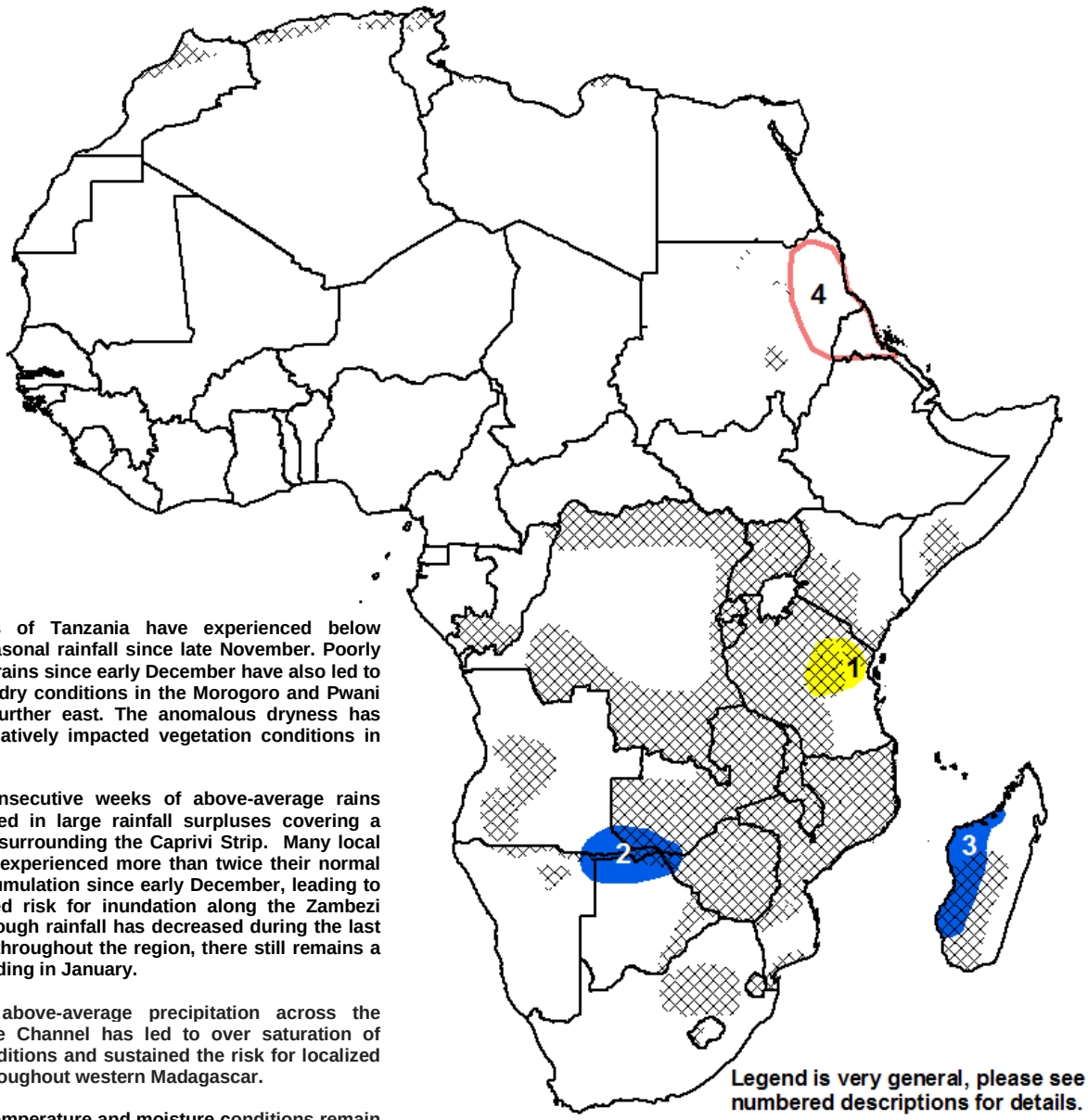
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
January 23 – January 29, 2014

- **Enhanced rains continue across parts of northern Mozambique and Madagascar, sustaining the risk for localized flooding.**



1) Portions of Tanzania have experienced below average seasonal rainfall since late November. Poorly distributed rains since early December have also led to developing dry conditions in the Morogoro and Pwani provinces further east. The anomalous dryness has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions in the region.

2) Four consecutive weeks of above-average rains have resulted in large rainfall surpluses covering a broad area surrounding the Caprivi Strip. Many local areas have experienced more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation since early December, leading to an increased risk for inundation along the Zambezi River. Although rainfall has decreased during the last two weeks throughout the region, there still remains a risk for flooding in January.

3) Heavy, above-average precipitation across the Mozambique Channel has led to over saturation of ground conditions and sustained the risk for localized flooding throughout western Madagascar.

4) Winter temperature and moisture conditions remain conducive for a high risk of locust swarms to winter-irrigated crops in the River Nile and Red Sea provinces of northeastern Sudan, and western Eritrea.

Heavy rains received across the Mozambique Channel.

For the second consecutive week, heavy amounts of precipitation were concentrated across the Mozambique Channel, bringing abundant rains into many parts of northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania, and western Madagascar (**Figure 1**). The continuation of enhanced rainfall in the region was associated with the development of tropical cyclone "Deliwe" within the Channel during the last seven days. Although "Deliwe" remained a weak tropical storm, the system still brought significantly heavy rainfall accumulations (>300mm) into parts of the Nampula province of northern Mozambique, and into parts of the Mahajanga province of western Madagascar. Further south, a large scale reduction of precipitation was observed across many parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa as localized rain showers were limited to the Manica and Inhambane provinces of southern Mozambique. In the southwestern Africa, the return of more seasonable rainfall was observed across the Caprivi Strip region, with increased rains across southern Angola to help relief a brief dry spell during early January.

Since late December, much of southern Africa has experienced a large scale precipitation recovery which followed a delayed start of the monsoon throughout several regions in the southeast. The center of the moisture recovery has been observed throughout Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, and Madagascar where many local areas have experienced nearly twice their normal rainfall accumulation over the last 30 days. The most widespread moisture surpluses are still observed over the Caprivi Strip region, which is has elevated the risk for river basin inundation, but is also expected to remain favorable for the development of crops in neighboring areas of southern Zambia, northern Botswana, and western Zimbabwe.

However, there remain several areas where much of the monsoonal moisture has been suppressed; leading to mid-season dry spells which may negatively impact crops later during the season. In the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, many local areas have experienced nearly half of their normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**). This abnormal dryness can also be seen extending into many parts of the Free State, Mpumalanga, and Kwa-Zulu Natal regions of South Africa. In southwestern Angola, below average moisture conditions has also been observed, however the return of more moderate rainfall accumulations during the last seven days is expected to provide some relief.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a more seasonable distribution of monsoonal rainfall throughout much of southern Africa during the next seven days (**Figure 3**). The highest weekly precipitation amounts are forecast across southern Madagascar, with the potential for locally heavy rainfall across the Zambezi River basin in the southeast. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rainfall amounts are expected in the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, which may help alleviate developing dryness conditions in the region during late January.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 12 – January 18, 2014

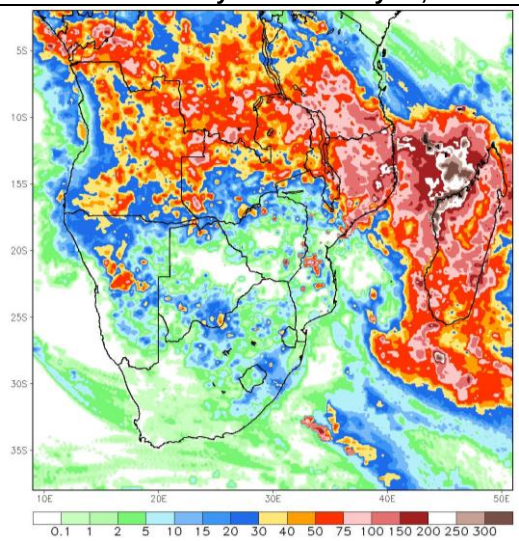


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: December 20, 2013 – January 18, 2014

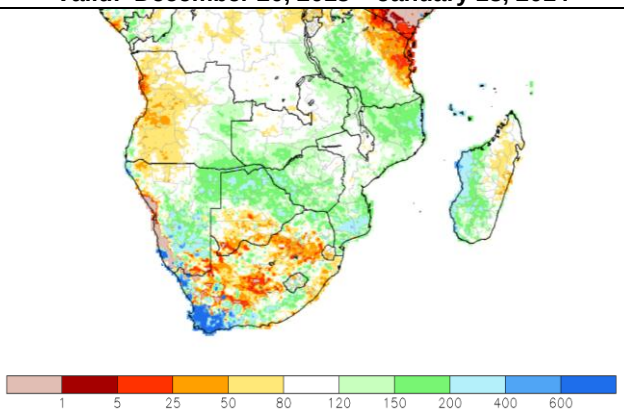


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

GFS Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 22 – January 29, 2014

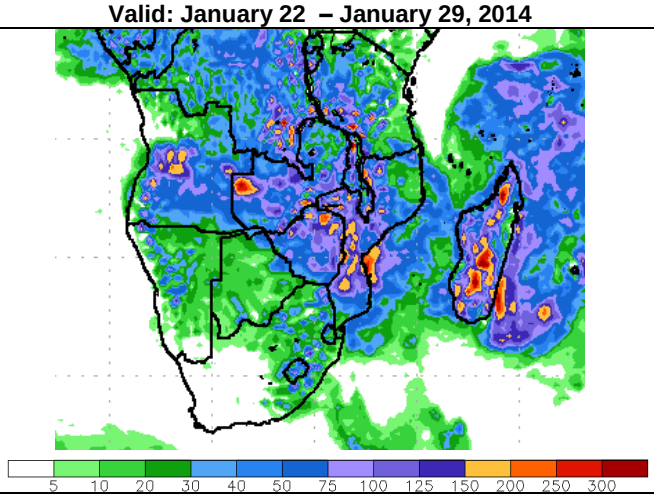


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.