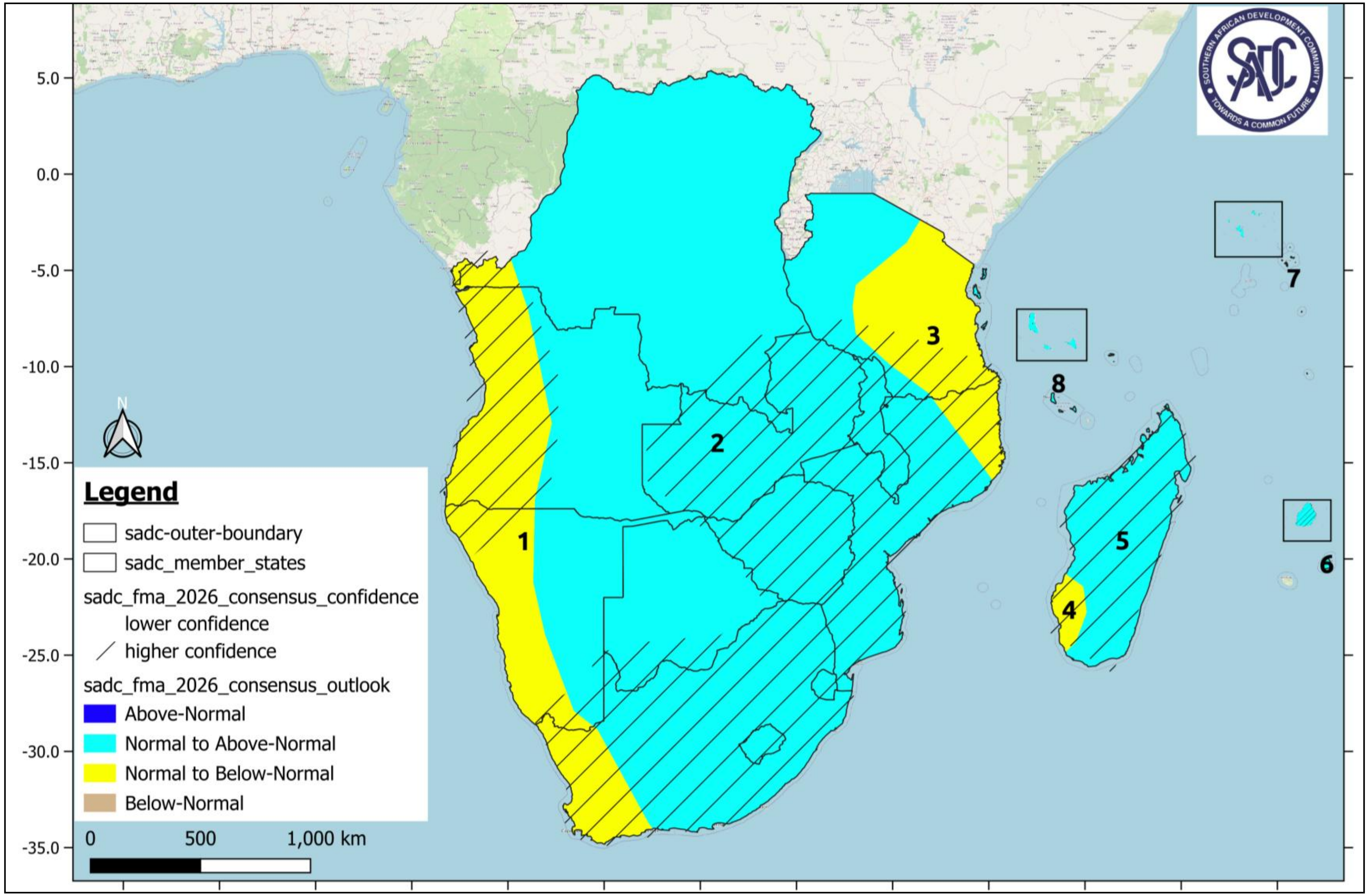


Forecast for below normal **does not tell us** that rainfall **will be** below normal.

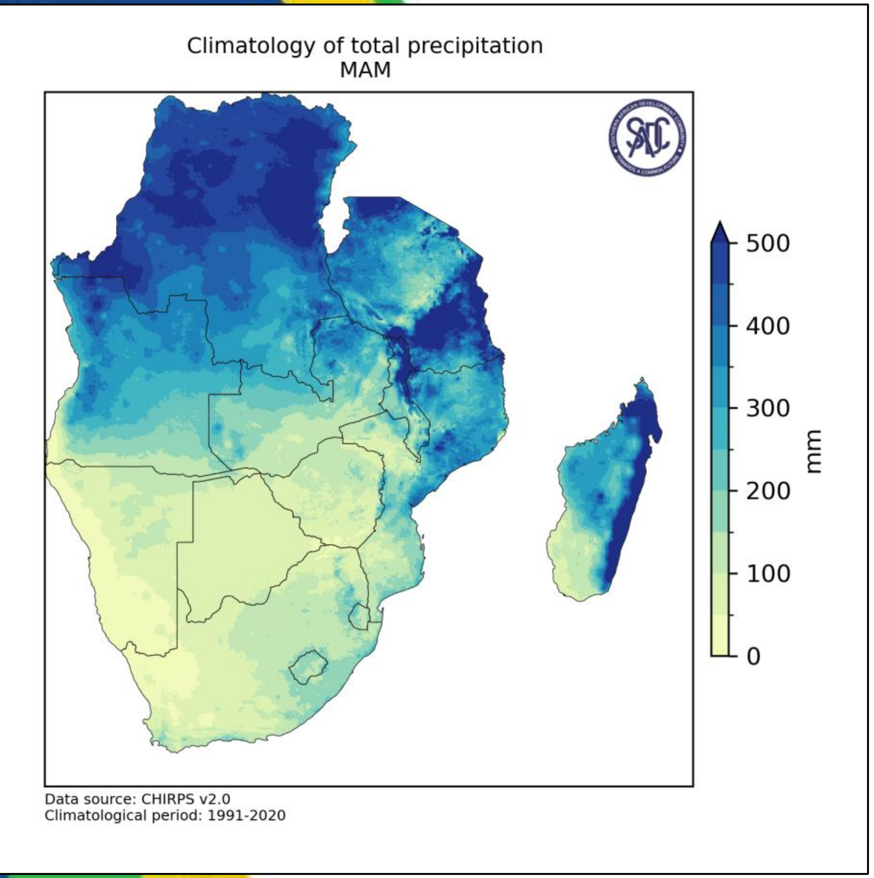
It tells us that there is **an increased chance** of below normal rainfall.

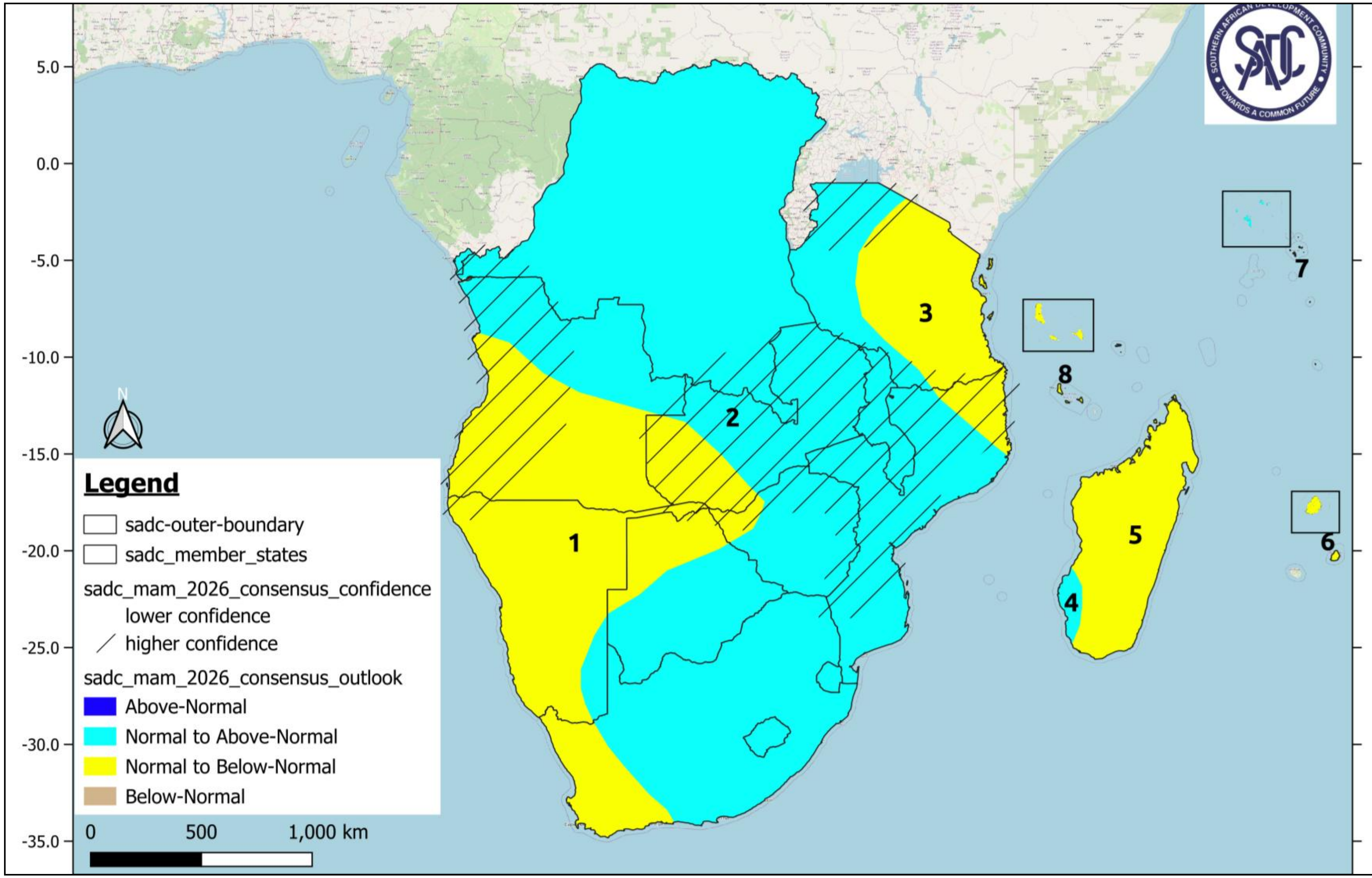
Seasonal Outlook for February-March-April 2026



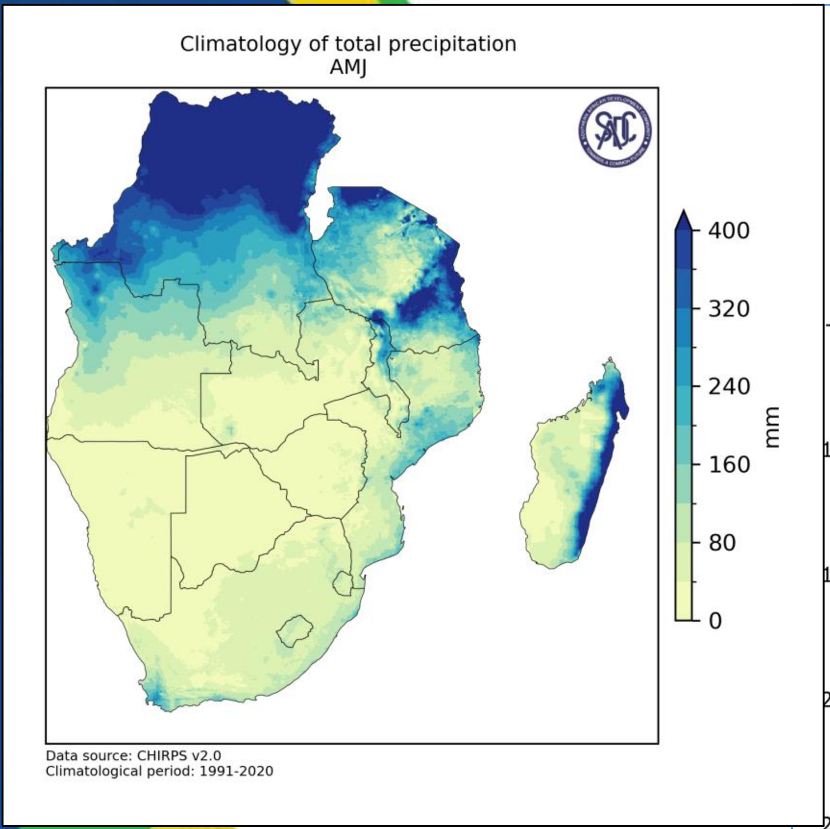


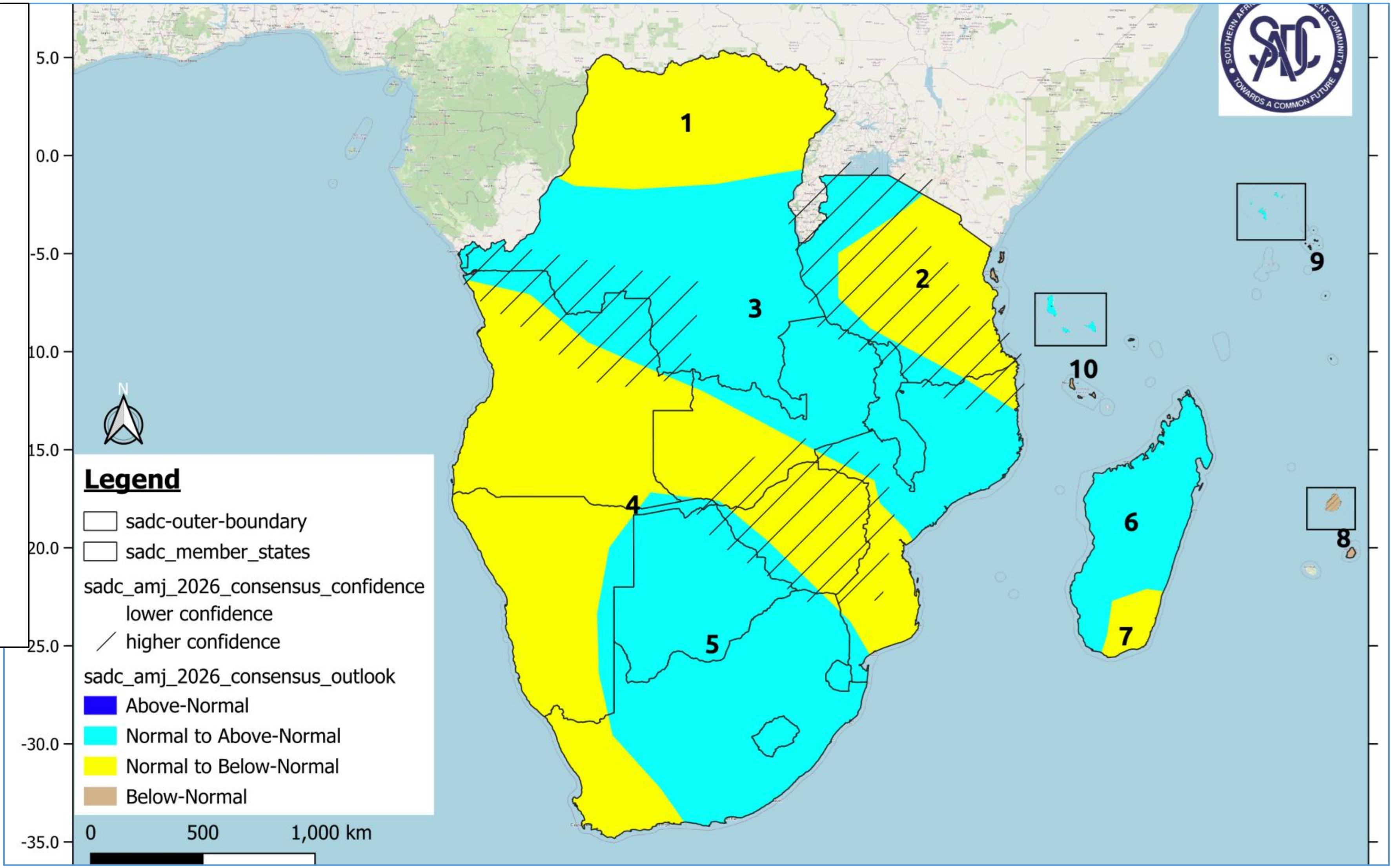
Seasonal Outlook for March-April-May 2026





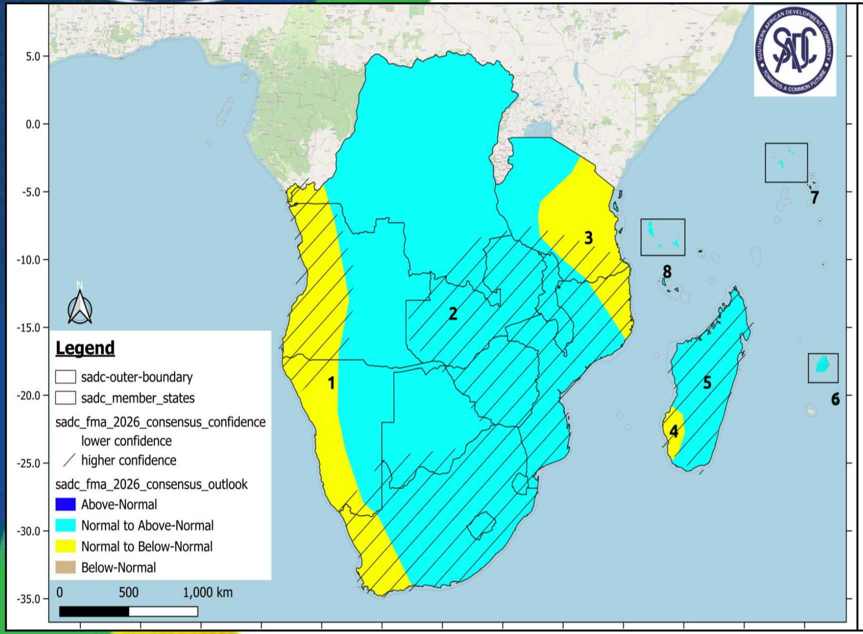
Seasonal Outlook for April-May-June 2026



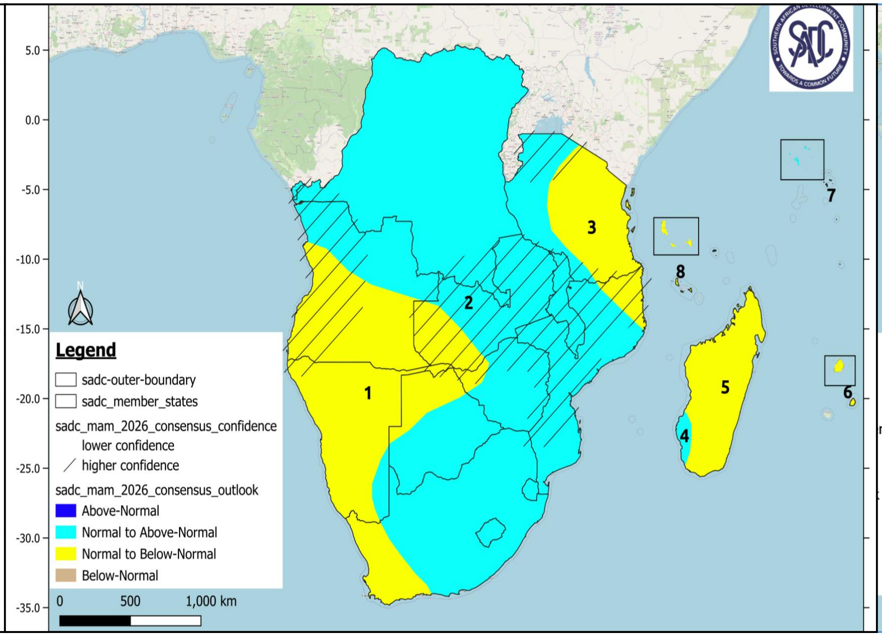


Summary of Outlooks

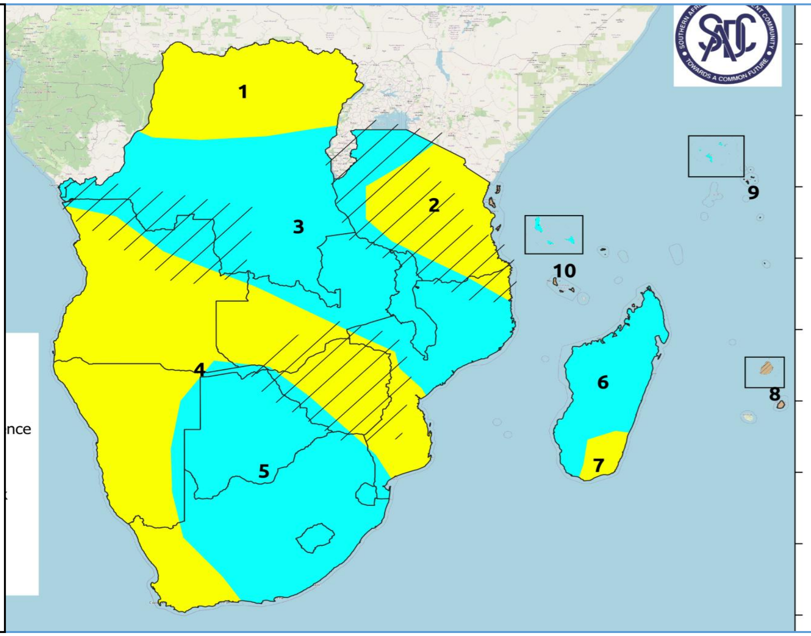
FMA 2026



MAM 2026



AMJ 2026



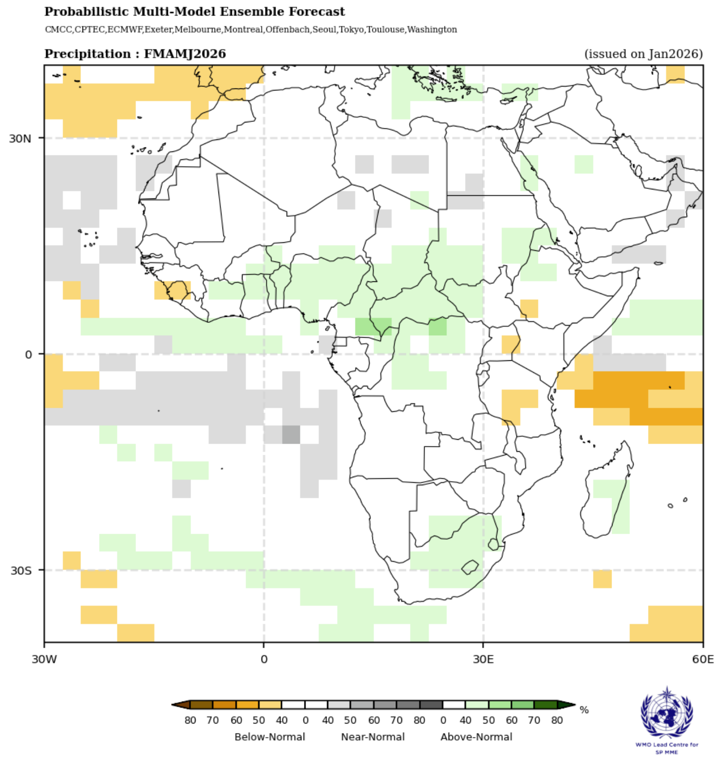
GLOBAL PRODUCING CENTRES' (GPCS) OVERVIEW FOR THE Feb-May 2026 SEASON

The outlook is broadly consistent with the forecasts generated with the multi-model ensemble of international dynamical climate forecast models presented by the World Meteorological Organization and other international organizations.

Increased probability of above normal rainfall conditions are forecasted by the dynamical models over South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, DRC and over the Mozambican channel including Madagascar. Below normal conditions are forecasted for only northern and northeastern parts of the region.

These forecasts are relatively consistent across the February to June 2026 period, with minor differences between intra-seasons. Different multi-model forecasting systems agree relatively well in the overall direction of the anomalies, although their demonstrated skill varies.

MME Forecast for FMAMJ



Seasonal Outlook Confidence

SARCOF outlook maps are annotated with information on confidence of the forecast.

Forecasts carry a different level of certainty, which reflects factors such as:

- the relative role of the predictable vs. the non-predictable (random) component of climate
- the strength of climate processes that allow forecasters to make a prediction
- the quality of data and the level of understanding of climate drivers that affects the ability of the forecasting system, model or approach to capture all relevant processes that determine future climate

These factors vary in space and in time - they change slightly every year and depend on location and season that is forecasted.

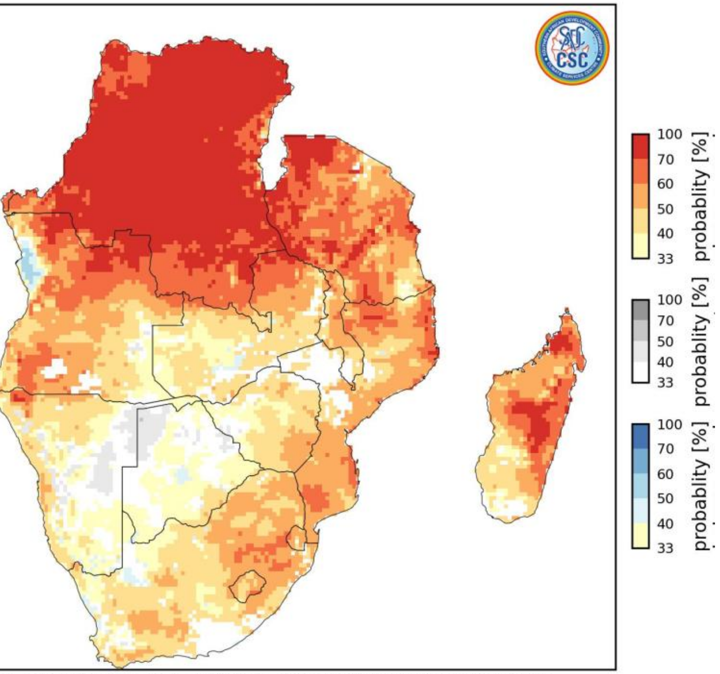
As presented in the outlook maps, the confidence information has been derived based on:

- numerically assessed level of agreement of various forecasting approaches in terms of direction and magnitude of forecasted anomalies
- numerically assessed level of skill, or ability of these forecasting approaches to correctly forecast conditions during previous forecasts
- level of confidence in the forecast expressed by the forecasters

While the forecast for regions/seasons with higher confidence could be interpreted and acted upon with more assuredness, those with lower confidence should be considered with more caution. In any case, irrespective of confidence, the user is advised that the forecast, as presented in the outlook document, indicates only increased probability that the forecast category will occur (as per probabilities indicated in the maps), rather than give an assurance that it will occur.

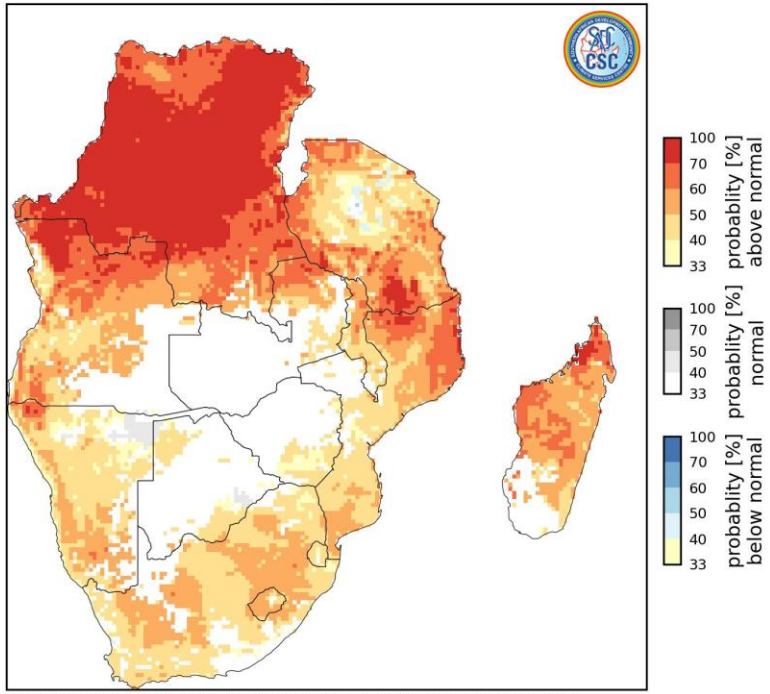
Temperature Outlook for FMA, MAM and AMJ 2026

Probabilistic (tercile) forecast
of mean temperature for FMA 2026
issued in Jan 2026



Source: Multi-model ensemble (SEAS51, CFSv2, CCSM4) calibrated at SADC CSC
Skill evaluated by tercile probabilities against ERA5 data over 1993-2015 period
Values where Generalized ROC is less than 50 are masked out

Probabilistic (tercile) forecast
of mean temperature for MAM 2026
issued in Jan 2026



Source: Multi-model ensemble (SEAS51, CFSv2, CCSM4) calibrated at SADC CSC
Skill evaluated by tercile probabilities against ERA5 data over 1993-2015 period
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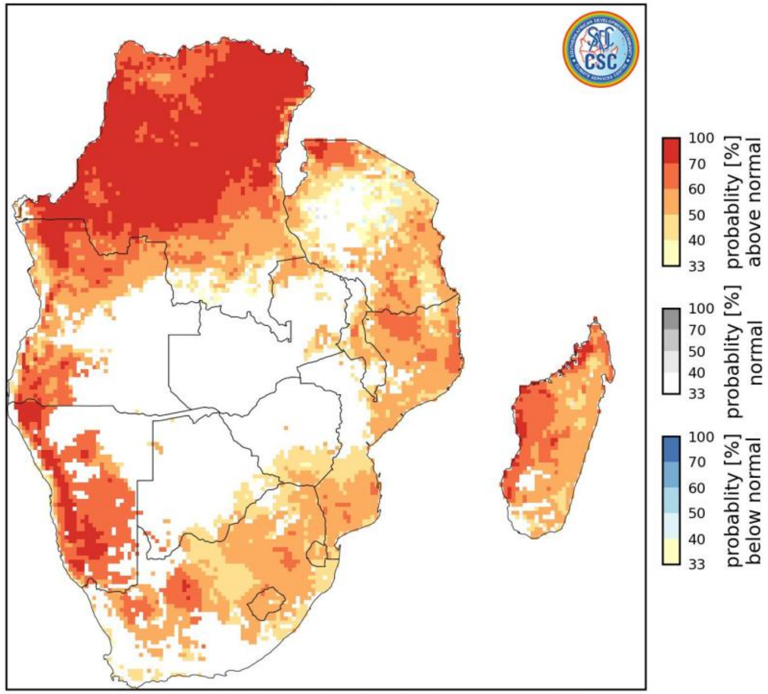
Probabilistic (tercile) forecast
of mean temperature for AMJ 2026
issued in Jan 2026



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Skill evaluated by tercile probabilities against ERA5 data over 1993-2015 period
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Your attention is appreciated

Votre attention est appréciée

Muito Obrigado pela vossa atençao

Mawazo yako yanathaminiwa