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.
Many countries of southern Africa face inadequate infrastructure to provide reliable data and information for the development of efficient management strategies for sustainable water and land resources management, drought and flood risk analyses and forecasts, but also climate change impact assessments and adaptation strategies.

How SASSCAL provides open solutions?
The Open Access Data Centre (OADC) of SASSCAL aims to address the need for innovative and effective solutions that inform decision-making processes.

The objectives of the OADC are:
- putting in place an openly-accessible online platform, referred to as the SASSCAL Data and Information Portal,
- putting in place data storage systems to ensure that products are safe-guarded,
- harvesting data, information and services from the SASSCAL research portfolio and from collaborating initiatives and partners, and putting in place platforms to further ensure the creation of knowledge products and services based on the user requirements of the stakeholder community.

Existing products & services

**SASSCAL Data and Information Portal**
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](http://DATA.SASSCAL.ORG)

As a central data and information hub, the SASSCAL Data and Information Portal allows for the management, analysis, visualisation, linkage, and presentation of various types of resources, including time series data, geospatial data, documents, and others. Its powerful search functionality is supported by comprehensive metadata records for all resources that the system makes available. The system is fully interoperable and highly user-friendly.

**SASSCAL WeatherNet**
The SASSCAL WeatherNet provides easy and open access to climate information for over 150 Automatic Weather Stations for southern Africa, about rainfall, air, soil temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, solar radiation, leaf wetness and other sensor data. The SASSCAL WeatherNet can be accessed at:

[WWW.SASSCALWEATHERNET.ORG](http://WWW.SASSCALWEATHERNET.ORG)

**Other products**
- SEACRIFOG inventory tool
- ECI visualiser
- UNDP data portal
- Geo-decision support tool
- SASSCAL RainAPP
- SASSCAL ObserveservationNet

**Other services**
- generating, compiling, analysing and processing relevant data on climate, water cycle, soil, biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, land use-related energy demographic and other socio-economic parameters for user-oriented decision support
- providing a platform and infrastructure for collaborating initiatives/programmes
- facilitating, analysing and implementing regional models and modelling results

All products can be accessed via the OADC webpage on the SASSCAL website [WWW.SASSCAL.ORG](http://WWW.SASSCAL.ORG)