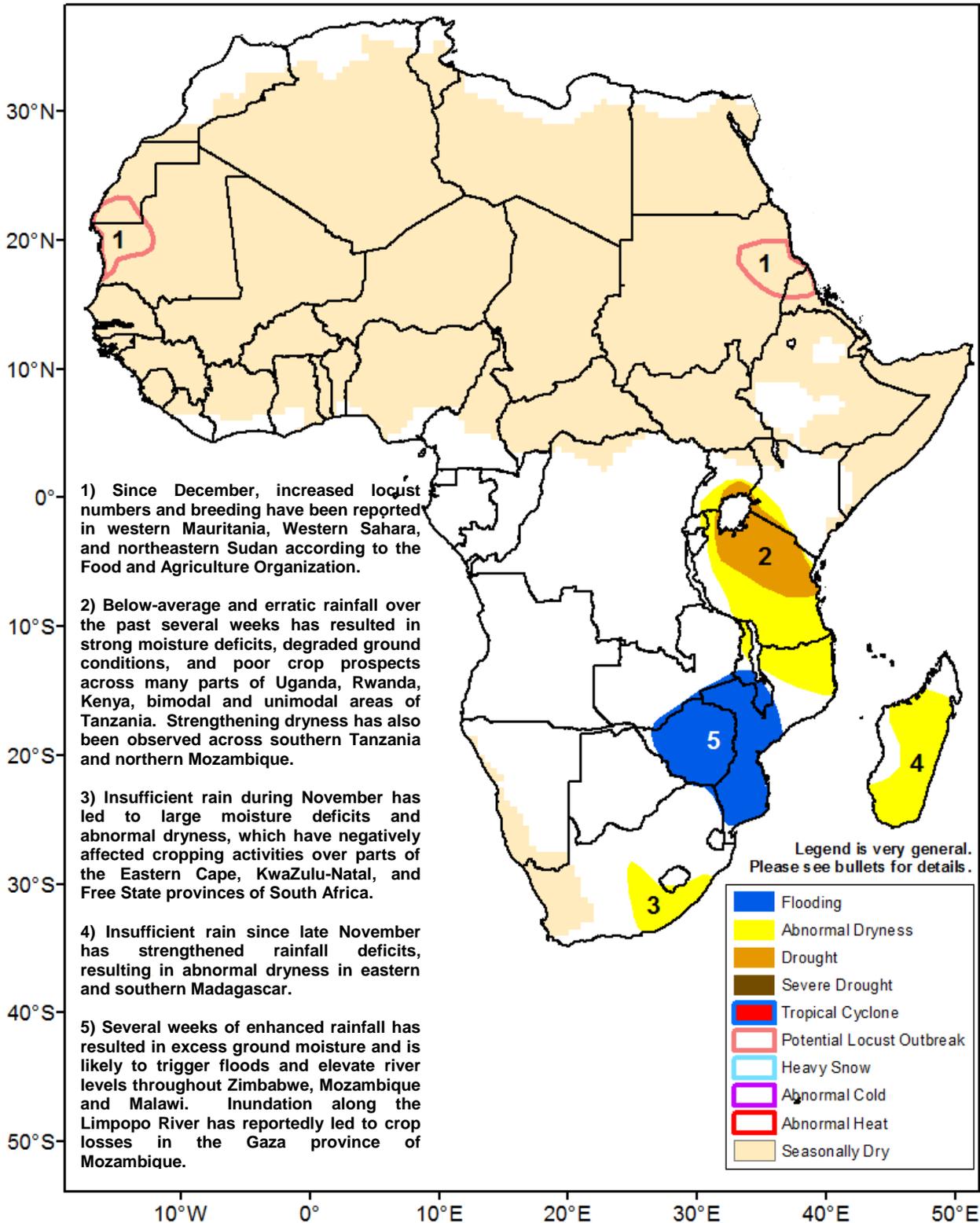




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 12 – January 18, 2017

- Heavy rainfall is expected to provide relief for several moisture-stressed areas, but increase the risk of flooding in southeastern Africa.



Higher rainfall totals received over southern Africa.

In early 2017, well distributed, heavy rainfall was received throughout several countries in southern Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were registered over parts of South Africa, western and central Mozambique, eastern Zambia, and northern Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Further west, more moderate rainfall amounts were observed across southern Angola and northern Namibia, however, drier conditions prevailed along the Atlantic coastline. Similarly, low, and poorly distributed rainfall amounts also continued across much of Tanzania. However, wetter conditions have continued to expand northward into southern Tanzania, Malawi, and northern Mozambique where low rainfall amounts were predominately seen during December.

Although southern Africa rainfall has gradually improved with respect to its spatial extent and quantity, which has helped to mitigate early season dryness, additional rains and ground moisture are still needed mainly over eastern equatorial and in parts of southeastern Africa. Analysis of the frequency of rainfall shows moderate to large shortages of rain days over much of Tanzania, Uganda, and northern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Here, prolonged periods of little to no rainfall since the middle of October, have contributed to anomalous dryness and remain unfavorable for the development of crops. In Madagascar, rainfall has been comparatively more frequent; however, the accumulation of low totals on a daily basis has led to a rapid strengthening and expansion of dryness towards the south within the last month. A continuation of infrequent and poorly distributed rainfall in these regions during January is likely to negatively impact cropping activities, and further deteriorate ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, a continuation of heavy rainfall is expected over much of southeastern Africa. Many parts of eastern Zambia, northern Mozambique, Malawi, and northern Madagascar are forecast to receive weekly rainfall accumulations > 75mm.

Favorable chances for average to above-average rainfall in South Africa.

In the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, a slow onset of the monsoon during October led to increased concerns of anomalous dryness and degraded cropping conditions following a very poor monsoon last year (2015-2016). However, seasonal rainfall activity has considerably improved since November, which not only neutralized early season moisture deficits, but has also significantly lessened the chances for a below-average season. SPP analyses indicate moderate to high likelihoods that rainfall will be average to above-average in the North West, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga states of South Africa before the end of February (**Figure 3**). Precipitation forecasts also suggest seasonable rainfall amounts during the next seven days.

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.

