



Meteorological Services Department Newsletter



July 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 - 24 August 2026

Climate Experts Meeting

20 August 2026

Early warning For All Launch

25 - 28 August 2026

SARCOF 33

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The Directors Foreword



Mrs. R. Manzou

Director, Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe

Before turning to our institutional updates, we wish to express our deepest condolences to the families and communities affected by the tragic Kariba Ferry Boat accident. Our thoughts remain with those grieving this profound loss. It is a solemn reminder of our ultimate duty to safeguard human life.

Across our mandate, our staff and partners continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to public service. A central milestone of this period is our progress under the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. Following months of cross-sectoral collaboration, we are proud to unveil the National Action Plan in Mutare on 20 August 2026. This landmark framework operationalises our transition toward action-based forecasting, ensuring atmospheric data directly informs community-level preparedness so no citizen is left unprotected.

Parallel to this momentum, we continue to modernise our observational baseline, marked by the recent arrival of upgraded Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) components for installation at Robert Gabriel Mugabe and Victoria Falls International Airports.

Our scientific mission achieves its true potential only when paired with public literacy. Through active participation in the inaugural Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit, we seek to demystify atmospheric science for the next generation, transforming young Zimbabweans from passive warning recipients into active ambassadors of disaster risk reduction.



Remembering THE LIVES LOST *in The* KARIBA FERRY TRAGEDY



The Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who tragically lost their lives in the Kariba ferry boat accident.



Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and communities as they grieve the loss of their loved ones. May they find strength and comfort during this period of sorrow.



**METEOROLOGICAL
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe Set to Launch National Early Warnings for All Initiative in Mutare

MSD

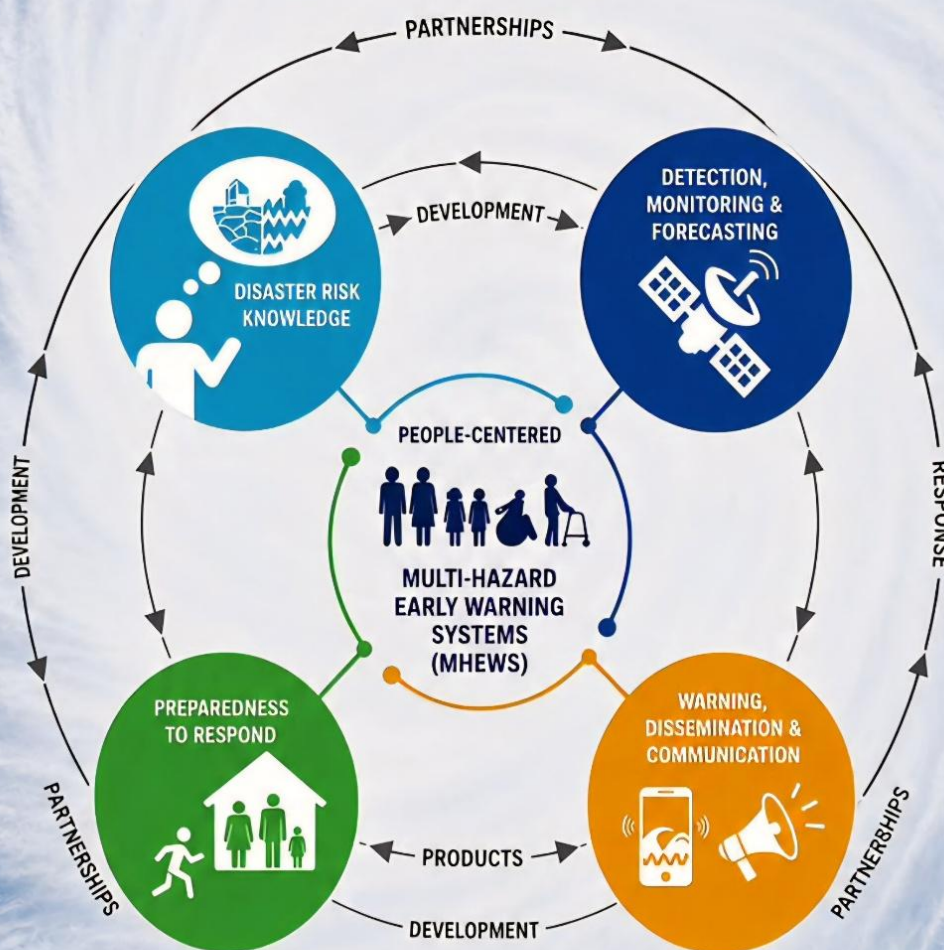
The global Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative rests on a vital premise: ensuring every individual, regardless of geographic location or social vulnerability, is protected by timely, accessible, and actionable disaster information. In Zimbabwe, the Meteorological Services Department (MSD) has spearheaded efforts to translate this global imperative into a tailored national strategy. Throughout 2026, working in close coordination with government institutions, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and international development partners, the MSD led the design of the National Action Plan for Early Warnings for All, which is a landmark framework set to officially launch on 20 August 2026, in Mutare. The National Action Plan represents a joint effort among Zimbabwe's primary EW4All pillar leads: the Meteorological Services Department, the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA), the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society.

Building upon the foundation of Zimbabwe's recently introduced Action-Based Forecasting Roadmap, the plan establishes an operational blueprint to convert atmospheric and hydrological data into practical, community-level preparedness. At its core, the initiative drives a fundamental shift in risk communication, thereby moving beyond simply forecasting what the weather will be to predicting what the weather will do. By directly linking hazard intelligence with clear, pre-defined response protocols, the framework enables citizens, local authorities, and national agencies to take decisive measures before extreme weather events escalate into full-scale disasters, safeguarding lives, agricultural assets, and critical infrastructure in the process.

To guarantee long-term operational impact, the National Action Plan prioritises sustainability, structural governance, and cross-sector resource mobilisation. It systematically operationalises the four global EW4All pillars by improving disaster risk knowledge; modernising observation, monitoring, and predictive modelling; expanding multi-channel communication networks to reach remote, last-mile communities; and strengthening localized emergency response capabilities. The upcoming launch in Mutare marks a decisive step forward in Zimbabwe's climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction agenda. The National Action Plan unifies scientific expertise, policy leadership, telecommunications infrastructure and reinforces a national commitment to climate resilience, thereby ensuring that when hazards threaten, no community is left unprotected.



EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL INITIATIVE



THEME:

Building Resilience through Effective Early Warning Systems



Government of Zimbabwe



Meteorological Services
Department



Far Communities, Far Development.



creating a level
playing field



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



Weather and Climate Information Services



UK International
Development

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



Met Office



World Food
Programme

TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, RESILIENT AND CLIMATE-READY ZIMBABWE

Your Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Future

SADC to host SARCOF-33 in Namibia from 25th - 28th August 2026

The SADC Secretariat, through the SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC), is set to host the 33rd Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-33) in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 25 to 28 August 2026. The forum will bring together climate scientists, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, sectoral specialists, and end-users to collaboratively generate and evaluate the regional seasonal climate outlook.



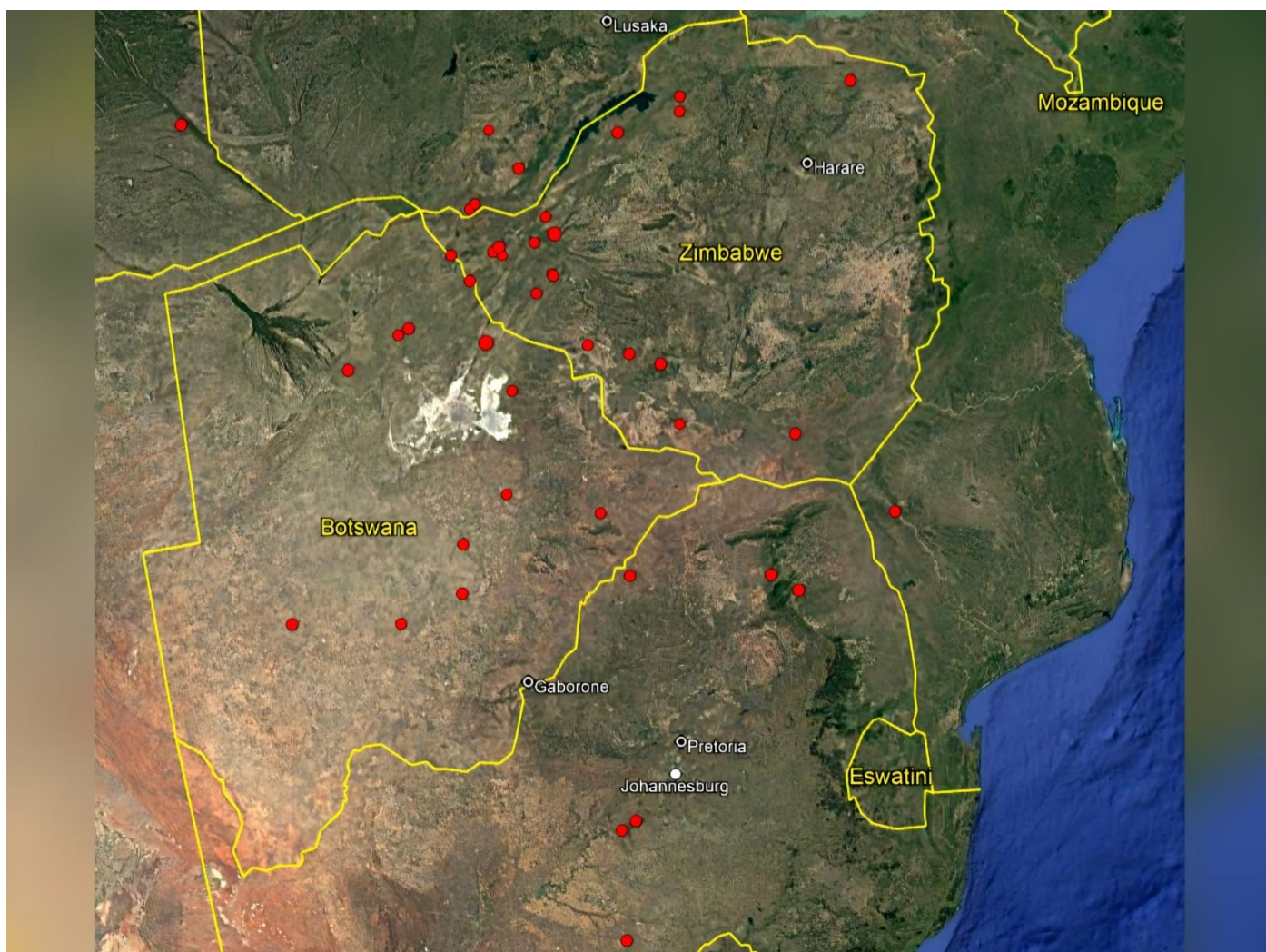
Guided by the theme "From Climate Observation to Seasonal Prediction: Informing Early Action for the Upcoming Season," SARCOF-33 highlights the imperative of converting atmospheric data into actionable preparedness, effective early warnings, and timely operational responses. Stakeholders representing key sectors like agriculture, water resources, energy, public health, and disaster risk management, will analyse potential climate hazards and opportunities to formulate targeted guidance that supports informed decision-making across the region.

SARCOF-33 aims to strengthen regional cooperation and expand the practical application of climate services while embedding anticipatory action ahead of impending seasonal impacts. In preparation for the main event, a Climate Experts Meeting (CEM) will run from 17 to 24 August 2026, enhancing the technical capacities of meteorologists and specialists from SADC Member States to deliver robust seasonal forecasts and support regional readiness.

July 2026 Zimbabwe Seismic Activity Summary

Monalisa Muponda

During July 2026, the seismic monitoring network recorded a total of 53 events, comprising 20 local earthquakes, 28 regional occurrences, and 5 distant tele-seismic tremors. Regional activity was dominated by events originating in neighbouring Botswana, South Africa, and Zambia. A significant proportion of the tremors recorded across South Africa and Botswana were interpreted as mining induced seismicity. Locally, seismic activity remained concentrated across north-western Zimbabwe, particularly within the Hwange, Binga, and Tsholotsho districts. The month's most significant local event registered a local magnitude (ML) of 3.6, striking Hwange on 14 July 2026. The underlying drivers of seismicity in Hwange and Binga stem primarily from tectonic stresses related to the extension of the East African Rift System, complemented by reservoir induced seismicity surrounding Lake Kariba. In contrast, the tremors recorded in Tsholotsho are attributed to localised groundwater extraction.



Map of events recorded in July 2026, with the epicentres shown as solid red circles

Building a Safer Future: MSD Attends ISO Safety Workshop

Benjamin Kwaramba

Mr. Benjamin Kwaramba recently represented the department at ISO 45001:2018 Awareness: Building a Safer Future Together. This was a specialised one-day workshop hosted by Q&E Consultancy at the Cresta Jameson Hotel on July 31, 2026. Focused on strengthening institutional health and safety protocols, the training provided practical frameworks to enhance workplace risk management, foster organisational accountability, and embed a proactive safety culture into daily operations.



Workshop participants holding their certificates at the end of the training

The curriculum was centred on five core operational competencies designed to ensure continuous hazard mitigation. First, it established the foundational principles of the ISO 45001 standard for collective workforce protection. It then covered methods for identifying physical and psychological hazards, including stress and occupational health risks, before they lead to harm. Participants also learned to apply the "Hierarchy of Controls" to evaluate and deploy effective safety solutions. Additionally, the training emphasised each employee's right and duty to participate in safety governance, while encouraging a transparent reporting culture for workplace incidents and "near misses" without fear of reprisal. These competencies provide the practical tools required to make safety measures a daily reality. Ultimately, they support the primary goal of occupational health, guaranteeing that every staff member returns home safely to their family at the end of every shift.

Nationalising Early Warnings for All: Placing Young Learners at the Centre of Resilience

Praise Ngonidzashe Govere

As Zimbabwe advances its national implementation of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, the classroom is emerging as a primary frontier for instilling a lasting culture of anticipatory action. This educational imperative was demonstrated when students from Danhiko Secondary School visited the Meteorological Services Department (MSD), where they received firsthand instruction on how atmospheric data is gathered, evaluated, and converted into actionable warnings that safeguard lives and local livelihoods.



Two secondary school pupils participate in an activity led by Mr. Govere at Meteorological Services Department

For young learners, developing true weather literacy extends far beyond knowing whether it will rain. It requires the practical capacity to interpret forecasts, differentiate between routine outlooks and critical advisories. In this context, schools represent an essential demographic for the EW4All

mandate. Not merely as passive recipients of early-warning information, but as active custodians and future communicators of disaster preparedness within their broader communities.

The educational visit also contextualised the four foundational pillars of the global EW4All strategy within a learning environment: disaster risk knowledge; detection, monitoring, and forecasting; multi-channel warning dissemination; and localised response capabilities. Each pillar aligns with a specific learning objective, ensuring students comprehend the localised hazards facing their communities, grasp how observational networks generate reliable data, recognise how emergency alerts are transmitted, and understand the concrete safety measures required once a warning is issued.

Ultimately, nationalising the EW4All framework requires more than expanding physical monitoring hardware or refining institutional protocols. The framework also demands sustained, long-term investment in public climate literacy. By bringing observational meteorology directly to young people, Zimbabwe can cultivate a generation equipped to move beyond passive awareness toward interpreting, communicating, and executing proactive measures.

MSD Fields Joint Squad at Harare Inter-Ministerial Sports Tournament

MSD

The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) recently joined forces with sister agencies under the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife to compete in the Provincial Inter-Ministerial Sports Tournament held at Oriel Boys High School in Harare. Representing the Ministry as a unified squad, MSD participated alongside colleagues from the Forestry Commission, the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks), and the Ministry's Head Office. Competing under a single banner, the consolidated team went head-to-head against counterparts from across various government ministries in a diverse range of disciplines, including men's football, athletics, netball, volleyball, tug-of-war, darts, and chess.

Hosted by the Ministry of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, the tournament was designed to promote workplace wellness, strengthen inter-departmental collaboration, and cultivate camaraderie across the civil service. Beyond the athletic rivalries on the field and board, the event provided public servants with a valuable platform to build informal professional networks and deepen inter-agency relationships, reinforcing a shared dedication to teamwork and excellence across government institutions.



Tug of War



Soccer



Chess

MSD Bridges Science and Strategy at the Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit

MSD

The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) of Zimbabwe took an active role at the inaugural Zimbabwe Students Climate Innovation Summit 2026, held at the University of Zimbabwe's Diamond Conference Centre under the theme "Towards a Net Zero Future." Joining more than 1,500 students, academics, and policymakers, MSD showcased the foundational role meteorological science plays in driving national climate action and supporting strategic frameworks like Zimbabwe's updated NDC 3.0 targets. Through a hands-on exhibition, MSD technicians walked attendees through every stage of the meteorological value chain, tracing the journey from raw data gathering and observational systems to predictive modelling and real-time early warnings. The interactive setup illustrated how these scientific workflows directly safeguard key sectors across the country, providing actionable intelligence for disaster risk reduction, precision agriculture, aviation navigation, and water resource management. As student teams presented clean-tech projects and launched the landmark Zimbabwe Youth Climate Declaration, MSD's presence ensured that youth innovation remains firmly grounded in rigorous atmospheric data. By engaging directly with the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs, the department helped strengthen public climate literacy while encouraging young innovators to build evidence-based solutions for Zimbabwe's sustainable future.



A group of students visiting the Meteorological Services Department's exhibition stand

Meteorological Services Department Continues Strengthening Aviation Weather Capabilities

MSD

The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) of Zimbabwe marked a significant milestone in modernising the country's aviation infrastructure following the delivery of upgraded equipment and replacement components for its Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS), destined for installation at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport and Victoria Falls International Airport. These advanced systems represent a targeted investment in national aviation safety, reinforcing Zimbabwe's capacity to deliver the accurate, real-time meteorological data necessary to support efficient and resilient air transport operations.

As regional air traffic expands and weather-related operational demands grow increasingly complex, the necessity for high-precision atmospheric monitoring has never been more critical. Purpose built for airport environments, these AWOS units provide continuous tracking of vital weather parameters, delivering immediate data that supports aircraft take-off and landing procedures, flight planning, air traffic management, and ground safety protocols.



Some of the instruments which were part of the equipment shipment

Meteorological Services Department Continues Strengthening Aviation Weather Capabilities [continued...]

Manufactured by Vaisala, a global measurement technology provider, the equipment converts complex atmospheric readings into reliable operational intelligence. Across the international aviation sector, these technologies allow airport operators and meteorological authorities to maintain high standards of situational awareness and make informed, evidence-based decisions, even during challenging weather conditions.

By upgrading the observational networks at Zimbabwe's two primary international gateways, the MSD is substantially improving both the quality and continuity of its aeronautical data while ensuring ongoing compliance with international civil aviation standards. Accurate, reliable weather observations give pilots and controllers the visibility required to mitigate atmospheric risks, minimise flight disruptions, and maintain optimal operational safety.

This technical enhancement directly reflects the department's mission to deliver customer-driven weather, climate, and seismological services that advance socio-economic development, supporting its broader vision of becoming a world-class meteorological provider. Ultimately, modernising the infrastructure at Harare and Victoria Falls strengthens national connectivity, elevates aviation safety, and demonstrates a sustained institutional commitment to investing in cutting-edge observational technologies.



Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe

Vision

Towards a Climate-Resilient Nation in the face of Socio-Economic impacts of extreme Weather, Climate, and Seismic Events by 2030.

Mission Statement

To empower communities with the weather, climate, and seismic knowledge needed for informed decision-making using innovative technologies.

Our Core Values

Accountability

Teamwork

Equality

Integrity

Innovation

Timeliness

User-Centricity

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