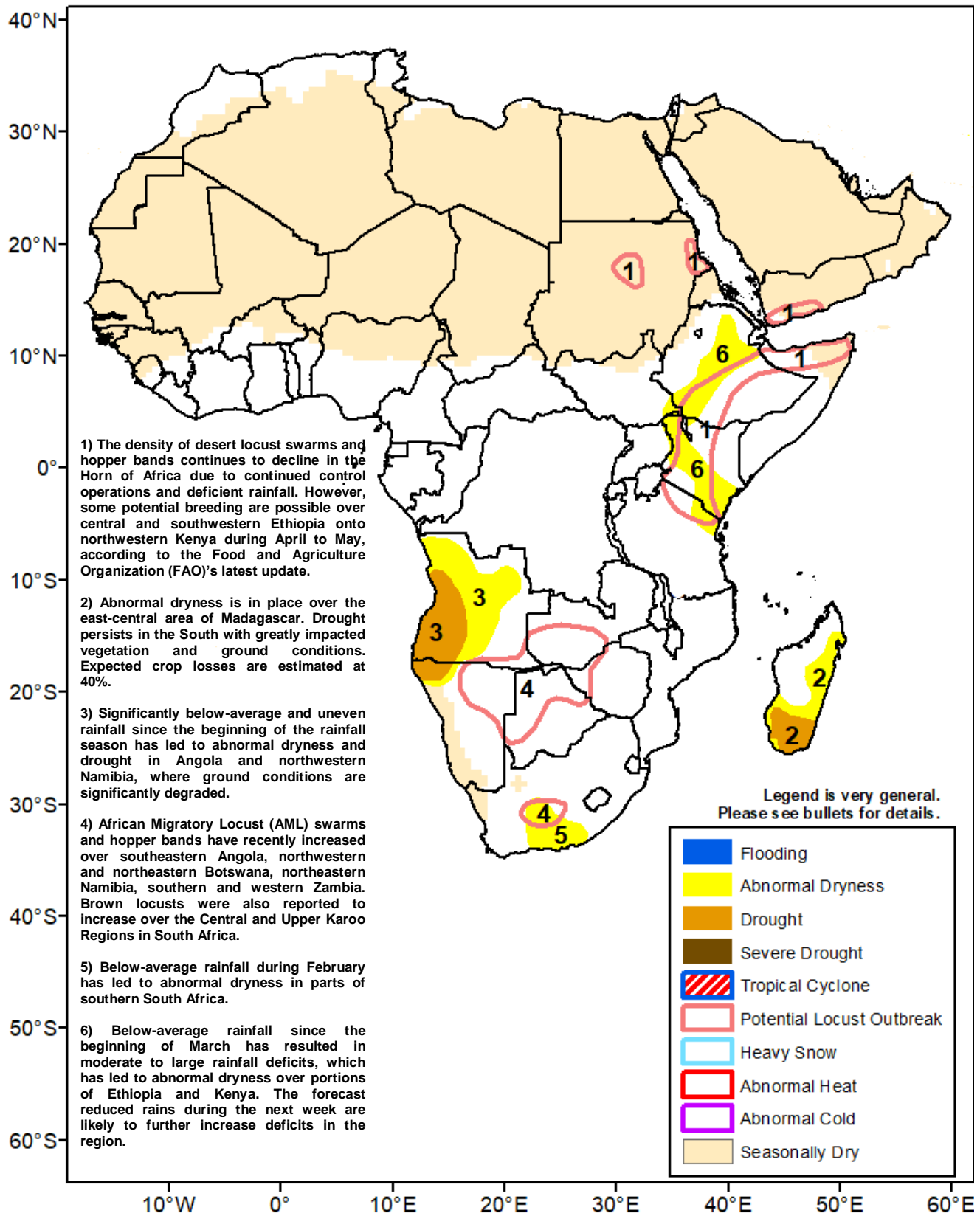




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 1 – 7, 2021

- Deficient rainfall since the beginning of March has led to abnormal dryness over parts of Ethiopia and Kenya.



Dryness has settled in over the Horn of Africa.

A comparison of this past thirty days' accumulated rainfall with the long-term average has indicated that well below-average rainfall was received over much of the Horn of Africa. Moderate to large (25 – 100 mm) rainfall deficits spread across southern South Sudan, much of Uganda, southwestern to northeastern Ethiopia, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). Abnormal dryness polygons are posted over southwestern to northeastern Ethiopia and southeastern Kenya due to many consecutive weeks of suppressed rainfall in the sub-region. Although good rains fell over localized areas of southwestern Ethiopia during mid-to late February, they did not last long. This past week, some areas of central Ethiopia received light rains; but the rest, including Yemen experienced dry conditions. In Yemen, small deficits already emerged to the west as the first rainfall season begins. The return of favorable rains is much needed to prevent further depletion of moisture and adverse impacts onto cropping activities and livestock production in the sub-region.

On the desert locust outbreak, the density of swarms and hopper bands continues to decline in the Horn of Africa. However, some swarms and bands still remain over portions of eastern Sudan, southern Yemen, northern Somalia, central Ethiopia, and southwestern Kenya, with some potential for breeding during April – May, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest updated. Also, much of the ground in eastern Africa is off to a poor start as degraded and unfavorable conditions are observed over a wide area of southern and eastern Ethiopia, central and eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, based on the latest Vegetation Health Index (VHI) product.

For next week, moderate to heavy (> 25 mm) rains are forecast in southwestern Kenya, while light to locally moderate rains are possible in southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. Suppressed rainfall is, however, expected elsewhere.

Seasonal rainfall begins to subside in southern Africa.

During late March, while heavy (> 50 mm) rains fell over southwestern Angola, northeastern Zambia, Malawi, and northern Madagascar, widespread light to locally moderate rains were received over a wide portion of southern Africa (**Figure 2**). Little to light and near-average rainfall was registered over eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, northeastern South Africa, and southern Mozambique, which may indicate the demise of seasonal rainfall in southern Africa. This past thirty days, rainfall was well above-average over northeastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and northwestern Madagascar, whereas accumulation was below-average across much of Angola, western Namibia, southern Zambia, northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, parts of South Africa, central and eastern Madagascar. Thirty-day deficits persisted over many areas due to suppressed rainfall over a wide area of the sub-region during the past few weeks.

An analysis of recent VHI product has indicated that favorable conditions prevailed over southern Africa, except for southwestern Angola, southern South Africa, southern South Africa, and localized areas of northeastern Mozambique and central Madagascar.

For next week, suppressed rainfall is to return over much of southern Africa with the exception for central Angola, northeastern Zambia, and eastern Madagascar, where enhanced rainfall is possible.

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.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: March 01 – March 30, 2021

RFE2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 01Mar2021 – 30Mar2021

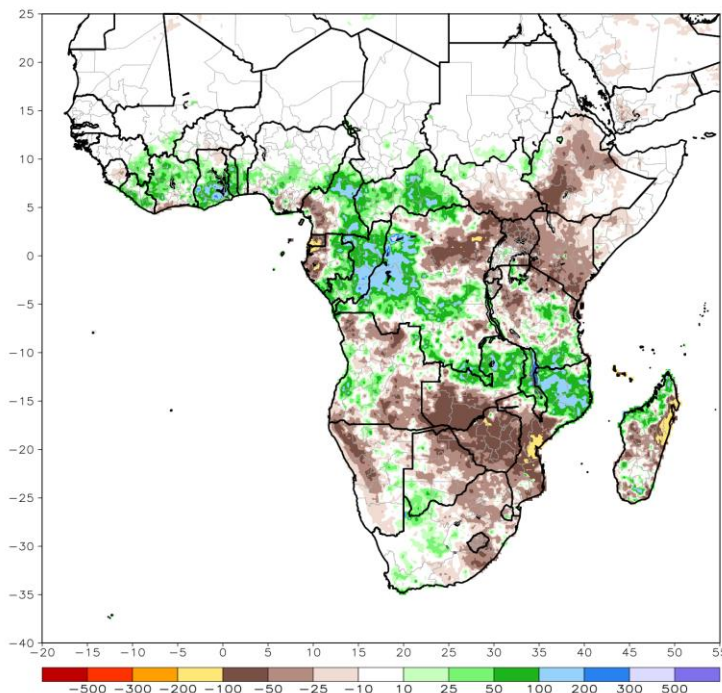


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: March 24 – March 30, 2021

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 24Mar2021 – 30Mar2021

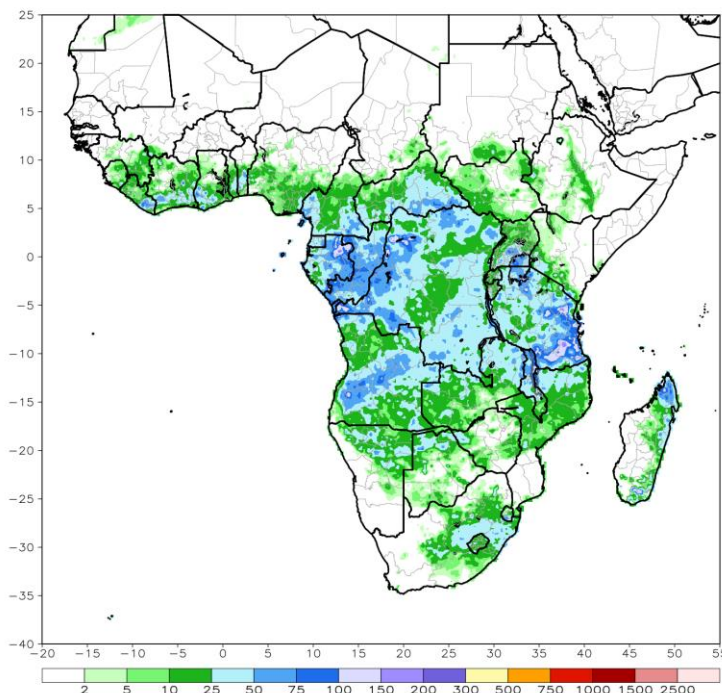


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC