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The SASSCAL contribution to climate observation and climate data management in southern Africa

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The availability and density of ground-based climate observations in southern Africa is comparatively low. However, there is an increased need for climate information for research, climate adaptation measures and climate services in general.

Germany, in close cooperation with the African partner countries, initiated the implementation of an inter-disciplinary regional competence centre in Southern Africa: the “Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management” (SASSCAL; www.sasscal.org). SASSCAL is a joint initiative between Angola, Botswana, Germany, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia, responding to the challenges of climate change and related issues. SASSCAL will support local, national and regional institutions and service providers to develop relevant advisory and implementation skills.

A network of automatic weather stations has already been implemented in Namibia in a previous project (BIOTA AFRICA). The data is available in open access on the web. This network will be further expanded by SASSCAL in the region (i.e. with focus on Angola, Botswana, Zambia).
Germany’s national meteorological service (Deutscher Wetterdienst, DWD) will cooperate with the meteorological services in the partner countries. The contribution aims at improving the climate data management concepts in these meteorological services. This also includes concepts for data quality control and data rescue of historic data.

The presentation will provide an overview of the SASSCAL project, with focus on climate data management and the observation network.