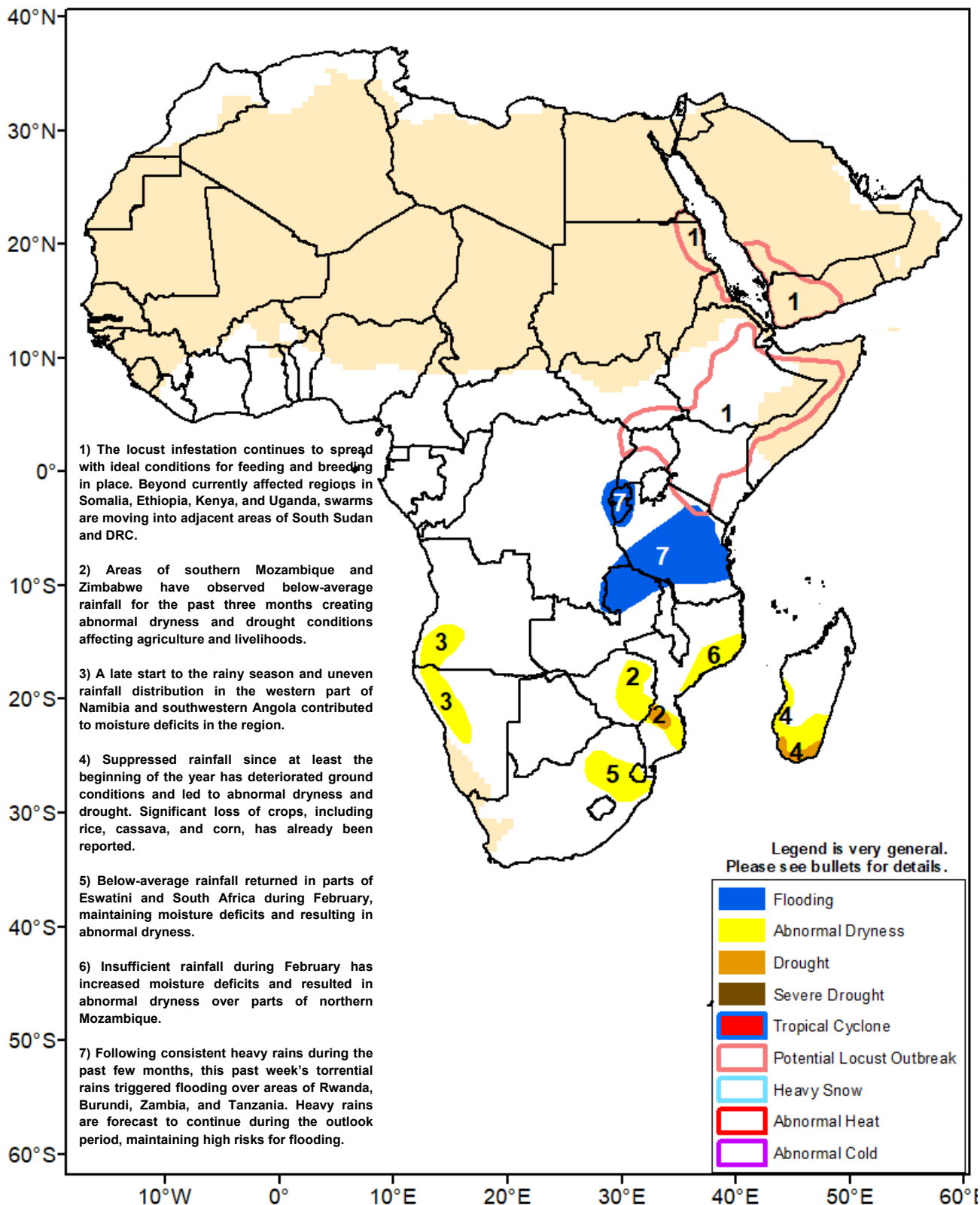




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 12 – 18, 2020

- Locust infestation continues and threatens the March-May growing cycle in eastern Africa.
- Consistent heavy rains caused flooding in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia during the past week.



Moderate to locally heavy rains received in parts of Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya during the past week.

During early March, a favorable distribution in rainfall was observed in eastern Africa. Moderate to locally heavy rains fell in southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda, and southern Kenya, while widespread little to light rains fell over South Sudan, central Ethiopia and parts of Kenya (**Figure 1**). The continuation of seasonal rains contributed to positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies across the southern portions of eastern Africa, particularly southern Kenya. Thirty-day moisture surpluses were also registered in southwestern Ethiopia and South Sudan. In contrast, small to locally moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits emerged in central and northeastern Ethiopia due to a somehow sluggish start of the season over these areas.

While the ground conditions remained positive over most areas, new locust swarms were reported to form in Somalia and Kenya, based on the most recent updates. The widespread locust outbreak is jeopardizing the March-May growing season and could negatively impact the livelihoods of many people in the sub-region.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicate widespread moderate rains in southern and southwestern Kenya, southwestern and central Ethiopia, Uganda, and parts of South Sudan. Little to light rains are expected in central Kenya, South Sudan, and areas of southwestern and central Ethiopia.

Consistent heavy rains caused flooding in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia.

An analysis of climate conditions over southern Africa during the past thirty days indicated that near to above-average rainfall was accumulated over most areas. However, the northeastern parts of the sub-region, including Tanzania, and parts of DRC and Malawi, received more than 200 mm of rainfall above the long-term average (**Figure 2**). The excess moisture has oversaturated the grounds and already triggered flooding over many local areas over the past several weeks. During the past week, heavy downpours caused flooding and affected people in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia, according to reports. Farther south and west, heavy rains also led to flooding in northern Namibia and southern Angola, displacing people, based on reports. In contrast, thirty-day rainfall deficits persisted in southwestern Angola, western Namibia, parts of Botswana, parts of Zimbabwe, eastern South Africa and Eswatini, parts of northern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar. The dryness has settled in over these areas due to an inconsistent distribution in rainfall over the past few months, particularly February.

As a result, vegetation conditions remained near-average over many areas of southern Africa, except western Namibia, parts of Botswana, local areas of Zimbabwe, parts of southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar, where below-average and degraded conditions were depicted, according to the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomalies.

During the outlook period, heavy downpours are forecast across Angola, southern DRC, northern Zambia, northern Malawi, and Tanzania, increasing flooding risks. Meanwhile, suppressed rainfall is expected throughout Zimbabwe and the southern parts of Mozambique and Madagascar.

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.

