

STATEMENT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SWIOCOF-15)

Seychelles

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

"In memory of Sylvester Chaisamba, climate expert TMA"

SUMMARY

Consensus forecast information for October to March (2026/2027):

The seasonal forecasts for rainfall and temperature conditions are expressed in terms of anomalies from climatological averages for the considered seasons. These averages define what is called hereafter "normal" conditions, they are presented in Annex 1.

A vulnerability analysis is conducted following an analysis of the cumulated rainfall amount over a nine months period from December 2025 until August 2026, coupled with a list of areas that have experienced a flooding disaster. This process has identified some areas where people, infrastructures and ecosystems may be more easily undermined than usual by potential extreme events.

The rainfall pattern predicted over the SWIO region is close to what is usually expected when El Niño, positive IOD and negative SIOD occur. Over the continental part of the SWIO region, the expected rainfall anomalies pattern for the forthcoming quarters present a north-south distribution, with below normal precipitations expected over South Africa, southern half of Mozambique and of Malawi. Above normal rainfall are expected over Tanzania and northern Malawi. Over small island countries the forecast shows normal to above normal conditions, when the expected situation over Madagascar should be contrasted between the north-eastern area associated to above normal conditions, and the south-western part that should be associated to below normal conditions. There are some evolutions between OND 2026 and JFM 2027, the below normal conditions should shift somehow northward over the continent.

The temperatures are already above normal for most parts of the region during the end of the dry season. This trend is expected to maintain during the upcoming quarters OND 2026 and JFM 2027, leading to a remarkable pattern covering the entire region. It is important to note that the risk of observing exceptionally above normal values of temperatures¹ is multiplied by more than 5 meaning that records are likely to be broken in the course of the two seasons (OND and JFM).

For the upcoming cyclonic season (November 2026 to April 2027), well below normal cyclone activity is expected over the SWIO basin. Under the influence of El Niño conditions, tropical Cyclone tracks are expected to be mainly southward, therefore the risk of landfall is significantly decreased for the coasts of Madagascar and Mozambique, whereas the risk for The Mascarene islands should be near normal.

1 The "exceptional" temperatures correspond to a threshold given by the 90th percentile of the statistical distribution of this parameter. The climatological probability to exceed this threshold is 10%.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

The fifteenth session of the South Western Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF-15) was hosted by the Seychelles Meteorological Agency at Anse Royale, Seychelles, from 15 to 18 September 2026 to prepare a consensus outlook for the beginning of the 2026/2027 rainy season over the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) region. Climate scientists from the SWIO National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Meteo-France, formulated this outlook. Additional inputs were considered from participating models of the World Meteorological Organization Global Producing Centre for Long-Range Forecasts (WMO-GPCLRF) namely, European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), Météo-France, NCEP, South African Weather Service (SAWS), Copernicus Climate Change Services (C3S), the WMO Lead Centre for Long Range Forecasts Multi-Model Ensemble (WMO-LC-LRFMME) and ACMAD.

This outlook covers the main part of the rainy season from October 2026 to March 2027. The outlooks are presented in three-monthly following seasons as follows: October-November-December (OND) and January-February-March (JFM).

NOTE: This Outlook is only relevant to the above-mentioned three-month seasons. It is also important to note that relatively large areas may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month (intra-seasonal) variations. Users are strongly advised to contact their relevant National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of this Outlook as well as additional guidance and updates.

OUTLOOK

The period of October to December over the SWIO region is typically a transition season before the main rainy season. The (JFM) season is also being referred to as the peak of the cyclonic season. The methodology used to obtain these forecasts is described in the Annex 2.

Current status of the climate system

The sea surface temperature over the Equatorial Pacific shows rapidly growing positive anomalies associated with El Niño conditions. The last months analysis show that the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has been evolving from a neutral state towards a positive phase. In the south of the basin, the Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD) has been evolving from a positive phase to a neutral phase.

Expected evolution of the main climate drivers for SWIO region

The synthesis of global climate models suggests that:

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to confirm the present tendency and will continue to be strongly positive during the heart of the rainy season.
- This pattern is likely to drive the regional climate for the coming seasons i.e., OND and JFM.
- The IOD is expected to be in a positive phase with a peak during the OND season.
- The SIOD index is expected to keep its trend and should be in a negative state during the two upcoming seasons. However, the forecast of this driver is prone to some uncertainties and it should be carefully monitored during the coming months.

NB: The SST forecasts can be seen in the Annex 3

Regional vulnerability present status

The vulnerability assessment over the region aims to identify the areas that have been affected by severe climate conditions during the past seasons to the extent that their resilience capacity could have been weakened. This assessment includes two main hazards that could increase the risk of disasters depending on the predicted climate patterns:

- An analysis of the rainfall accumulation over a nine month period covering the last rainy season and the beginning of the dry season (from December 2025 until August 2026) is conducted in order to highlight the zones which are prone to rainfall deficits:

- Agalega island is associated to a low vulnerability level (deficit < 80% from normal).
- South-east Madagascar and Mascarene islands are associated to a moderate vulnerability level (deficit < 70% from normal)

- A list of flood events which occurred between november 2025 and august 2026 is examined and the events of catastrophic proportions that could undermine the resilience capacity of the local communities are displayed.

The figure 1 summarizes the identification of areas that are affected by a higher than normal vulnerability due to recent climate hazards. These areas should be given special attention when examining the outlook for the coming season.

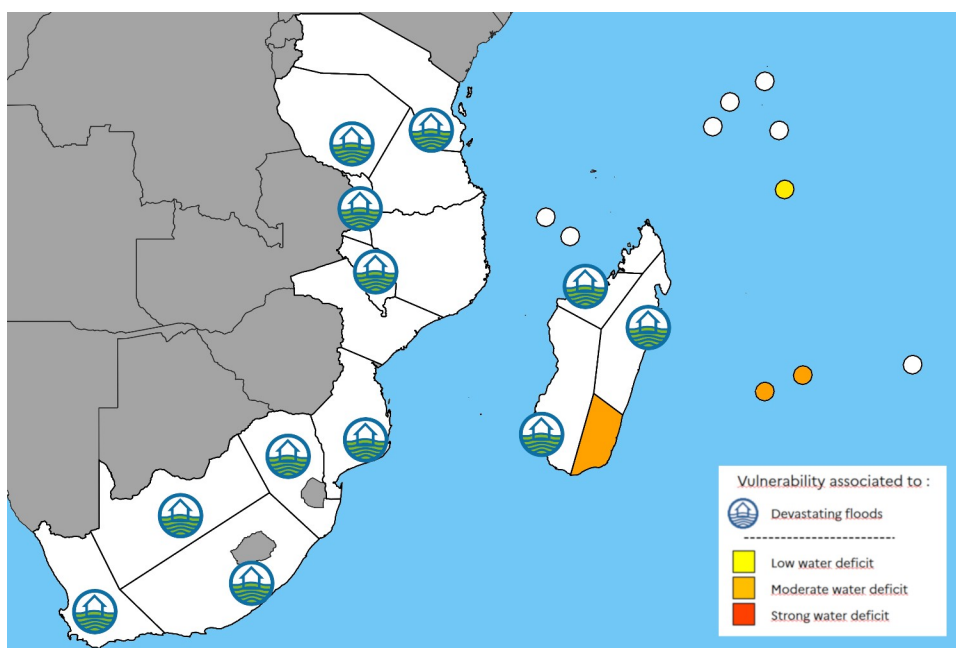


Figure 1: Vulnerability map derived from rainfall deficits analysis for the period December 2025 to August 2026 and a list of major flooding events.

Outlooks for OND 2026 and JFM 2027

The precipitation, temperature and cyclone outlooks for the upcoming seasons: October-November-December (OND) 2026 and January-February-March (JFM) 2027 were based on the following: SST anomalies, knowledge and understanding of seasonal cyclonic typology over the South West Indian Ocean region together with unbiased long range forecasts products.

Precipitation:

- **General remarks:** The rainfall pattern over the SWIO region is close to what is usually expected when El Niño, positive IOD and negative SIOD occur. Over the continental part of the SWIO region, the expected rainfall anomalies pattern for the forthcoming quarters present a north-south distribution, with below normal precipitations expected over South Africa, southern half of Mozambique and of Malawi. Above normal rainfall are expected over Tanzania and northern Malawi. Over small island countries the forecast show normal to above normal conditions, when the expected situation over Madagascar should be contrasted between the north-eastern area associated to above normal conditions and the south-western part that should be associated to below normal conditions. There are some evolutions between OND

2026 and JFM 2027, the below normal conditions should shift somehow northward over the continent.

- Detailed outlook:

For **October-November-December** season (OND) – Figure 2, the most likely conditions for the different countries are described below:

Below normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- South Africa, south and central Mozambique, south-west Madagascar

Normal to below normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- South Malawi, south-east Madagascar

Near Normal rainfall is expected (over 60% probability) over the following regions:

- North Madagascar, Comoros

Normal to above normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- East and north-west of Madagascar

Above normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- Tanzania, north Malawi, Seychelles islands, Mauritius islands, La Réunion

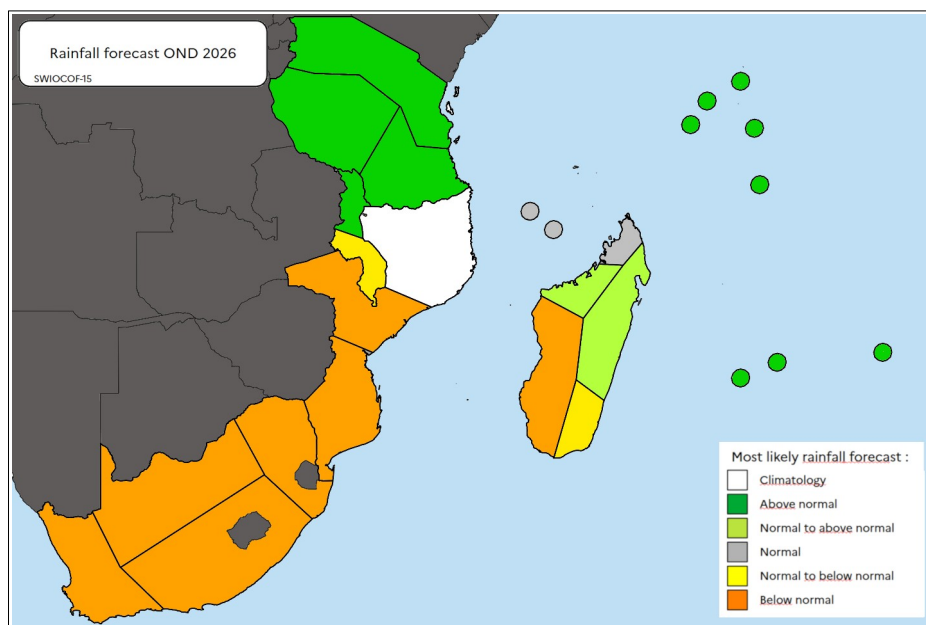


Figure 2 : Consensus forecast of precipitation for OND 2026 in SWIO region

For **January-February-March** season (JFM) – Figure 3, the most likely conditions for the different countries are described below:

Below normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- North-east South Africa, south and central Mozambique, Malawi

Normal to below normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- North-west South Africa, north Mozambique, west Madagascar

Normal rainfall is expected (60% probability) over the following regions:

- South-east Madagascar, La Réunion

Normal to above normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- North and east Madagascar, south-west South Africa, south-east Tanzania, Comoros

Above normal rainfall is expected over the following regions:

- North and south-west Tanzania, Seychelles islands, Agalega, Rodrigues.

Uncertain conditions affect the following regions:

- South-east South Africa, Mauritius

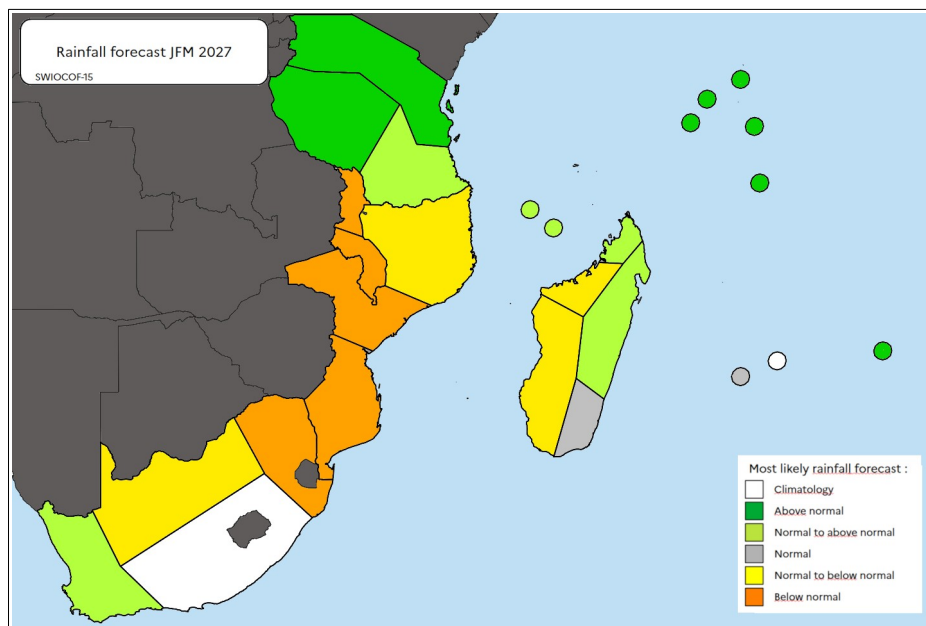


Figure 3: Consensus forecast of precipitation for JFM 2027 in SWIO region

Temperature:

- **General remarks:** The temperatures are already above normal for most part of the region during the end of the dry season. This trend is expected to maintain during the upcoming quarters OND 2026 and JFM 2027, leading to a remarkable pattern covering the entire region. It is important to note that the risk of observing exceptionally above normal values of temperatures² is multiplied by more than 5 meaning that records are likely to be broken in the course of the two seasons (OND and JFM). This outlook is displayed in figures 4 and 5.

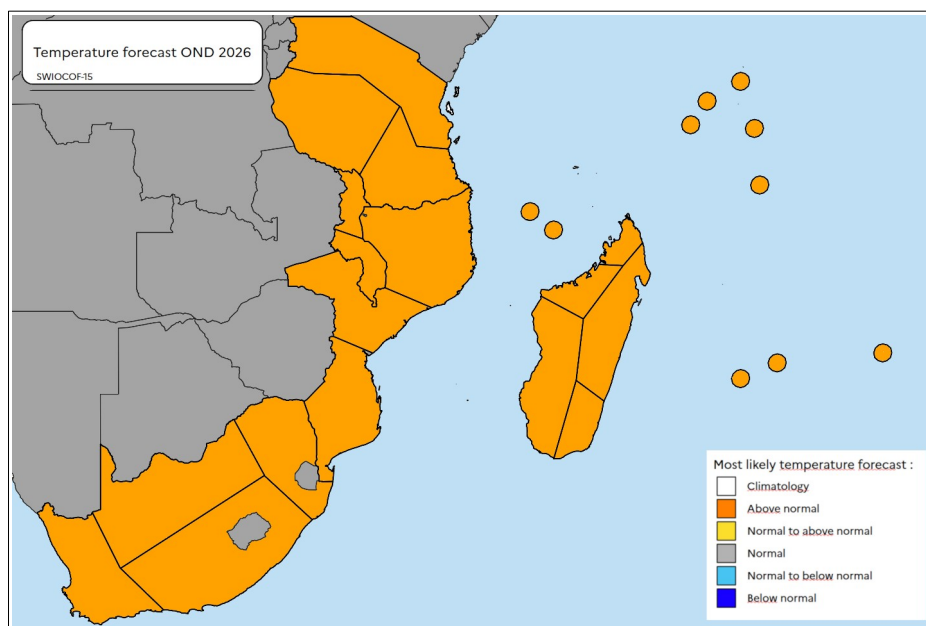


Figure 4 : Consensus forecast of temperature for OND 2026 in SWIO region

² The “exceptional” temperatures correspond to a threshold given by the 90th percentile of the statistical distribution of this parameter. The climatological probability to exceed this threshold is 10%.

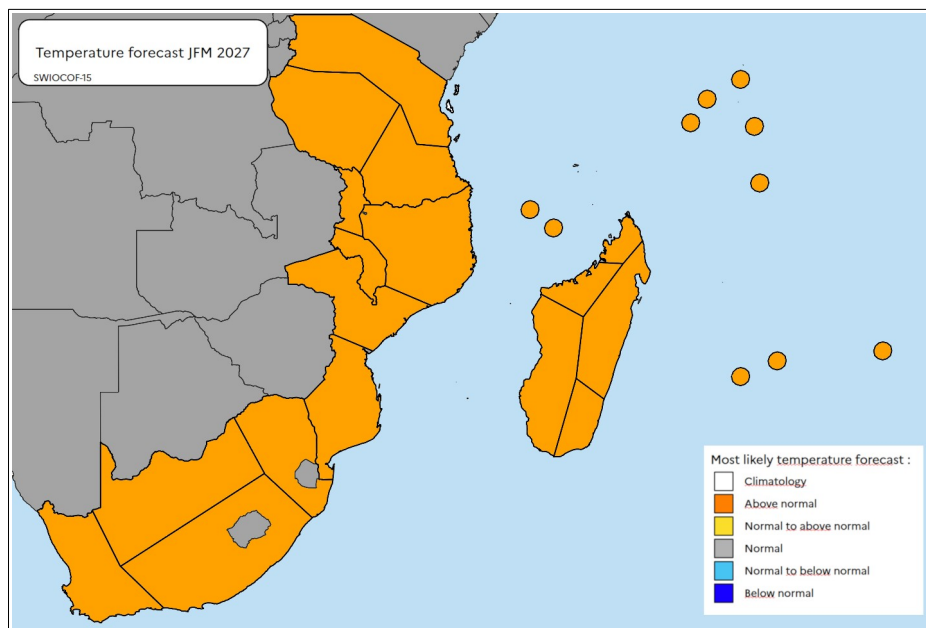


Figure 5: Consensus forecast of temperature for JFM 2027 in SWIO region

Cyclone activity:

- This outlook covers the South-West Indian Ocean cyclonic basin (from 30°E to 90°E, between the equator and 40°S)

For the upcoming cyclonic season (November 2026 to April 2027), well below normal cyclone activity is expected over the SWIO basin. Under the influence of El Niño conditions, tropical Cyclone tracks are expected to be mainly southward, therefore the risk of landfall is significantly decreased for the coasts of Madagascar and Mozambique whereas the risk for The Mascarene islands should be near normal.

For the second part of the season (beyond February), the level of activity is still uncertain given the considered lead-time and the uncertainty in the evolution of relevant climate drivers of cyclone activity in the SWIO region, namely the SIOD.

This outlook is produced at the regional scale. Thus, its interpretation should only be for regional use. To cover local and/or country adaptation and its applications needs, countries are encouraged to consult their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for more details and updates.

An outlook update which is specific to the cyclone activity will be provided during the SWIOCOF-TC mini-forum which will take place as a web conference in October 28st 2026.

SECTORAL COMMENTS

Impacts of El Niño on DRM sector:

A study conducted by PIROI analyzes the human and humanitarian impacts associated with major El Niño events observed in the southwestern Indian Ocean, based on four reference seasons: 1982–83, 1997–98, 2015–16, and 2023–24. It primarily covers the countries and territories of the PIROI network and cross-references climate data with documented impacts, national disaster declarations, calls for international aid, and major humanitarian responses.

The analysis distinguishes between rapid-onset disasters, such as cyclones and floods, and slower-onset crises like drought and food insecurity, to avoid direct comparisons between indicators of different types.

Data on impacts and humanitarian response were collected from national disaster management mechanisms, IFRC archives—Emergency Appeals, DREF, Operations Updates, and IFRC GO—as well as publications from OCHA and United Nations agencies. Data on food security, agriculture, and nutrition come primarily from the FAO, the WFP, the IPC, and UNICEF. Damage and loss assessments, including PDNAs from the World Bank, the United Nations, and the affected governments, were also used when available. For older events, historical United Nations archives, particularly those of UNDRO, were used to supplement certain information.

The results show that the El Niño years studied do not result in a single type of disaster, but rather in a regional redistribution of climate extremes. In Southern Africa, particularly in Mozambique and southern Madagascar, several episodes are associated with rainfall deficits, prolonged dry spells, agricultural losses, and increased food insecurity. Conversely, Tanzania and, more broadly, East Africa experience more frequent instances—particularly during OND and when the IOD is positive—of excessive rainfall, flooding, and landslides. The islands of the southwestern Indian Ocean show a more variable pattern, with no simple relationship between El Niño and the occurrence of cyclones. Agriculture and food security thus appear to be the sectors most regularly affected—either directly by drought or indirectly by flooding.

From an operational standpoint, these findings suggest that an El Niño episode should not lead to the development of a single regional scenario, but rather to scenarios tailored to specific areas: anticipating droughts, water stress, and food insecurity in the south; preparing for floods, displacement, and disruptions to access in Tanzania and the northwestern part of the basin; maintaining a multi-hazard approach for the Comoros, the Mascarene Islands, and the Seychelles.

This work thus provides an initial basis for reflection that would benefit from further exploration, particularly by making greater use of the archives of the region's national and territorial disaster management mechanisms. Consolidating these sources would make it possible to supplement historical time series, harmonize impact data, and improve comparative analysis across ENSO events.

Patterns emerging from the El Niño years studied



PIROI zone	Observed climate signal	Recurring impact chain	Analogue seasons	Confidence
Tanzania / East Africa OND	Frequent heavy rainfall when El Niño is associated with a positive IOD	Extreme rainfall → flooding/landslides → displacement, road closures, crop losses	1997–98; 2023–24	Severe
Mozambique / Southern Africa DJFMA	Rainfall deficit + heat + prolonged dry spells	Agricultural drought → crop/livestock losses → water/nutrition → food insecurity	1982–83; 2015–16; 2023–24 Exception: 1997–98	Severe
Southern Madagascar DJFMA	Recurring but spatially variable dry signal	Agricultural stress + pressure on water → nutrition / CPI3+ / livelihoods	2015–16; 2023–24	Moderate
Comoros, Mascarene Islands, Seychelles	No clear relationship	Cyclones, heavy rainfall, flooding and agricultural damage depending on trajectories and OI context	Elinah 1983; Fantala 2016; Belal/Gamane/Filipo 2024	Variable

SOURCES : WMO/NOAA, Météo-France OI, FAO/WFP, IFRC, OCHA/UN, BNGRC, INGD, national mechanisms.

3

In the longer term, establishing a structured regional database on the impacts of disasters in the southwestern Indian Ocean appears particularly important for strengthening impact-based forecasting approaches, better linking climate forecasts to expected consequences for populations and sectors, and conducting more robust analyses of the influence of El Niño, La Niña, and other Indian Ocean climate variability modes on hazards and their impacts in the region.

Sectoral recommendations in El Niño context

In the SWIO region, El Niño episodes should be regarded as periods of increased climate risk, although their effects differ considerably across territories. Southern Africa is particularly exposed to rainfall deficits, high temperatures and drought, while Tanzania and some northern parts of the basin may experience above-normal rainfall. In this context every sectoral representative should monitor the current forecasts issued by the NMHSs at different timescales. The figure 6 displays the different climate risks that are expected over the region for the upcoming rainy season.

• Agriculture

Key message: Increased risk of rainfall deficits, high temperatures, crop water stress and reduced yields, particularly in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique and southern Madagascar. In areas where above-normal rainfall is expected a risk of flooding and waterlogging can lead to crop damage particularly in low-lying and poorly drained areas. In either case, a poor agricultural season can rapidly result in lower food availability, higher prices and increased food insecurity.

Recommendations: Agricultural institutions should strengthen monitoring of rainfall, soil moisture and crop conditions. When seasonal forecasts indicate a rainfall deficit, it is recommended to promote short-cycle and drought-tolerant varieties, adjust sowing and harvesting calendars, diversify crops and secure seed stocks. Where above-normal rainfall is predicted it is recommended that farm drainage should be cleared and maintained. For livestock, anticipated shortages of pasture and water should be addressed through fodder reserves and the identification of alternative water points. Food stocks should be pre-positioned in vulnerable areas, and social protection or food assistance programmes should be prepared before a severe crisis develops.

• Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems

Key message: Abnormally warm ocean conditions can cause coral bleaching, alter fish distribution and affect the productivity of some fisheries.

Recommendations: Fisheries authorities should strengthen monitoring of sea-surface temperatures, coral reefs and the distribution of key exploited species. In reef areas, temporary reductions in selected fishing pressures can help improve ecosystem resilience following bleaching events. For offshore fisheries, particularly tuna, shifts in stock distribution should be incorporated into fishing campaign planning and port management.

• Water Resources

Key message: El Niño periods can result in a sharp decline in water reserves in drought-prone areas or, conversely, contamination during episodes of heavy rainfall. Some areas, particularly in Tanzania and occasionally in island territories, may experience well-above-normal rainfall, increasing the risk of floods, landslides and damage to infrastructure.

Recommendations: Institutions in charge of water management should closely monitor reservoir, groundwater and storage levels and develop water-availability scenarios several months in advance. Water-saving measures should be introduced before reserves reach critical levels. Drinking-water sources should be secured, and alternative solutions should be prepared for irrigation and livestock. In flood-prone areas, water-quality surveillance and protection of water intakes should be strengthened. DRM services should inspect drainage systems and update evacuation plans. Critical infrastructure - including roads, bridges, hospitals, water networks and electricity systems - should receive priority monitoring.

• Tourism

Key message: Marine heatwaves, coral bleaching, floods and extreme weather events like heat waves can disrupt tourism activities and reduce the attractiveness of some destinations.

Recommendations: Tourism institutions and operators should prepare business continuity plans depending on the climate risk they could be exposed to. Sensible infrastructure should be

secured and strengthened information should be provided to visitors. It is recommended that tourism operators form partnerships in order to offer alternative activities should the planned regions be affected by a climate hazard. In destinations that depend heavily on coral reefs, ecosystem monitoring should be reinforced and tourism activities diversified to reduce dependence on the most vulnerable reef sites. On the long term tourism operators should improve their connexion with national meteorological services for a better use of the forecast at different time-scales

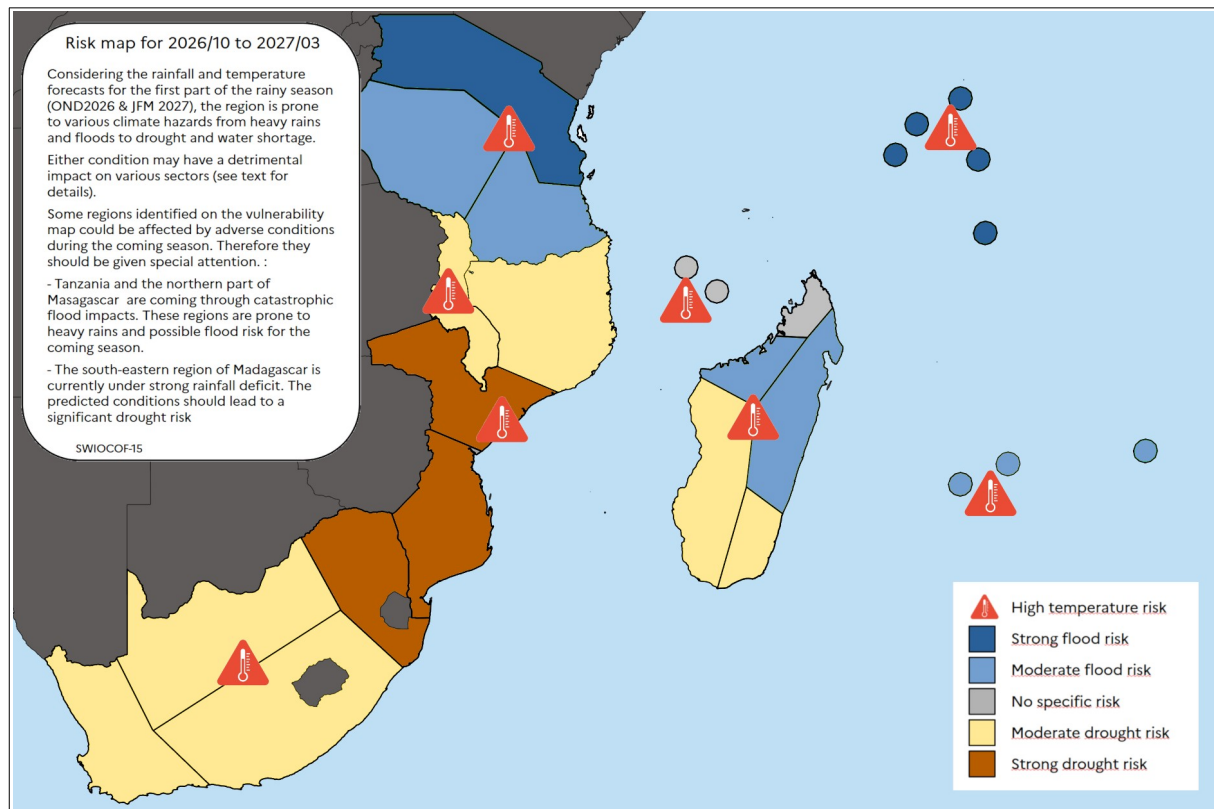


Figure 6: Risk map for the period October 2026 to March 2027

• Health

Key message: Health institutions are advised to activate anticipatory preparedness as an El Niño event is confirmed and seasonal forecasts indicate elevated risk. Priority threats include water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, heat-related illness and disruption of essential health services due to disasters or water shortages. An El Niño alert should not, however, be interpreted as a deterministic forecast: decisions should be adjusted using national forecasts and real-time local observations.

Recommendations: Strengthen epidemiological surveillance for climate-sensitive diseases, including cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, dengue and other locally relevant vector-borne diseases. Combine health data with meteorological, hydrological and nutrition information to identify emerging risk areas early.

Protect water, sanitation and hygiene services. During drought, monitor the safety of alternative water sources and access to sufficient water. During floods, protect water intakes, monitor contamination of supply systems and pre-position water treatment and disinfection supplies.

Strengthen nutrition surveillance, with priority attention to children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and households already facing vulnerability. Pre-position therapeutic foods, nutrition supplies and treatment capacity in areas at risk of crop losses and rising food prices.

Intensify entomological surveillance and vector control when temperature and rainfall conditions become favourable to mosquito proliferation. Ensure adequate availability of diagnostics, treatment and locally appropriate protective measures.

Activate or update heat-health action plans. Strengthen public information and protection for older people, young children, people with chronic illnesses and exposed workers, and prepare health facilities for increased cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Ensure continuity of health services. Review stocks of medicines, vaccines, medical supplies, fuel and drinking water; secure electricity, cold-chain systems, communications and access routes; and establish contingency arrangements for facilities exposed to floods, landslides or water shortages.

- **Disaster Risk Management**

- *Heavy Precipitation / Flooding*

Key message : A strong regional contrast is expected: drier-than-normal conditions are forecast over southern and central Mozambique and south-western Madagascar, while above-normal rainfall is expected particularly in Tanzania, Seychelles and some of the Mascarene Islands. The risk of flooding, flash floods and landslides should therefore receive increased attention in wetter areas.

Recommendation : Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems, evacuation and shelter plans, and the monitoring of critical infrastructure, particularly roads, bridges, water networks and health facilities.

- *Drought / Water Stress*

Key message : Southern Mozambique and parts of Madagascar remain exposed to rainfall deficits, while the Mascarene Islands, south-eastern Madagascar and Agaléga already show vulnerability resulting from previous rainfall deficits.

Recommendation : Strengthen the monitoring of water resources, soil moisture and crop conditions, develop water availability scenarios, and anticipate potential impacts on agriculture, livestock and food security.

- *High Temperatures*

Key message : Above-normal temperatures are expected across the entire region, with a significantly increased risk of exceptionally high temperatures and new temperature records.

Recommendation : Better integrate heat-related risks into contingency plans and analyse temperature indicators together with drought, water stress, health and food security indicators.

- *Tropical Cyclones*

Key message : Regional tropical cyclone activity is expected to be well below normal, with a reduced risk of landfall along the coasts of Madagascar and Mozambique, while the risk is expected to remain near normal for the Mascarene Islands. The second half of the season remains more uncertain.

Recommendation : Maintain full cyclone preparedness, including emergency stocks, evacuation plans and rapid response capacities. Below-normal regional cyclone activity does not mean the absence of local risk.

- *Multi-Hazard Preparedness*

Key message : The 2026-2027 season will require a multi-hazard approach tailored to different territories, taking into account drought, heavy rainfall, heat and tropical cyclone risks. Feedback from regional stakeholders highlights the need to better translate seasonal forecasts into concrete operational actions.

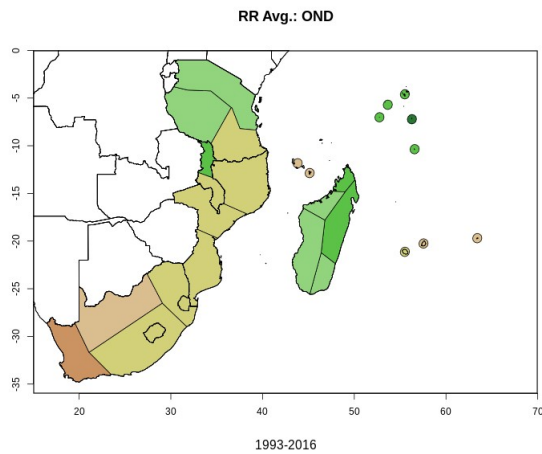
Recommendation : Strengthen anticipatory action, multi-hazard early warning systems, impact-based forecasting and last-mile warning dissemination. Improve data sharing between

meteorological services, disaster risk management authorities and technical sectors, pre-position emergency stocks in priority areas, and further develop regional SIMEX/TTX exercises.

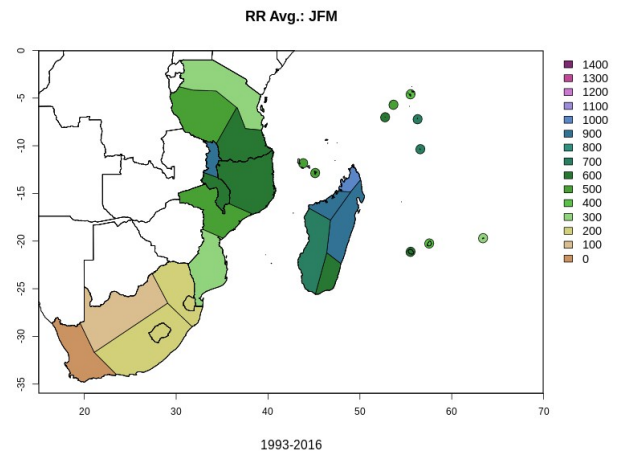
The 2026-2027 season is expected to be characterised by highly contrasting risks across the region. The priority is therefore to translate SWIOCOF outlooks into operational, locally adapted and multi-hazard action plans.

Annex 1: NORMAL CONDITIONS

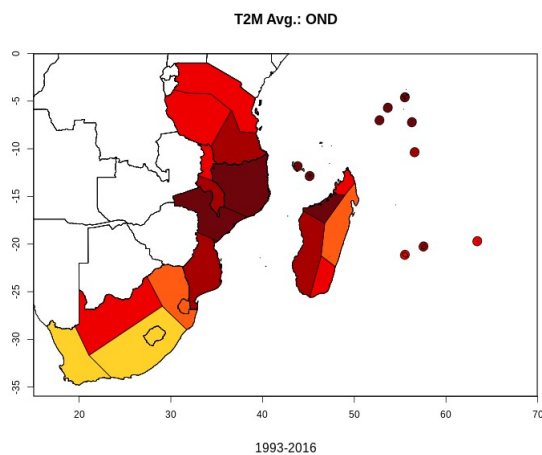
This annex shows the normal conditions for rainfall and temperature over the south-west Indian Ocean for the considered quarters (OND and JFM). It consist of climatological averages for the period 1993-2016. The reference dataset used to illustrate these normal conditions is the ERA5 reanalysis³.



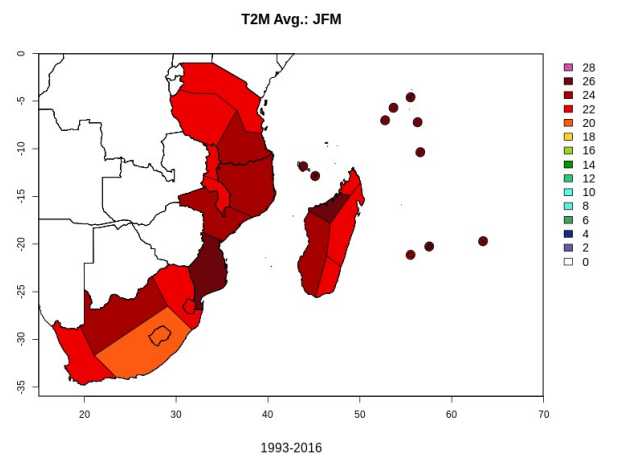
Average rainfall (mm) for OND season



Average rainfall (mm) for JFM season



Average temperature (°C) for OND season



Average temperature (°C) for JFM season

³ ERA5 is a fifth generation reanalysis from ECMWF covering the period 1950 to present. It is part of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/dataset/ecmwf-reanalysis-v5>)

Annex 2: METHODOLOGY

This annex describes the processes implemented during the SWIOCOF technical working sessions for forecast production of the forum.

The rainfall and temperature outlooks are consensus forecasts compiled by the climate scientists of the countries involved in the working group. These outlooks meet the WMO standards regarding seasonal forecast process⁴, since the regional product is a result of the blending of objective, traceable and reproducible forecasts made for each country as well as for the whole region. The homogeneity of the different individual predictions is ensured using the same processing system based on the SEAFORDS⁵ tool.

The local and regional forecasts are based on a statistical adaptation of Global Climate Models (GCM) outputs. The chosen Global Producing Centres are: ECMWF, Meteo-France, BOM and NCEP. The statistical model is build following the "perfect prognosis" assumption. The reference dataset is based on ERA5 reanalysis. The final product consists of a blend of results obtained using the different GCMs. The scores of the statistical model are computed using the Hindcasts available for each GCM. These climatological scores along with those of the GCMs themselves are also examined to understand the predictability for the considered parameters, seasons and region. The reliability of the final forecast is also determined in order to provide users with meaningful indicators of the awaited confidence that can be placed on the displayed forecasts. These indicators are presented in the annex 4.

The forecast process includes the analysis of the climate drivers that are known to have an impact on the climatic system of the region i.e.,: ENSO, IOD, SIOD, SAM. This impact can be illustrated by composite maps. The assessment of the observed and predicted magnitude of the drivers provides some information on the predictability of the present case and constitutes insights for understanding regional patterns of both the present and expected rainfall and temperature anomalies.

During the SWIOCOF working sessions a verification of the past forecast is conducted at both the national scale and regional scale following the WMO recommendations⁶. This process involves local observed data along with ERA5 reanalysis. The work also allows forecast errors to be better understood. These datasets are also relevant to conduct the monitoring of rainfall and temperature over the region for the latest seasons which is useful to identify zones that are at risk regarding drought issues.

The outlook for Tropical Cyclone (TC) activity over the SWIO region (30°E, 90°E/0°S,-40°S) is based on the assessment of the observed and predicted state of the climate drivers. The analysed condition is compared to the known impact of the drivers on the different types of TC tracks and on the cyclogenesis process over the basin. The dedicated forecasts given by ECMWF provide an additional insight that is useful to produce the first outlook for the TC activity during the first part of the rainy season.

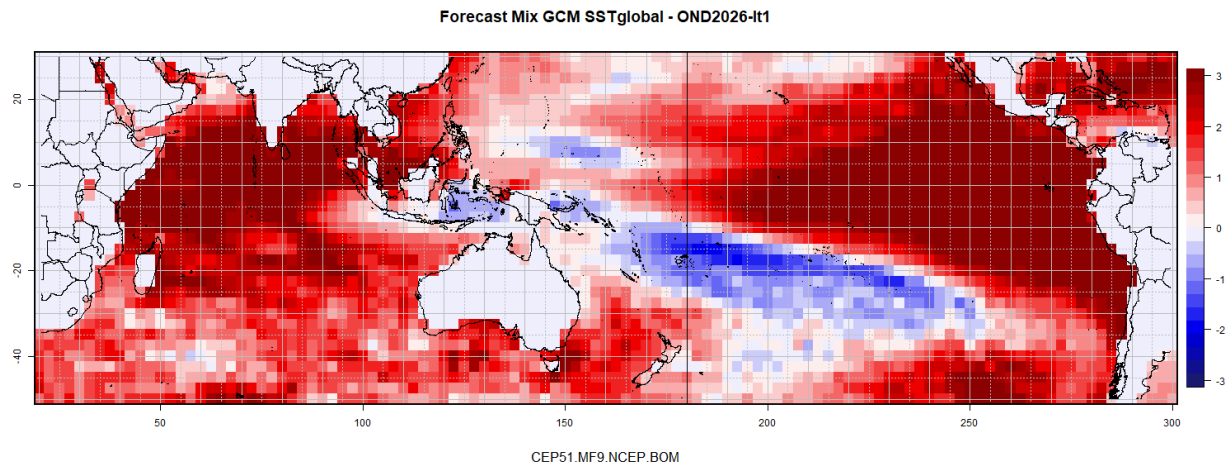
4 Guidance on Operational Practices for Objective Seasonal Forecasting – WMO n° 1246

5 SEAFORDS (SEAsonal FORecast DownScaling) is a suite of tools for climate analysis, monitoring and forecast downscaling, written in R language developed and distributed by Meteo-France regional centre for Indian Ocean (La Réunion) – contact: laurent.labbe@meteo.fr

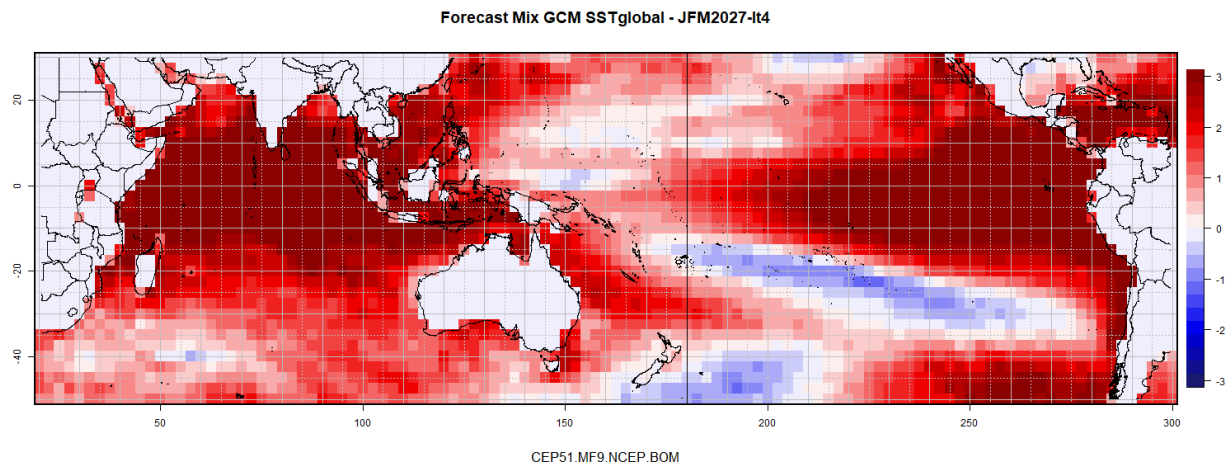
6 Guidance on Verification of Operational Seasonal Climate Forecasts – WMO n°1220

Annex 3: Sea Surface Temperature forecasts

The Sea Surface Temperature forecasts are examined to assess the likelihood of climate drivers like ENSO in the central Pacific basin as well as the IOD and SIOD in the Indian Ocean basin. The maps displayed here are a synthesis of the four global climate models that are used in the SWIOCOF process, for the two considered seasons i.e.,: OND 2026 and JFM 2027. This year the ENSO evolves towards a positive phase (Niño situation) whereas in the Indian Ocean basin, the sea surface temperature should remain above normal and the IOD should be active, mainly during OND 2026 while the SIOD should remain negative during the whole period.



Multi-Model Forecast of the Sea Surface Temperature anomalies for OND 2026



Multi-Model Forecast of the Sea Surface Temperature anomalies for JFM 2027