



26th Session of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-26) October to December (OND) Season

26-27 September 2023

and

Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)

03 October 2023

(to be held online)

Concept Note

Background/Context:

South Asian climate is influenced by both tropical (October-December) and temperate mid-latitude (December-February) circulation systems during the winter months. Southern parts of South Asia, including peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and southern coastal areas of Myanmar are influenced by North East Monsoon (Re-establishment of prevalent north easterly trade-wind regime over South Asia associated with the southward movement of the ITCZ), while extra-tropical activity dominated by “Western disturbances” influence the northern parts of the region including Afghanistan, Pakistan, north India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is therefore necessary that seasonal forecasts for the winter season be issued at two different times - one during September/October for the southern region and the other during November/December for the northern region.

The crucial role of winter rains and the growing recognition of the benefits of SASCOFs in articulating and sharing seasonal climate information has led to the need for regularly conducting winter SASCOFs. Winter sessions of SASCOFs were started in 2015 keeping in view the importance of winter seasonal climate to key user sectors. The first winter SASCOF session was held in October 2015, at Chennai, Tamil Nadu India, followed by Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2016, Male, Maldives in 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2018 and Thiruvananthapuram, India in 2019.

Last three years (2020, 2021, and 2022), SASCOF October to December (OND) Sessions were held online due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives:

The objective of the forum is to prepare consensus seasonal climate information on a regional scale that provides a consistent basis for preparing national-level outlooks. Such platforms also serve to interact with the user sector to understand and enhance the use of climate information.

The SASCOF-26 is **scheduled to be held online during 26-27 September and on 3 October, 2023**. The Regional Climate Centre (RCC), Pune of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early-warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES), and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) shall provide technical support and be involved in organizing this online session of SASCOF.

Expected Outcome:

SASCOF-26 will prepare a climate outlook for the 2023 winter season covering the months from October to December. NMHSs from SASCOF member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as several regional and global experts, will jointly prepare this consensus outlook.

The CSUF session will focus on interface with users from the various application sectors to interpret seasonal climate information and understand their specific needs with a view to further customizing climate information.

Draft - Overview of the Agenda

Day 1 & 2: September 26-27, 2023 - Technical session will consider available seasonal prediction output from WMO Global Producing Centers (GPCs) and the Lead Centre for LRF MME together with presentation of country forecasts and discussions.

(Intermediately, finalizing draft consensus statement for seasonal climate outlook through E-mail communications with SASCOF participants.)

Day 3: October 03, 2023: User-oriented sessions focused on sharing, understanding, and interpreting the seasonal climate outlook.

Participation:

All National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of South Asia; invited national and international experts; experts from WMO and RIMES; experts from RCCs Tokyo Climate Center (JMA), UK Met Office and other GPCs, IMD and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).