



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

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Compared to other regions of the world, the availability and density of historic and present-day ground-based climate observations in southern Africa is still low. However, there is an increased need for climate information for research, climate adaptation measures and climate services in general and Africa is considered to be the most vulnerable continent in terms of climate variability and change (also by IPCC-AR5-WG2). To respond to the challenges of climate change and related issues, Angola, Botswana, Germany, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia have initiated the interdisciplinary regional competence center SASSCAL, the “Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management” (SASSCAL; www.sasscal.org). SASSCAL will support local, national and regional institutions and service providers to develop relevant advisory and implementation skills.

This includes activities related to an expansion of the network of weather stations, to climate data management in the meteorological services of the region and data rescue activities. In Angola, Botswana and Zambia, the network of automatic weather stations has just recently been extended by 10 stations in each country.

Germany’s national meteorological service (Deutscher Wetterdienst, DWD) cooperates with the meteorological services in Angola, Botswana and Zambia. The contribution aims at improving the climate data management concepts in these meteorological services. The meteorological services agreed that they aim for a harmonization of their climate data management systems. Deutscher Wetterdienst will support capacity building activities. Another important activity is the completion of the data bases with historic data. But these are to a wide extent not yet available in digital format and data rescue activities are therefore important. DWD also has historic observations (going back to the 19th century) from Angola and Namibia in its archive and is working on the digitization. If combined with data in other archives, long-time series of climate data for the region will become available. For example, time series of meteorological parameters are available at the Gobabeb Research and Training Center, but partly also not yet in digital form.

The presentation will give an overview of SASSCAL with a focus on the ongoing cooperation of the meteorological services and other institutions within this activity.