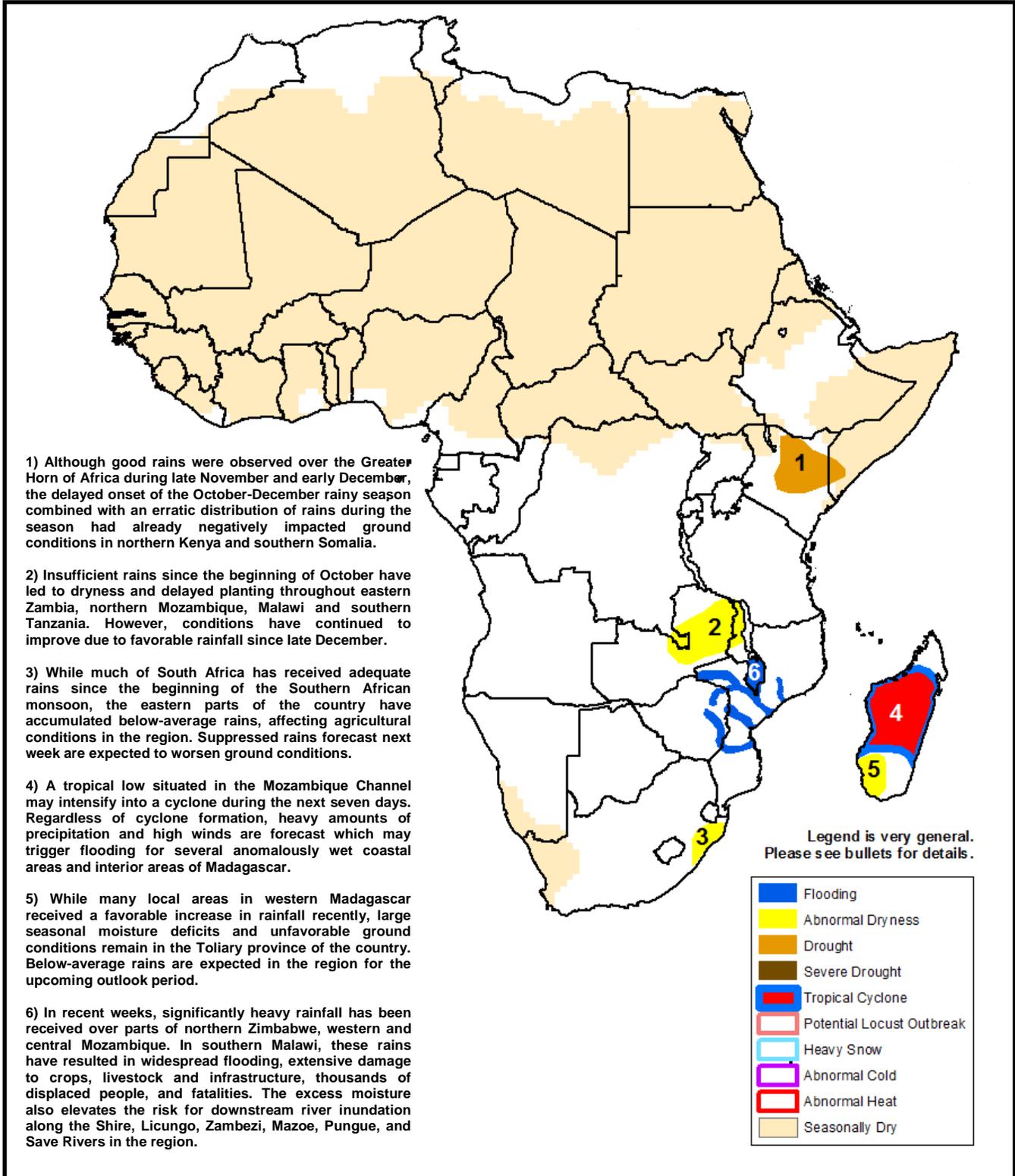




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 15 – January 21, 2015

- Significantly heavy rains continue over southeastern Africa, while dryness develops across the southwest.
- Atmospheric and oceanic conditions remain favorable for tropical cyclone development in Mozambique Channel.



Several parts of southeastern Africa receive 3rd consecutive week of above-average rainfall.

During the last seven days, an enhancement of seasonal rainfall was observed for the 3rd consecutive week across parts of southeastern Africa. Compared to the previous week, the core of the heaviest precipitation amounts has shifted eastward into Malawi, northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania, and western Madagascar with weekly accumulations exceeding well over 100mm (**Figure 1**). Further south, suppressed rains (<25mm) were received across much of Namibia, southern Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. For Zimbabwe, the recent reduction rains is expected to provide relief to saturated conditions associated with very heavy, flood inducing rainfall since late December.

Tendency analysis of satellite estimated rainfall indicates a significant reversal of anomalous moisture conditions since the middle of December. Several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall over southeastern Africa have both mitigated drought like conditions in parts of eastern Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique, and completely neutralized seasonal moisture deficits for several areas further south. Parts of northern Zimbabwe and western Mozambique are currently experiencing rainfall surpluses exceeding 200mm over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). While excess rains and moisture have relieved much of anomalous seasonal dryness, it has also led to several flooding events reported across parts of northern Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. In southern Malawi, these rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities. Given the location and magnitude of the 30-day moisture surpluses, there is an increased risk for downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region. The Zambezi River has reportedly been increasing above alert level for several locations in Mozambique.

In contrast to the anomalously wet conditions across southeastern Africa, mid-seasonal dryness continues to develop across many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, and the Caprivi Strip region. Here, short term moisture deficits have both strengthened and expanded in southern Angola, where little rainfall has been recorded since the 2nd dekad of December. The continuation of suppressed rainfall throughout January is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions. Elsewhere, little to locally moderate rains have sustained anomalously dry conditions throughout parts of the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa, as well as, in southwestern Madagascar.

For the upcoming outlook period, heavy rainfall is again forecast for southeastern Africa. Weather models indicate the persistence of an anomalous lower-level circulation over the Mozambique Channel. Combined with favorable oceanic conditions, and upper-level winds, a moderate to high potential for tropical cyclone development is expected over the Mozambique Channel during the next seven days. Even if a tropical cyclone does not develop in the region, heavy rainfall remains very likely, and may trigger localized flooding for coastal areas in Mozambique and in Madagascar. Probability of precipitation guidance analysis shows a high likelihood for weekly rains to exceed 100mm for several coastal regions (**Figure 3**). Elsewhere, below-average rains are expected for parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, with the return of more seasonable rainfall across southern Angola, and northern Namibia.

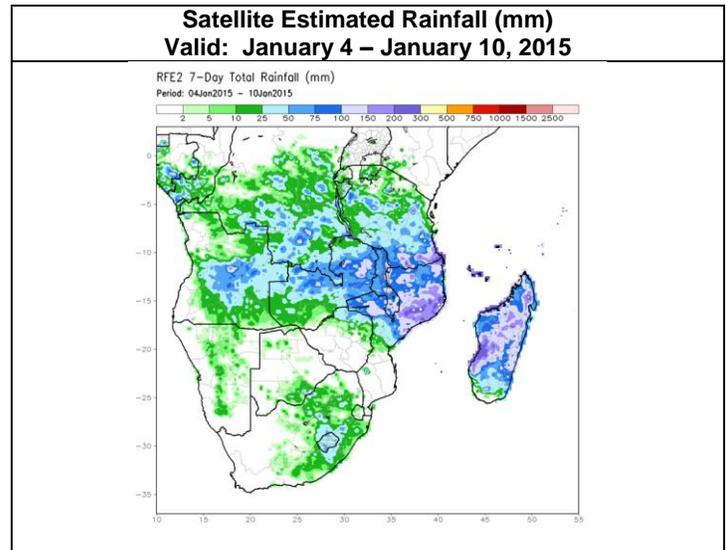


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

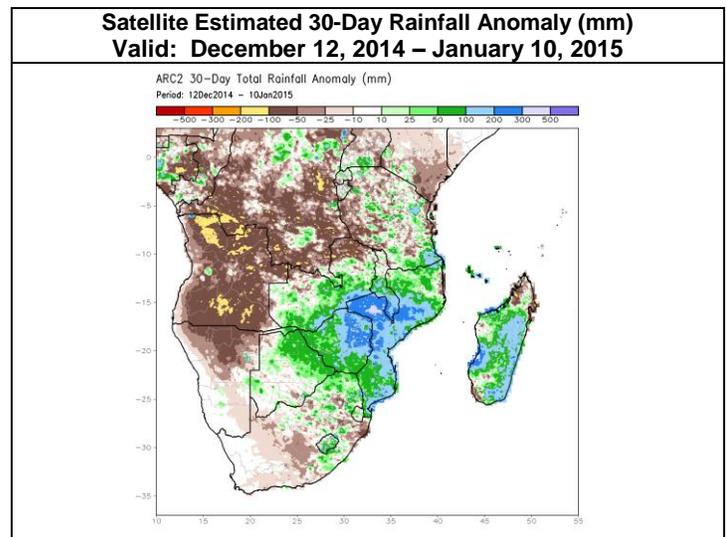


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

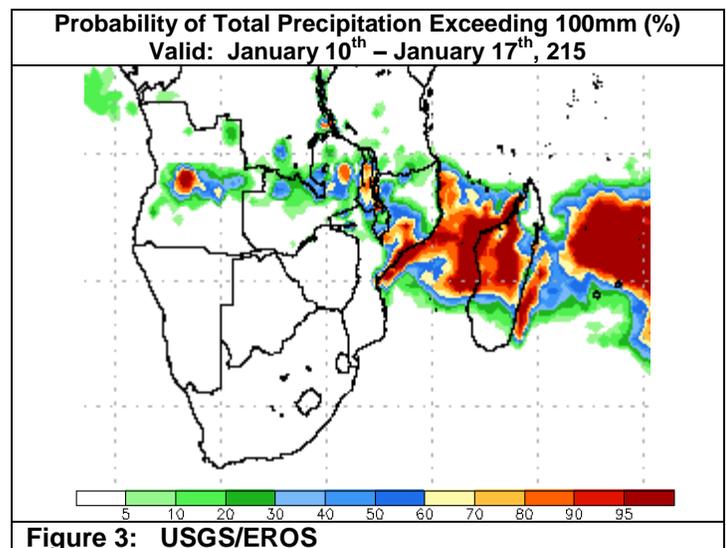


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.