The SASSCAL Open Access Data Centre (OADC) – A regional data, information and knowledge hub for Southern Africa

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Background
Considering projected climate and socio-economic change, a challenge for southern Africa is to find mechanisms for adaptation. Many countries of southern Africa face inadequate infrastructure to provide reliable data 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 means. With the establishment of the Open Access Data Centre (OADC), the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL; www.sasscal.org) addresses this deficiency and complements national and regional data, information and knowledge provision and sharing efforts.

OADC Functions
• making data, information and knowledge generated through SASSCAL research freely available for further scientific use and support mutual data exchange with relevant authorities, agencies and organizations;
• 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 an platform and infrastructure for collaborating initiatives/programmes (e.g. SPACES, CLIENT, Miombo Network).
• facilitating, analysing and implementing regional models and modelling results.

OADC: Data and Information Generation and Sharing

National Level
• Gathering and compilation of existing and newly generated data (e.g. national soil and forest maps) from SASSCAL research and institutional partners

Regional Level
• Data aggregation and management (incl. storage, QC, harmonisation)
• Data and product integration to generate data, information and knowledge of regional relevance
• Distribution of regionally integrated data products (e.g. regional map on soil or forest resources), tools and services to the end-users in research and decision making

OADC: Data products
Data products: RS products (land cover/change, fire risk), climate data/services (re-analysis, projections, indices), hydrological modelling, ...