About SASSCAL

Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Germany established in 2010 the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) in response to the challenges of global change. The partner countries followed the proposal of the Bali Action Plan of the UNFCCC (at COP13) to have a regional focus when addressing climate change, and complied with the endorsement by the African Union (8th Session, Addis Ababa) to develop fully operational regional climate centres in Africa.

The objective of SASSCAL is to conduct problem-oriented research in the area of adaptation to climate change and sustainable land management, to provide evidence-based advice for decision-makers and to contribute to the creation of a knowledge-based society through academic and non-academic capacity development.

SASSCAL is represented in the five African partner countries, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia, with a Regional Secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia.

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) provided seed funding and earmarked a total contribution of Euro 50 million, with an emphasis on research and capacity development in the five thematic areas: agriculture, biodiversity, climate, forestry and water.
The SASSCAL Data and Information Portal is an open online data and information portal that can be accessed freely using any web browser at DATA.SASSCAL.ORG

With this data portal, SASSCAL in collaboration with strong African and international partners from research, public service and private sector, will host, safeguard and make available data and information resources openly, yet ensure the integrity and ownership of the contributing parties.

The SASSCAL Data & Information Portal is jointly developed by SASSCAL and the Geographic Information Science Group of the University of Jena, Germany.

The SASSCAL Data & Information Portal is fully interoperable and highly user-friendly.

Functionality of the portal
The SASSCAL Data and Information Portal allows for the management, analysis, visualisation, linkage and presentation of various types of data and resources, including time series data, geospatial data, space-time data, publications, documents and others.

The powerful search functionality of the Portal is supported and enabled by comprehensive metadata records for all resources, that the system makes available. The metadata model is based on ISO standards (e.g., ISO, 2005) and further adheres to specifications of gazetted metadata standards in the SASSCAL countries.

Open system for open data
The portal offers a fine-grained user permission control approach which allows the data owner to upload and update data but also permits setting up access permissions.

Notably, the resources hosted by the SASSCAL Data and Information Portal are not limited to the SASSCAL research outputs, but also extend to publicly accessible data from other sources relevant to SASSCAL researchers and stakeholders, including the research community, decision makers and the public.

The SASSCAL Data and Information Portal is based exclusively on open source solutions, while ensuring data interoperability and allowing extensibility. The system is based on a three-tier architecture with user frontends and server functionality for database operations. All data are processed on the server, putting less strain on hardware capacity at the end user’s side.