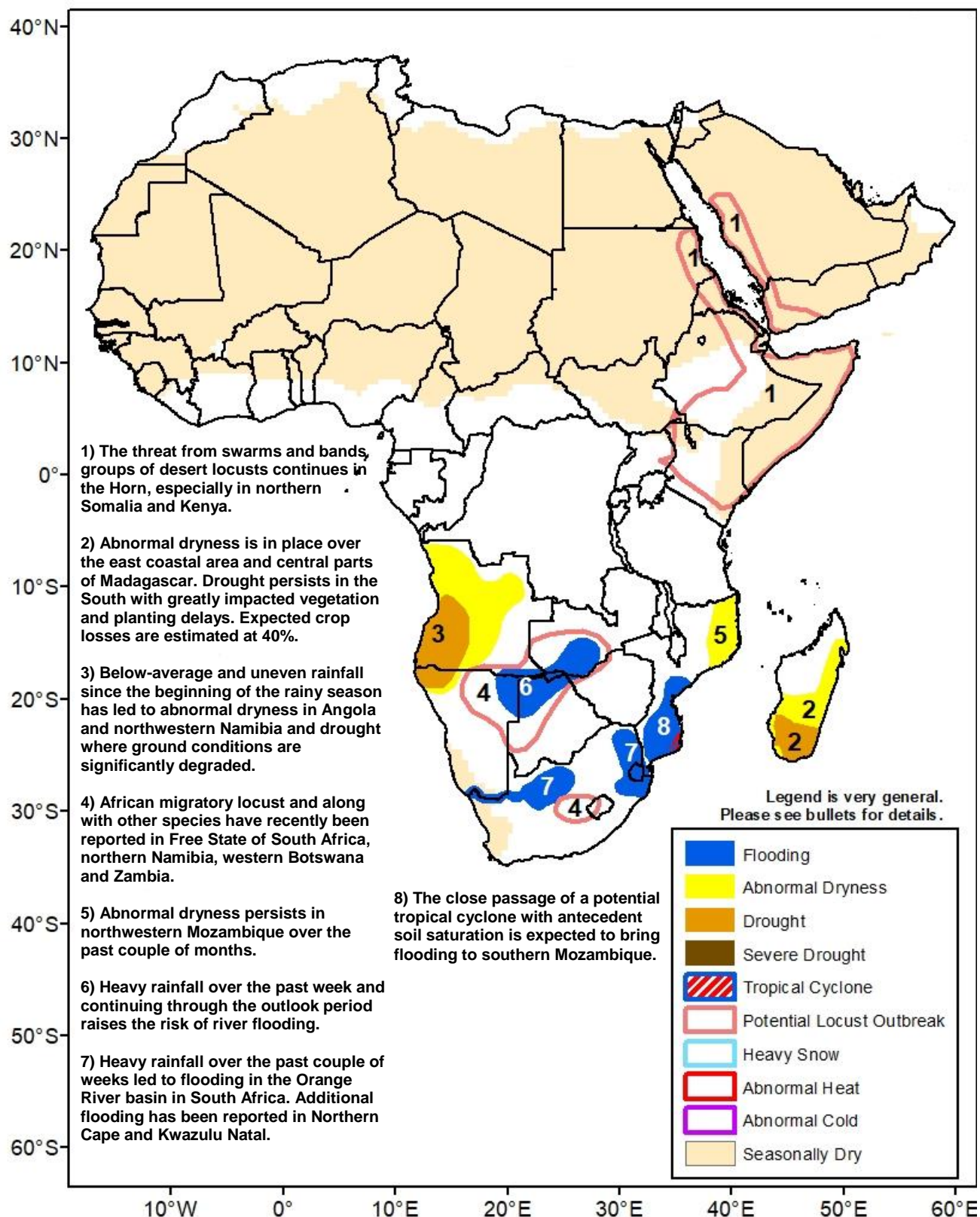




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 18 – February 24, 2020

- Continuation of anomalously heavy rainfall is causing flooding in many parts of southern Africa, while dryness worsens in Angola.



Above-average rainfall occurred in many areas of southern Africa this past week.

Heavy rainfall amounts exceeding 100mm were observed in many parts of the region according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). These areas include northeastern Namibia, parts of northern Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania, as well as much of Mozambique and Madagascar. The pattern led to rainfall anomalies of 75-100mm or more in these areas. Rains were lighter, generally totaling less than 25mm, in southern Zimbabwe and Botswana, as well as in most of South Africa. However, locally heavy rains in Kwazulu Natal and Limpopo led to flooding. Conversely, dry conditions remained entrenched in Angola, where many central and western portions did not receive any rain. This led to negative 7-day precipitation anomalies of 50mm or more.

The southern Africa rainfall pattern had remained consistent throughout the monsoon season, as the 30-day and 90-day rainfall anomaly fields stayed similar. Some evolution has begun recently, at least within short-term moisture patterns. After recent increases in heavy rains, analysis of 30-day rainfall anomalies indicates a reduction in deficits for northern Mozambique and much of Madagascar (**Figure 2**). In Madagascar, especially, many regions now exhibit small 30-day rainfall surpluses. However, on longer time scales, significant moisture deficits remain. 90-day analysis still reveals significant deficits in these areas. Deleterious ground impacts remain as evidenced by poor NDVI values there.

In Angola, the extent of 30-day rainfall deficits greater than 100mm continues to grow, and less than 50% of normal precipitation has been observed during the past 90 days. The adverse ground impacts from the prolonged moisture deficits are readily apparent in analysis of NDVI anomalies in parts of the region. Conversely, huge surpluses (100-300mm) over the recent 30-day period are found in southern and central Mozambique, southeastern Zimbabwe, northeastern Namibia, and Botswana. Flooding concerns will extend through the end of the month in these areas.

During the outlook period, above-normal rainfall is favored over a large area, including southern DRC, western Zambia, Malawi, parts of Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Rains are expected to be suppressed in western Angola and Namibia. A tropical cyclone is expected to form near the coast of southern Mozambique bringing torrential rains, high surf, and potentially gusty winds.

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

Little rain was observed across Ethiopia and the greater horn this past week. Moderate rains were observed in the Lake Victoria region and bimodal Tanzania. Light rain was widespread in Yemen. During the outlook period, rainfall (10-25mm+) is likely in central Ethiopia potentially signaling the onset of the Belg rainy season. Heavier rainfall could continue across Tanzania and southern Kenya for the period.

The unprecedented desert locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa is still present and will most likely continue through at least March. Adults are present in the Red Sea area of Yemen. Immature swarms are still prevalent in Kenya but the outbreak may have peaked. Swarms are also present along the rift valley of Ethiopia.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm) Valid: February 10 – February 16, 2021

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 10Feb2021 – 16Feb2021

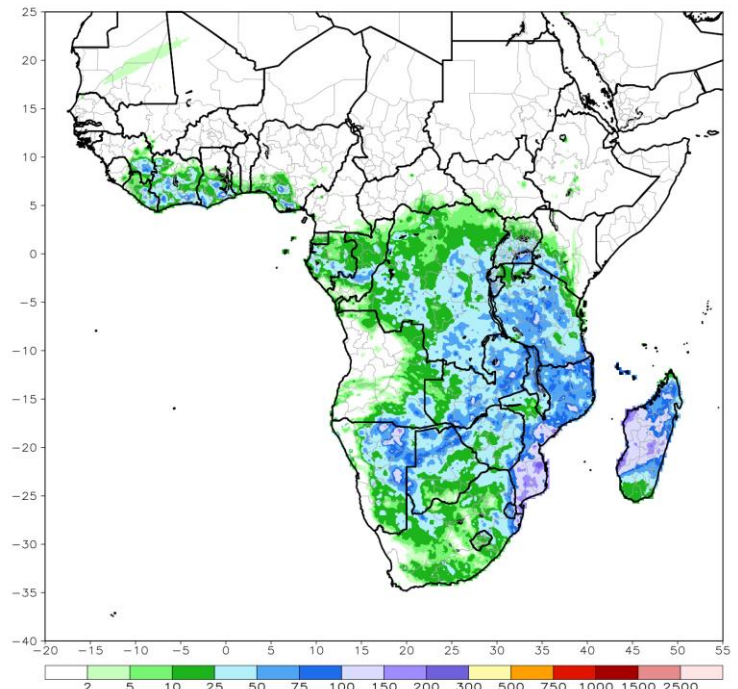


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm) Valid: January 18 – February 16, 2021

RFE2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 18Jan2021 – 16Feb2021

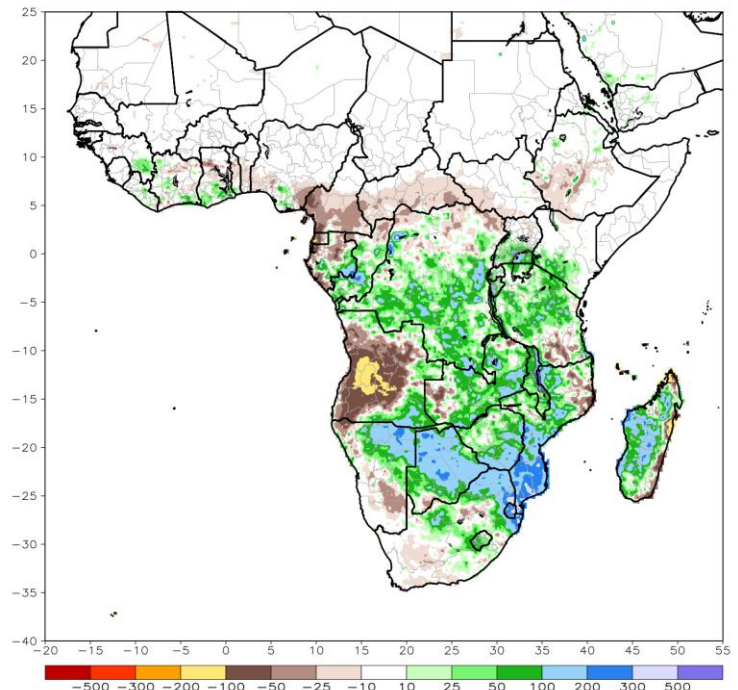


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.