The SADC region experienced extreme weather events during the last decade of November 2008. While wet conditions dominated the central SADC region (border of Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and Angola) significantly dry conditions influenced eastern Kenya and central Mozambique. The dry conditions in central Mozambique lasted since mid October – almost four weeks (lower graphic). Similar long lasting deviations may cause a significant delay in crop planting.

The monthly means of the ASAR 1 km Soil moisture product demonstrate the severe dry condition in November 2008 when compared to precedent years. The amount of rainfall that falls over Mozambique in November is crucial for crop planting.
This bulletin reports on the soil moisture conditions as derived from active microwave sensors in the region of the South African Development Community (SADC). Vienna University of Technology issues the bulletin bi-monthly in cooperation with the European Space Agency and the University of Kwazulu Natal. For a free subscription please contact share@ipf.tuwien.ac.at.

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SHARE is one of the ESA-founded DUE TIGER Innovator projects focusing on the use of space technology for water resource management in Africa.

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