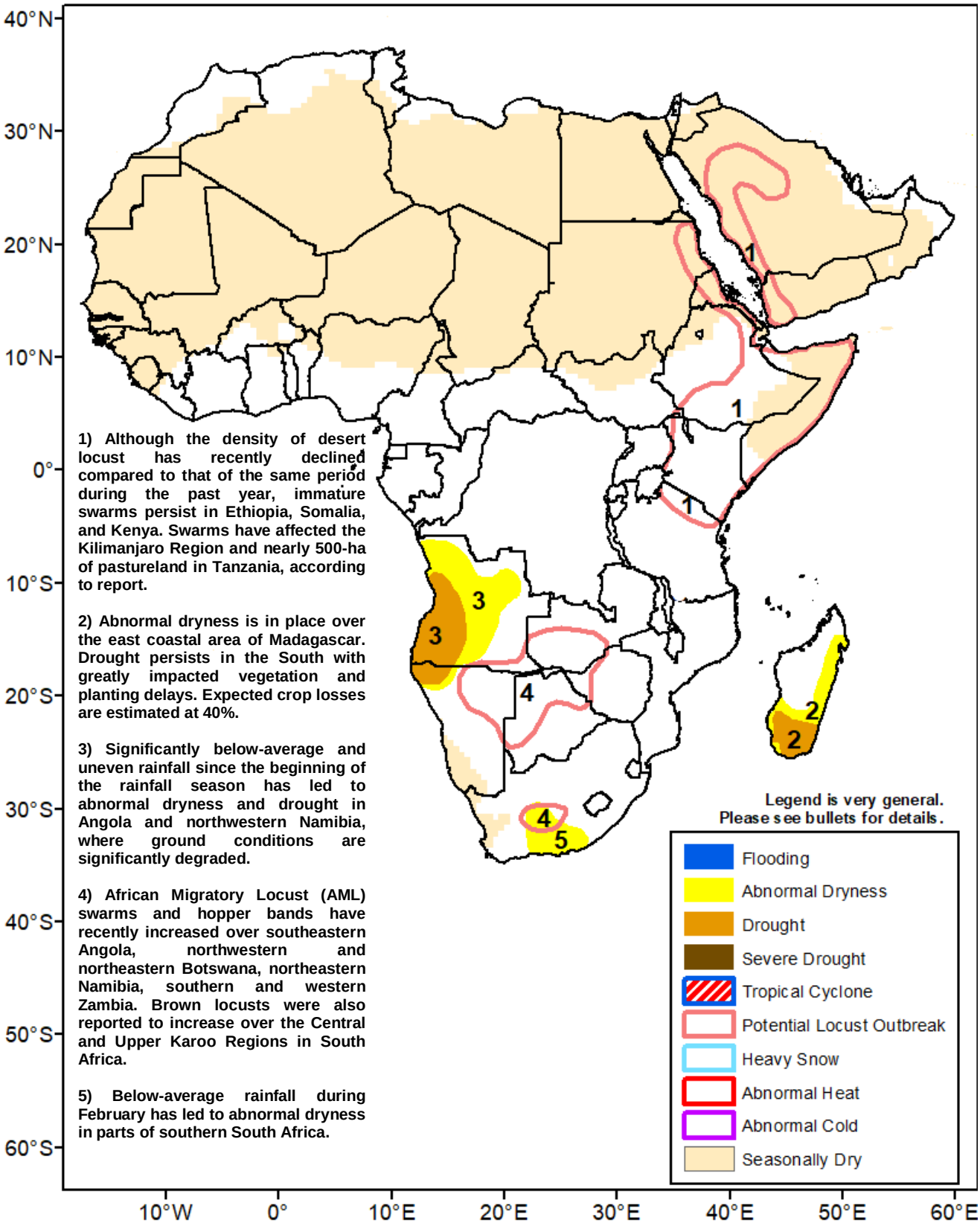
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 11 – 17, 2021

- **Drier-than-average conditions forecast to persist over eastern Africa and a wide area of southern Africa**



1) Although the density of desert locust has recently declined compared to that of the same period during the past year, immature swarms persist in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. Swarms have affected the Kilimanjaro Region and nearly 500-ha of pastureland in Tanzania, according to report.

2) Abnormal dryness is in place over the east coastal area of Madagascar. Drought persists in the South with greatly impacted vegetation and planting delays. Expected crop losses are estimated at 40%.

3) Significantly below-average and uneven rainfall since the beginning of the rainfall season has led to abnormal dryness and drought in Angola and northwestern Namibia, where ground conditions are significantly degraded.

4) African Migratory Locust (AML) swarms and hopper bands have recently increased over southeastern Angola, northwestern and northeastern Botswana, northeastern Namibia, southern and western Zambia. Brown locusts were also reported to increase over the Central and Upper Karoo Regions in South Africa.

5) Below-average rainfall during February has led to abnormal dryness in parts of southern South Africa.

A sluggish start to the March – May rainfall season in the Greater Horn of Africa

During early March, a dry weather pattern with mostly suppressed rainfall was observed over the Greater Horn of Africa (**Figure 1**). Scattered little to light rains only fell over western and central portions of Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya. Dry conditions were registered in South Sudan, northern Uganda, southern Kenya, and parts of northern Tanzania. In contrast to good rains during mid to late February, this past week's reduced rains marked a sluggish onset to the March – May rainfall season in the region. Over the past thirty days, below-average rainfall already emerged over southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and northern Uganda. Meanwhile, above-average rainfall was observed over parts of southern Kenya and bordering northern Tanzania.

According to a recent vegetation health index analysis, poor and degraded conditions were already present over much of Kenya, portions of Somalia and Ethiopia. This may indicate that the rainfall season may already be off to a poor start over the region. Besides, desert locusts and immature swarms persist over already-affected areas of the Horn of Africa despite control operations. Recent reports indicated that desert locust outbreaks have returned to the Kilimanjaro Region and grazing land in northeastern Tanzania.

During the outlook period, dry conditions with mostly suppressed rainfall are to continue over eastern Africa. The forecast limited rains are likely to adversely affect cropping and agro-pastoral activities in the region. In contrast, Rwanda, Burundi, and central Tanzania are expected to receive moderate rains.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 03 – March 09, 2021

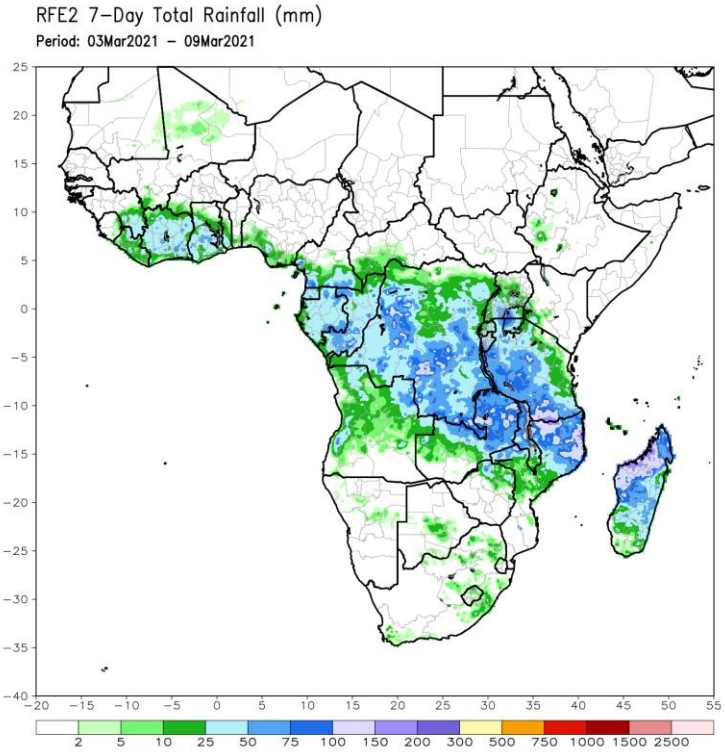


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Wetness persists across eastern Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique.

Over the past thirty days, rainfall was above-average over eastern Namibia, Botswana, central and eastern Zambia, Malawi, much of Mozambique, western and central Madagascar (**Figure 2**). During the past few weeks, torrential rains were concentrated over central and eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and western Madagascar. During the past week, heavy downpours continued over eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and western Madagascar. In contrast, very little rainfall amounts were registered over a wide area of southern Africa from southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, much of South Africa, southwestern Zambia, southern Zimbabwe, to southern Mozambique. Thirty-day rainfall anomalies showed that below-average rainfall remained over Angola, northwestern Namibia, southern South Africa, and eastern Madagascar.

Based on a most recent update, African Migratory Locust (AML) swarms have increased over the hotspots of southeastern Angola, northeastern Namibia, northwestern and northeastern Botswana, southern and western Zambia. Brown locust outbreaks were also reported to re-surge over the Central and Upper Karoo Regions of South Africa. The locust outbreaks have already destroyed crops over some areas and could threaten ongoing maturing crops and the upcoming winter growing season in the region.

During the outlook period, while heavy rains are forecast to persist through central Angola, eastern Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique, suppressed rainfall is expected elsewhere. The forecast limited rains could further increase deficits in many areas.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 08 – March 09, 2021

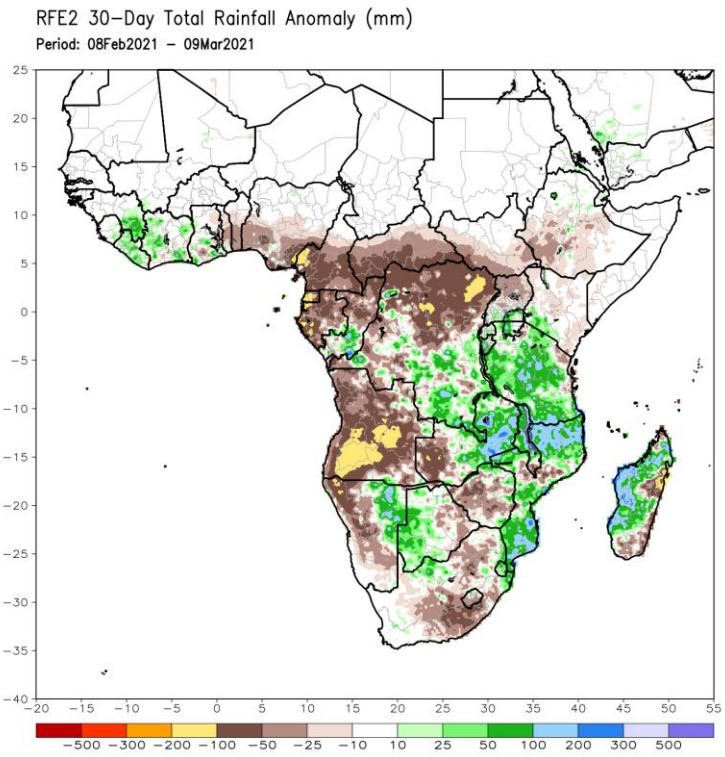


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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