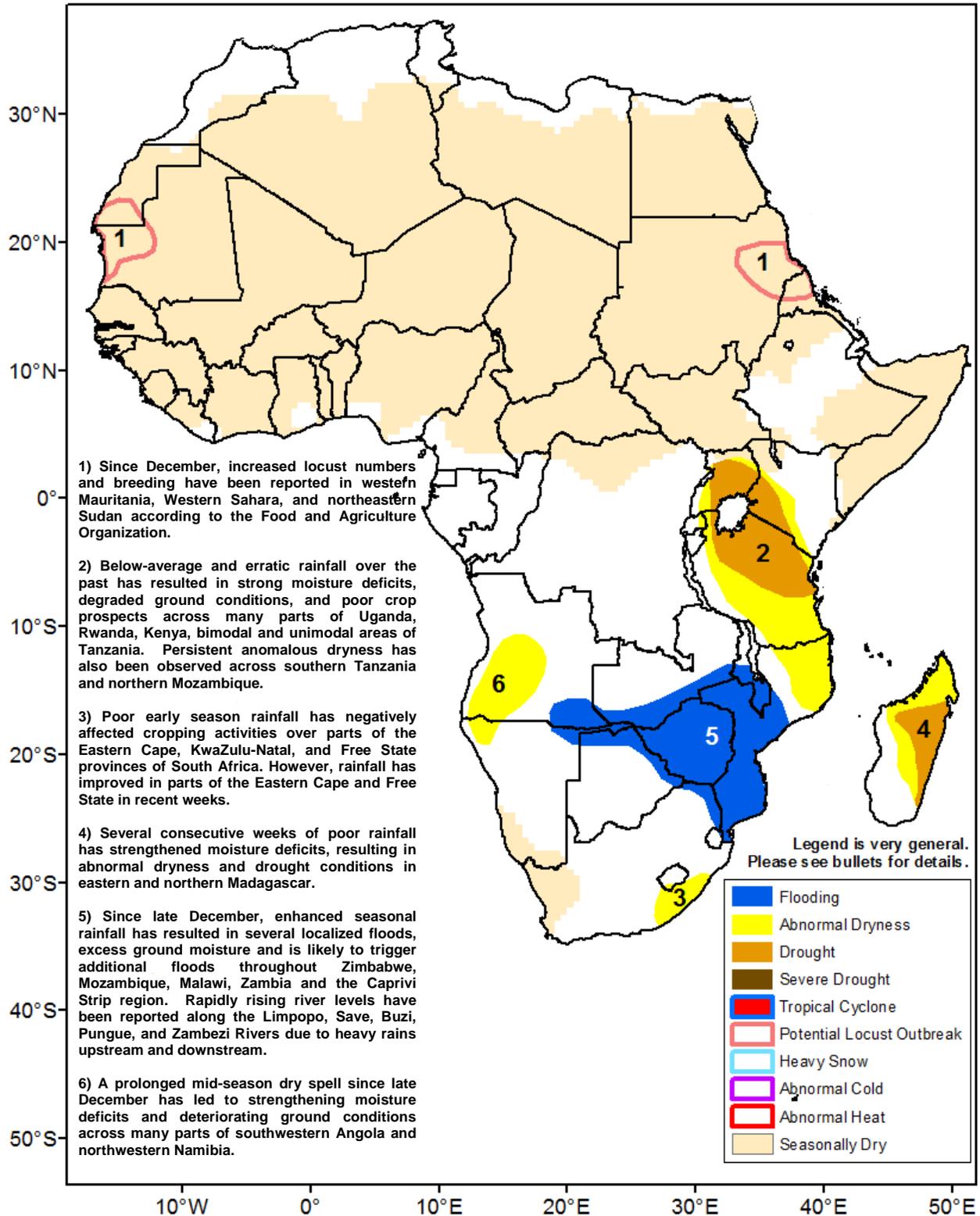




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 19 – January 25, 2017

- Persistent, heavy rainfall during January continues to heighten the risk for floods, and adversely impact infrastructure, livestock and crops throughout southern Africa.



No relief to heavy rains over southern Africa.

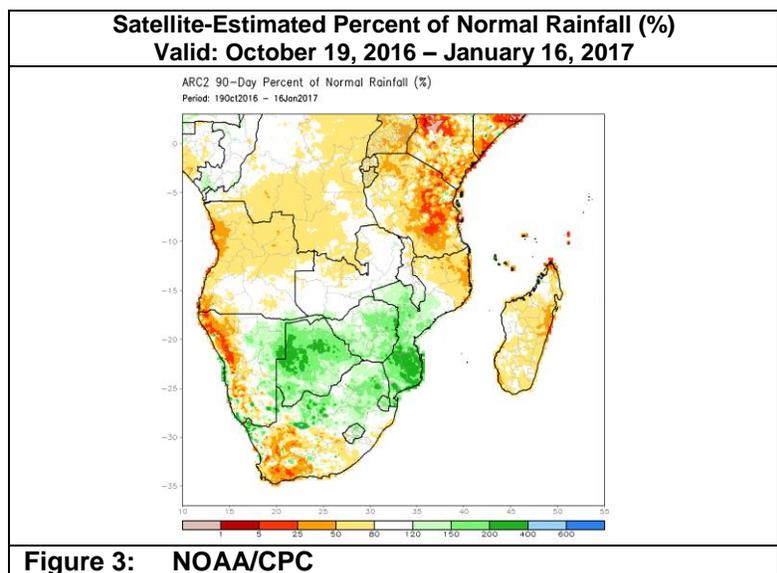
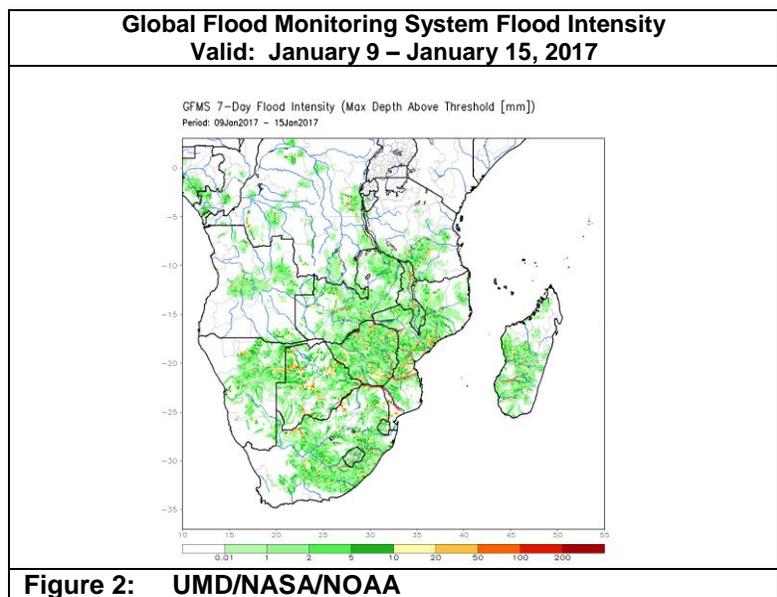
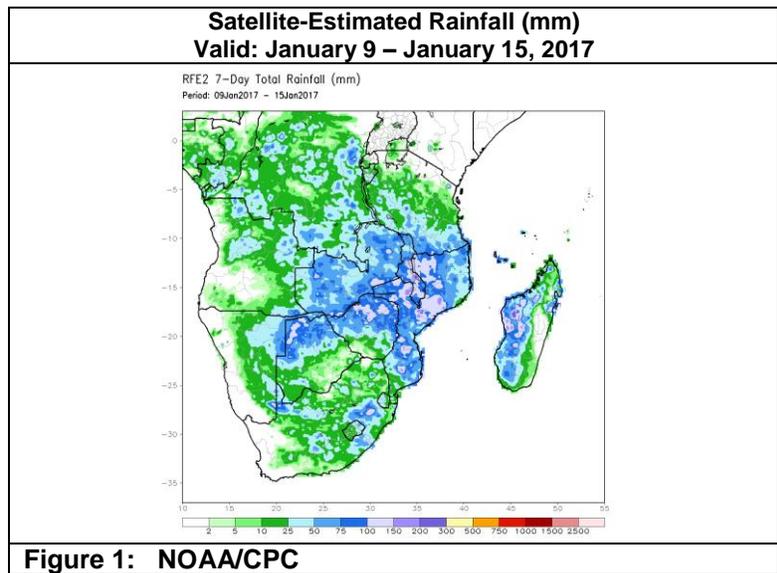
During the middle of January, significantly heavy rainfall continued across much of southeastern Africa, with a noted northward increase of rains and high moisture across parts of Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique compared to the last several weeks. According to the satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly rainfall accumulations were registered mainly over the Zambezi River basin and in western Madagascar, with totals exceeding 100mm for several regions (**Figure 1**). Moderate to heavy rainfall was also received across the Caprivi Strip region in northern Botswana and northeastern Namibia, as well as over South Africa. Reduced rainfall remained across parts of southern Angola and in many areas in Tanzania.

Both the breadth and persistence of heavy rainfall across much of southeastern Africa has led to several reports of localized floods, damages to infrastructure and crops, losses in livestock, fatalities and has increased the risk for water-borne disease outbreaks and elevated river levels. This wet pattern is expected to continue threaten many livelihood zones in southeastern Africa, as additional flooding associated with rising river levels throughout Mozambique is expected during January. Both ground reports and remotely sensed flood monitoring depict inundation along the Limpopo, Save, Buzi, Pungue and Zambezi Rivers due to heavy rains both upstream and downstream (**Figure 2**). Above-average rainfall in recent weeks has also increased the risk for localized flooding in northern Namibia and northern Botswana.

For the upcoming outlook period, little relief is expected with heavy rainfall forecast to continue to over much of southeastern Africa. Precipitation models suggest an axis of significantly heavy rainfall forecast, with amounts exceeding 100mm, extending from central Zambia towards southern Mozambique, which is likely to exacerbate ground conditions for several southern Africa countries.

Dryness improves over portions of South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar.

With the onset of the enhanced rainfall pattern in recent weeks, anomalously high moisture has also helped to mitigate dryness associated with unfavorable rainfall earlier in the southern African monsoon season. In the Eastern Cape and Free State regions of South Africa, rainfall deficits have been considerably reduced, with many local areas now registering average to slightly below average precipitation since mid-October (**Figure 3**). Similarly, regions in northern Mozambique and southern Madagascar have also experienced much improvement in seasonal moisture deficits, where short-term anomalies since mid-December are now average to above-average.



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.