



Improving the climate data management in the meteorological service of Angola: Experience from SASSCAL

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Compared to other region 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. 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 centre SASSCAL, the “Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management” (SASSCAL; www.sasscal.org).

As part of the initiative, SASSCAL is supporting activities related to climate data management in the meteorological services of the region. Germany’s national meteorological service (Deutscher Wetterdienst, DWD) cooperates with the meteorological services of Angola, Botswana and Zambia, in order to improve the management and availability of climate data in each country.

A workshop was organized by SASSCAL in 2014 in order to set the priorities for the cooperation and to agree on joint activities. The national meteorological services agreed on harmonizing their Climate Data Management Systems (CDMS) and selected CLIMSOFT as their preferred option. CLIMSOFT is a software suite for storing climatic data in a secure and flexible manner and for extracting useful information from the data. It was originally developed under sponsorship of the UK Met Office by an African team of 3 developers located in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Guinea (Stuber et al., 2011). An additional priority is the extension of the national archives by integration of historic data that is still available in international archives.

The presentation will give an overview of the status of the cooperation between the meteorological services with special focus on the results obtained from the collaboration between INAMET and the DWD in climate data management issues.