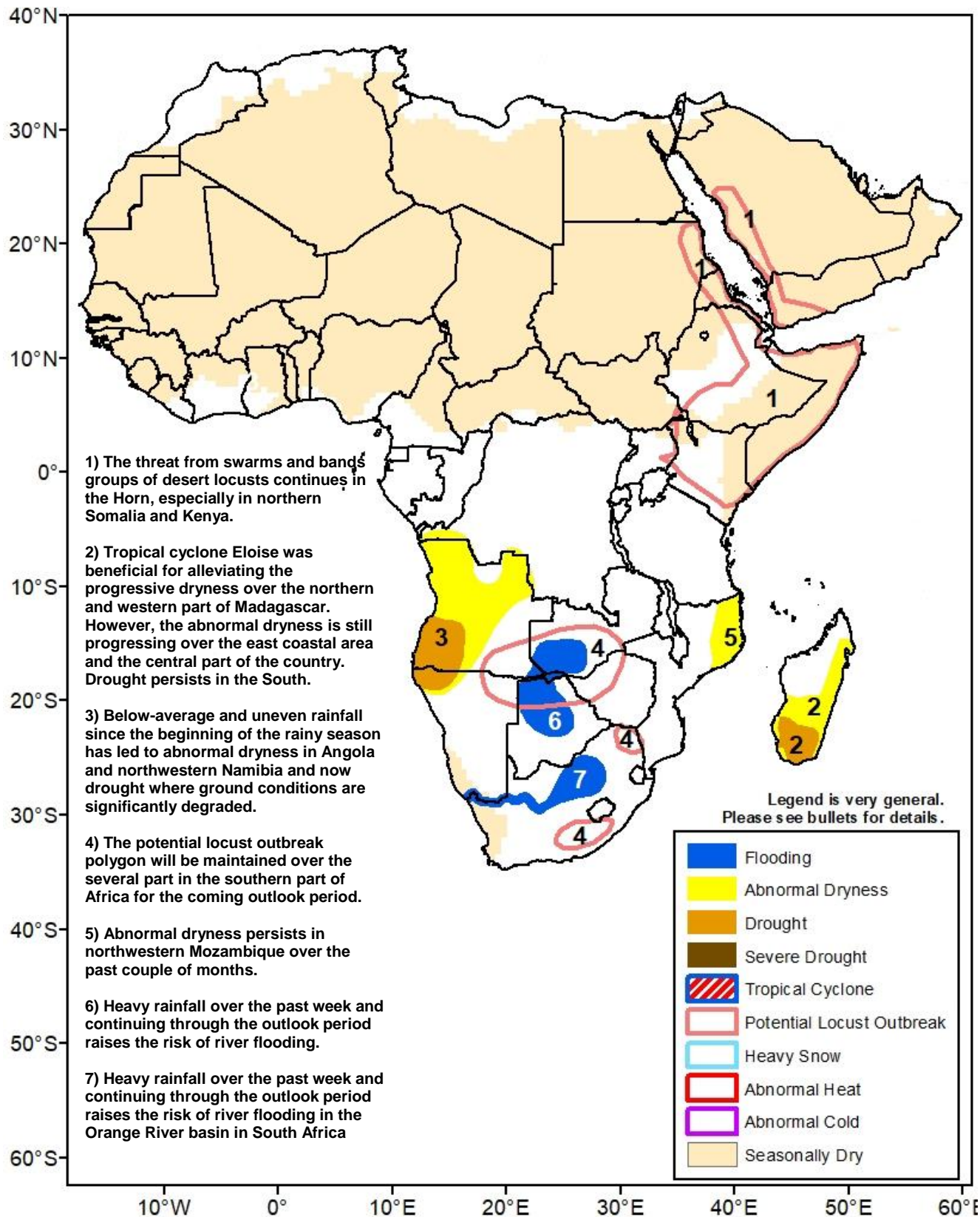




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 4 – February 10, 2020

- Long-term moisture deficits and heavily degraded ground conditions indicate onset of drought in Angola.



**Moderate to heavy rain was widespread in the region, but missed some of the areas where it is most needed.**

Heavy rain was widespread in Southern Africa, with localized pockets of 100+mm rainfall totals throughout the region (**Figure 1**). Some of the most concentrated heavy rains were found in eastern South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, northeastern Namibia, DRC, and Madagascar. Rainfall was well-above average by up to 50mm or more in these areas with the exception of Madagascar. Only in a small portion of northern Madagascar was the rainfall performance above average. Many other regions received 50-100mm of rainfall, including southeastern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, parts of Mozambique, and parts of central South Africa. Flooding, including several fatalities, have been reported in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Already-dry areas that include western Angola, northwestern Namibia and southern Madagascar received little to no rain. Central Mozambique received only light rains as well.

The southern Africa rainfall pattern has not changed much throughout the season thus far, as the 30-day and 90-day rainfall anomaly fields remain similar. Negative 30-day rainfall anomalies of 100mm or more hold place in many parts of Madagascar, northwestern Mozambique, western/central Angola, as well as far-northwestern Namibia (**Figure 2**). The most significant 90-day deficits are found in these same areas. Some smaller deficits are found in the maize triangle region of South Africa. Very large surpluses (100-300mm) over the previous 30-day period are found in southern/central Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. The adverse ground impacts of the prolonged moisture deficits are readily apparent in analysis of NDVI anomalies in parts of the region, with especially poor conditions located in southern Madagascar and southwestern Angola. Analysis of evapotranspiration also points to these as areas of particular concern for drought.

During the outlook period, heavy and above-normal rainfall is forecast over Botswana and northern South Africa. More than 75mm is possible and river flooding is expected to be a concern in the area. Above average rainfall is also forecast for Zambia, Zimbabwe, and parts of Mozambique. Meanwhile, dry conditions are expected to persist in western Angola, Namibia, and western South Africa. Near-normal rainfall is expected in Madagascar and greater rain could spread even into the dry southern areas.

### **Desert locust remains a significant concern across the horn of Africa.**

Dry conditions were prevalent in the region as we await the onset of the Belg rains in the coming Month. A few scattered showers were observed in western Ethiopia. Light rains were also observed around the Lake Victoria region and central Tanzania. Some floods and landslides have been reported in Burundi after recent rains. Moisture deficits remain through the dry season in Kenya. Rainfall will likely be relegated to Tanzania for the coming week.

The unprecedented desert locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa is still present and will most likely continue through February and March. The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden area of south Yemen are under swarm's invasion, which is predicted to move toward northern Somalia and eastern Sudan. Immature swarms are also widespread in Kenya and Somalia. Mitigation is underway to prevent breeding in the near future.

**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.

