



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

Activity Brief

The 14th session of the South-West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF-14a) was organised under the HYDROMET Project with financial support from Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Development Fund (EDF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The forum was coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in collaboration with Météo-France and other regional partners. It took place in Mauritius from 17th to 20th June 2025 and brought together climate experts, meteorological service representatives, and sectoral stakeholders from countries across the South-West Indian Ocean region, including Malawi. The forum aimed to strengthen regional climate services by improving seasonal forecast accuracy, enhancing forecast verification systems, and promoting user engagement through the development of sector-specific User Interface Platforms (UIPs). Malawi was represented by an expert from the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), who participated in both technical and stakeholder sessions.

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Title of the Activity

South-West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF-14a)

Objective of the Activity

The main objective of SWIOCOF-14a was to support risk-informed decision-making by enabling anticipatory actions to manage climate variability and enhance resilience across the South-West Indian Ocean region. Specifically, the forum aimed to verify the 2024/2025 seasonal forecast using regional observation data, evaluate the usability and socio-economic impact of seasonal forecasts, and conduct sectoral consultations to inform the design of User Interface Platforms (UIPs) for agriculture, health, fisheries, water, tourism, and disaster risk management.

Key Activities Conducted

- The training involved a range of interactive and practical learning activities designed to enhance understanding and application of the PICSA approach. These included detailed presentations by experts on various aspects of climate services and agricultural planning, plenary sessions that encouraged open discussion and knowledge sharing among participants, and group discussions to foster peer learning and collaborative problem-solving. Additionally, field-based practical exercises were conducted, allowing participants to apply the PICSA tools and techniques in real-world settings. These hands-on sessions helped to reinforce the concepts covered in the classroom and provided valuable experience in engaging with farmers using participatory methods.



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Partners/Stakeholders

- [Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Météo-France, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), RIMES, DCCMS, and representatives from sectoral institutions across the region]

Key Takeaways / Outcomes

- Seasonal forecasts for OND and JFM were well aligned with observed conditions, particularly for rainfall and cyclones.
- Malawi's OND forecast was accurate; however, NDJ and DJF forecast skill was lower, highlighting areas for methodological improvement.
- Participating countries were equipped with enhanced tools and knowledge for climate forecast interpretation and application.
- Actionable sector-specific plans were developed to guide the implementation of UIPs across agriculture, water, fisheries, health, and DRM sectors.
- Recommendations included strengthening verification systems, expanding MME use, and prioritizing hands-on training with forecasting tools like SEAFORDS.

Photo Highlight



Participants during a practical working session.

DCCMS Officer Involved

[Mphatso Tawakali, Meteorologist]

For More Information

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