The 8th Forum on Seasonal Climate Forecasts for central Africa countries, PRESAC-08
was held in KINSHASA (Democratic Republic of Congo) from 22 to 26 September 2014

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and METELSAT organized the PRESAC-08. This Forum to improve understand and exchange knowledge on climate variability in the region by training experts climates in seasonal rainfall forecasting, production of climate information and better interpretation and use to manage risks in the navigational activities in the Oubangui and Congo rivers, stream flows in the river basins and agricultural production in central Africa countries. The Forum was also an opportunity to share and learn about the proposed creation of a Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for central Africa countries.

The PRESAC is organized every year by involving all sectors and stakeholders beneficiaries of meteorological and hydrological services, with the support of development partners. The PRESAC-08 produced seasonal forecast on rainfall, the expected potential impacts and proposed actions to manage the sectoral risks. The Forecast is valid for the period October-November-December 2014 over the sub-region. Participants normally come from meteorological services, the sectors such as water management and dams in particular on the Congo River, agriculture and food security in ECCAS member states.

Between October and December 2014, rainfall close to seasonal averages are very likely over most of the countries of central Africa countries. However, the coast of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in the south-eastern Cameroon, southern and central Congo could record light rainfall deficits. The extreme eastern and western DRC and Burundi could register to slightly above average precipitation. Vigilance to heavy precipitation events is recommended particularly in coastal areas and the eastern DRC. Overloading should be avoided by ships transporting people and goods in the Oubangui and Congo rivers where stream flow could be below average.

ACMAD, located in Niamey, Niger has been operational since 1992 and the Center employs specialists from different sub-regions of Africa for monitoring, forecasting of weather and climate for development in African countries.