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Improving the management of observed climate data in Southern Africa: Results from the cooperation within SASSCAL

Frank Kaspar, Rafael Posada, Jens Riede, Elke Rustemeier, and Kelly Stanley
Deutscher Wetterdienst, National Climate Monitoring, Offenbach, Germany (frank.kaspar@dwd.de)

Consistent and reliable climate observations for Southern Africa are an important source of information for climate science and climate services. SASSCAL ("Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management") supported the cooperation between national meteorological services of Angola, Botswana, Germany and Zambia to improve the management of observed climate data in the region. This cooperation allowed the establishment of a climate data management system based on a freely available software suite (CLIMSOFT). Additional open-source applications have been developed to provide an easy-to-use interface to visualize, download, digitize and import climate data. Besides that, substantial progress in the storage, quality control and management of present and historic climate data recorded in paper media has been achieved. These activities were accompanied with continuous training and support to ensure the long-term maintenance of the new systems. Increased availability of meteorological observations also allows developing new gridded products for the region.