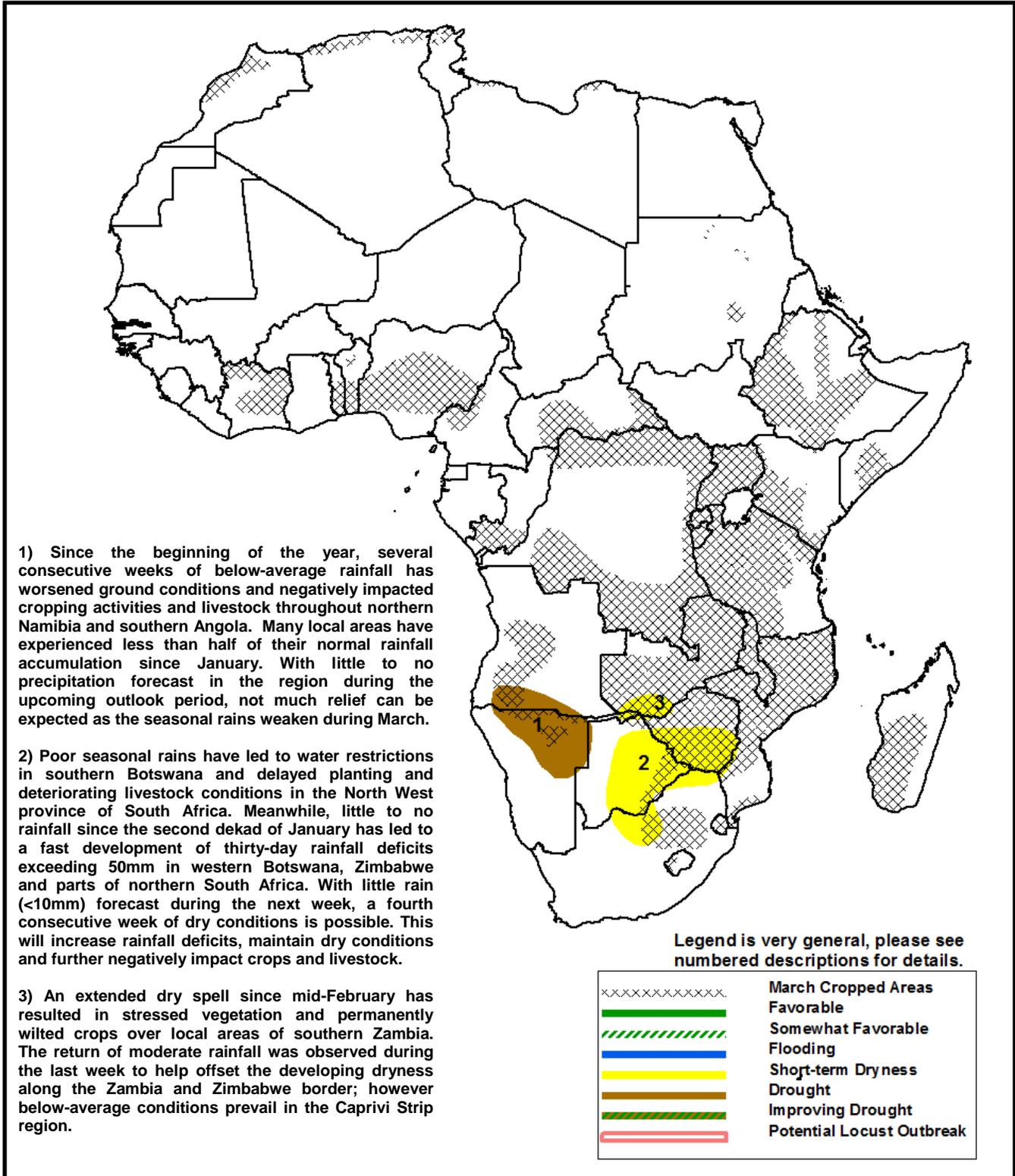


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 14 – March 20, 2013

- The southern Africa monsoon continues its equatorward withdraw during March, leaving many areas in the southwest anomalously dry for the season with less opportunity for recovery.



As dryness worsens in the southwest, dryness develops in parts of the southeast.

During the past seven days, seasonably heavy rainfall was observed mostly in northern half of southern Africa, with lesser amounts received in the southwest. An axis of deep moisture extending from northwestern Zambia towards the Mozambique Channel resulted in locally heavy precipitation amounts exceeding 50mm across many local areas in western Zambia, Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique (**Figure 1**). While significant rains returned in southern Mozambique, many local areas north of the Zambezi River basin saw little to no rainfall. Also, suppressed precipitation amounts (<15mm) were also observed across much of Botswana, northern Namibia and southern Angola. In South Africa, the heaviest rains (>40mm) were observed in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo states.

Since January, the suppression of seasonal rainfall continues to dominate much of the southwestern portion of the continent. NDVI anomaly analysis into the beginning of March suggest a continued degradation of vegetation conditions over much of southwestern Africa, as below-average values remain over southwestern Angola, Namibia, southern Botswana, and parts of northwestern South Africa (**Figure 2**). Further east, below-average conditions have begun to develop over many areas of southern Zimbabwe, coastal Tanzania, and across the border into northern Mozambique as rainfall has significantly decreased across the region during the past few weeks. However, above-average NDVI conditions are prevalent over central Zambia, parts of eastern Botswana and northern South Africa due to enhanced rainfall during January.

During the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest the persistence of below-average rainfall throughout much of southern Africa. Little to no rainfall is forecast for much of Namibia, the Caprivi Strip region, Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique during the next seven days. Heavy rainfall is expected for portions of central Angola, northern Zambia and southwestern Tanzania.

March-May rains off to a slow start in Ethiopia.

Similar to the last week in February, little to no precipitation was observed in the Greater Horn during the first week of March. In Ethiopia, light to locally moderate rain showers were received in the SNNP region of the southwest, and in the higher elevations of the country. With below average rainfall is already setting in since the beginning of March (**Figure 3**), this is already expected to have an impact on agriculture activities, as planting is nearing its close for the Belg season in parts of southern Ethiopia.

During the next week, more widespread light to locally moderate rain is forecast over Ethiopia, with a pronounced onset of rainfall in the Oromia region. This is expected to mitigate developing moisture deficits across some of the Belg production areas of the country. The amount and frequency of rainfall are also expected to gradually increase throughout the remainder of March.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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