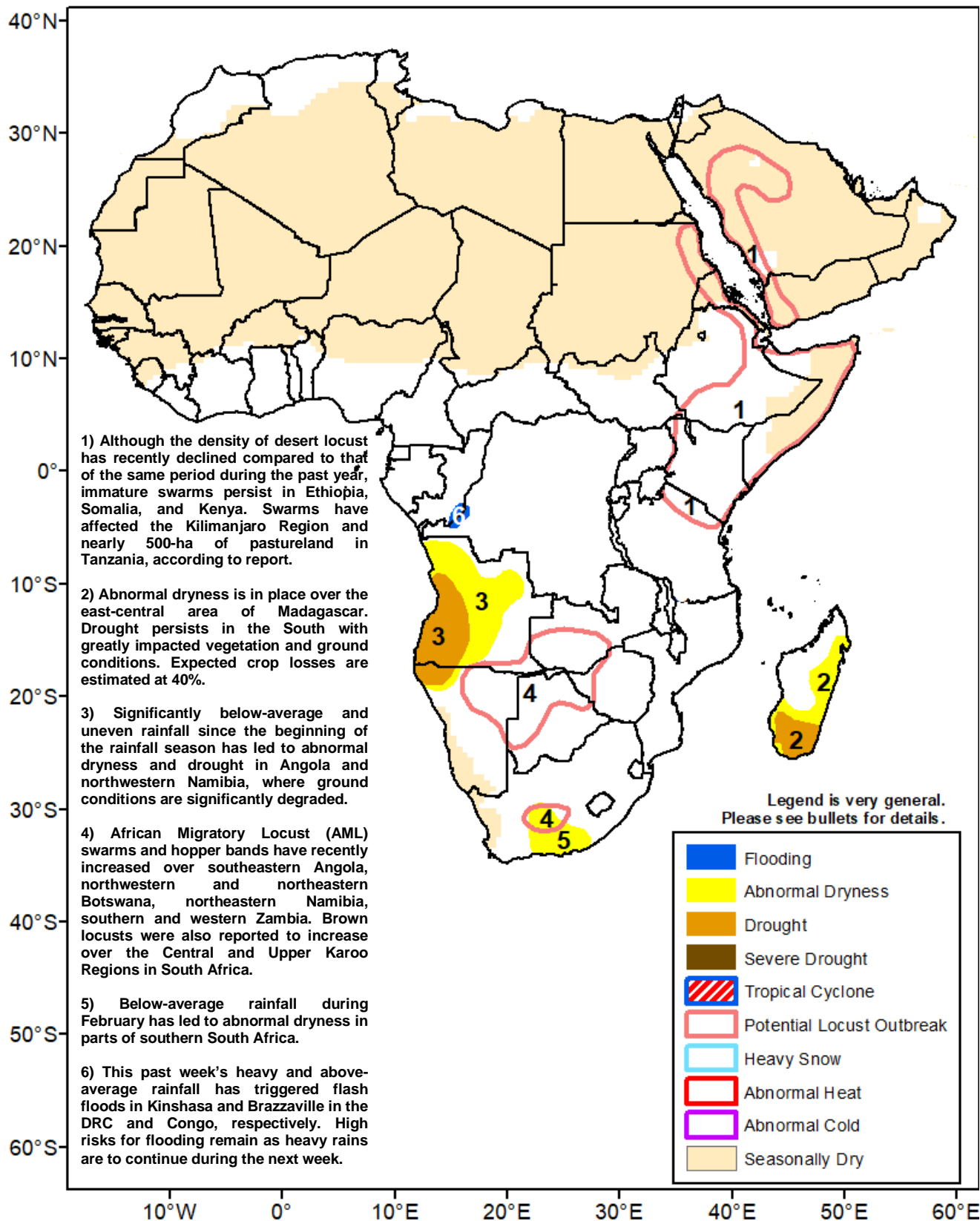




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 18 – 24, 2021

- A delayed onset to the March – May rainfall could adversely impact growing season in the Horn of Africa.



### Drier-than-average conditions persist in eastern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, rainfall was below-average across a wide area of the Greater Horn of Africa. From South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, southern Somalia, to southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, negative rainfall anomalies spread throughout the region. The largest rainfall deficits averaged between 25 – 50 mm and were registered in southern Sudan, Uganda, southwestern and eastern Ethiopia (**Figure 1**). The persisting deficits were attributable to a substantial reduction and even absence in rainfall over the region since mid-to late February. During the past week, suppressed rainfall dominated over eastern Africa, except for parts of southwestern Kenya and southwestern Ethiopia, where light to locally moderate rains were received. The return of good rains is much needed to replenish soil moisture and aid agricultural and agropastoral activities over the region during the ongoing growing cycle.

An analysis of recent vegetation products has indicated that below-average vegetation conditions were already present over areas of central and eastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia. This unusual situation could hamper and negatively impact cropping activities over many areas.

For next week, light to locally moderate rains are forecast in southern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and localized areas of southern Kenya, which may partially help reduce moisture deficits over some areas. In contrast, suppressed rainfall is expected elsewhere, which could further delay planting and other activities.

### Poor rains returned in many areas of southern Africa.

During the past week, the bulk of the weekly rainfall totals was observed over the eastern portions of southern Africa, including eastern Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Amounts in excess of 100 mm were received over local areas of northern Mozambique over the past few consecutive weeks, maintaining much wetter-than-average conditions over the past thirty days. Across the Channel of Mozambique, torrential rains also fell over northern Madagascar. In contrast, suppressed and limited rainfall was registered throughout a wide area of the sub-region from southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, to southern Madagascar. As a result, drier-than-average conditions were registered over southern Angola, western and northern Namibia, western Zambia, northern Botswana, central South Africa, Zimbabwe, and southern and eastern Madagascar over the past thirty days.

According to recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomalies, poor and degraded vegetation conditions continued over southwestern Angola, northwestern Namibia, western and southern South Africa, and southern Madagascar due to an erratic rainfall distribution since the beginning of the southern Africa monsoon. However, positive and favorable conditions were depicted throughout a wide area of central southern Africa, including much of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, central and eastern South Africa, and western Zambia as a result of consistent rains over the past several months.

For next week, abundant rains are expected over southern Angola, Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and central Madagascar. The forecast enhanced rains may trigger flash flood over some areas. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast in eastern South Africa.

**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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