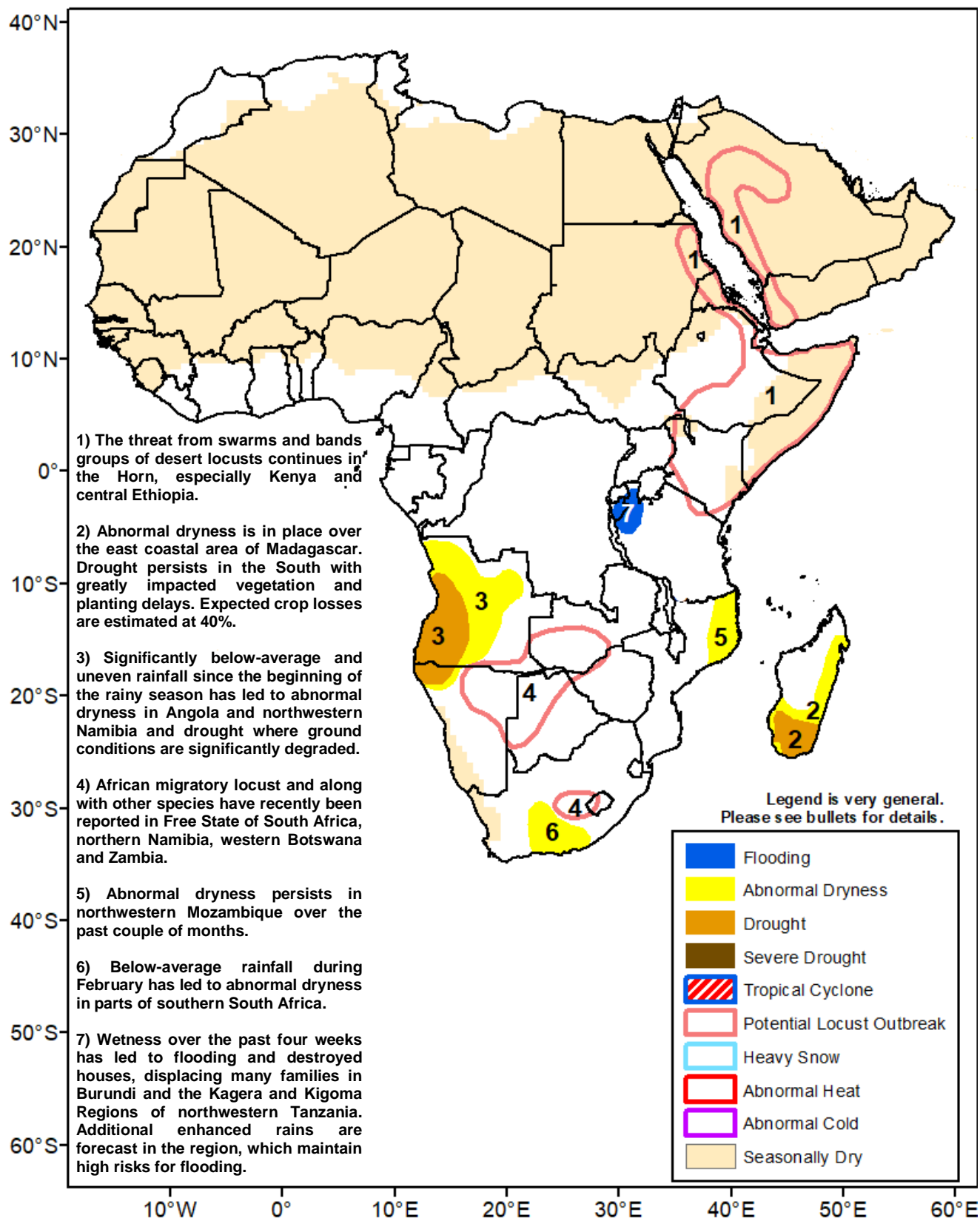




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 4 – 10, 2021

- Suppressed rainfall is expected over the Greater Horn of Africa during the outlook period.



The March – May rainfall season begins in eastern Africa.

During late February, scattered little to light rains fell over southern and central Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya (**Figure 1**). This past week's rainfall amounts were near to slightly above-average over north-central Ethiopia and may announce the onset of the *Belg*, March – May, rainfall season in the region. Meanwhile, widespread light to moderate rains were received farther south across Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania. The continued, enhanced rains contributed to oversaturation of soil, which has led to flooding and house destructions, displacing many people in Burundi, and the Kagera and Kigoma Regions of northwestern Tanzania, according to reports.

Based on a recent update from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), desert locust swarms were still present; but were declining over the affected-areas of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya due to ongoing control operations. Some swarms were also recently reported over the Kilimanjaro Region of northeastern Tanzania after a migration southward from Kenya, according to reports.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest that a dry weather pattern, with likely below-average rainfall, is expected over much of eastern Africa. The forecast suppression of rainfall could delay cropping activities over many local areas of the region. In contrast, heavy rains are forecast throughout Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, which could exacerbate conditions or trigger new flooding over previously-affected areas.

Poor rainfall performance over areas of southern Africa

A comparison of the accumulated rainfall since January to present with the long-term average has indicated that a wide area of central southern Africa has experienced wetter-than-average conditions. These wet areas included southeastern Angola, northeastern Namibia, southern Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, Malawi, and the central and southern parts of Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Rainfall surpluses were over 300 mm in parts of Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique. In contrast, insufficient rainfall has resulted in drier-than-average conditions across western Angola and northwestern Namibia, northeastern Mozambique, and the southern and eastern portions of Madagascar, where rainfall deficits surpassed 300 mm over some local areas. In Madagascar, although long-term deficits have persisted in the south, above-average rainfall was received in the region during February.

Recent vegetation products exhibited poor and below-average conditions over western Angola, northwestern Namibia, southern South Africa, portions of northeastern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar. Meanwhile, near to above-average conditions spread over southern Namibia, Botswana, central and northeastern South Africa, and parts of southern Mozambique.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate that suppressed rainfall is expected to dominate over southern Africa from southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, to much of South Africa. Reduced rainfall amounts, with little to light rains are forecast in eastern South Africa and southern Mozambique. In contrast, abundant and torrential (> 100 mm) rains are expected, farther east, over the Channel of Mozambique, including Comoros and Mayotte and the western and central parts of Madagascar, which could result in localized flooding in some areas.

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.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: February 24 – March 02, 2021

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 24Feb2021 – 02Mar2021

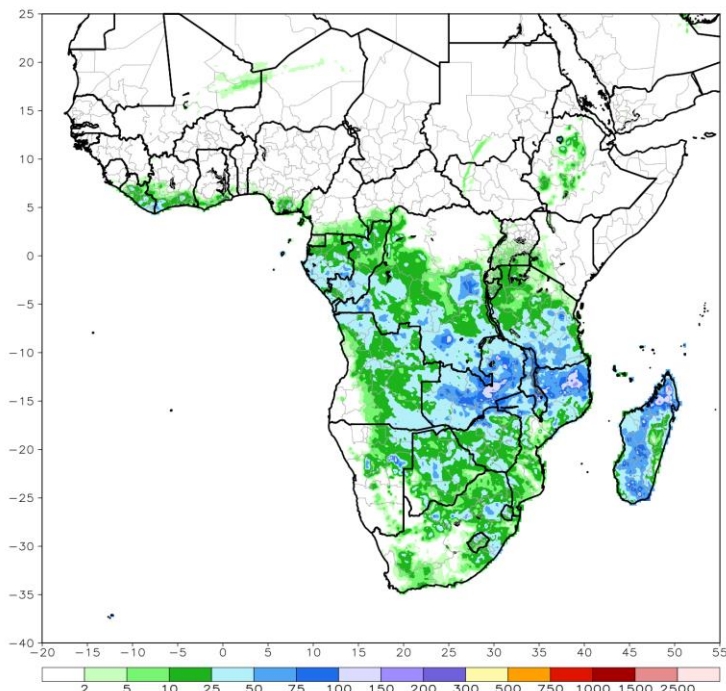


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

3-Month Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: January 01, 2020 – March 02, 2021

RFE2 3-Mon Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 01Jan2021 – 02Mar2021

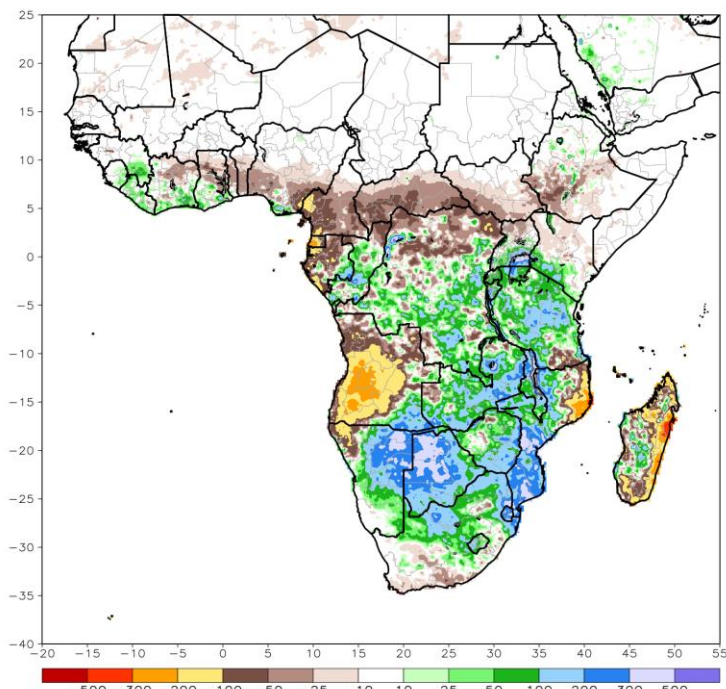


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC