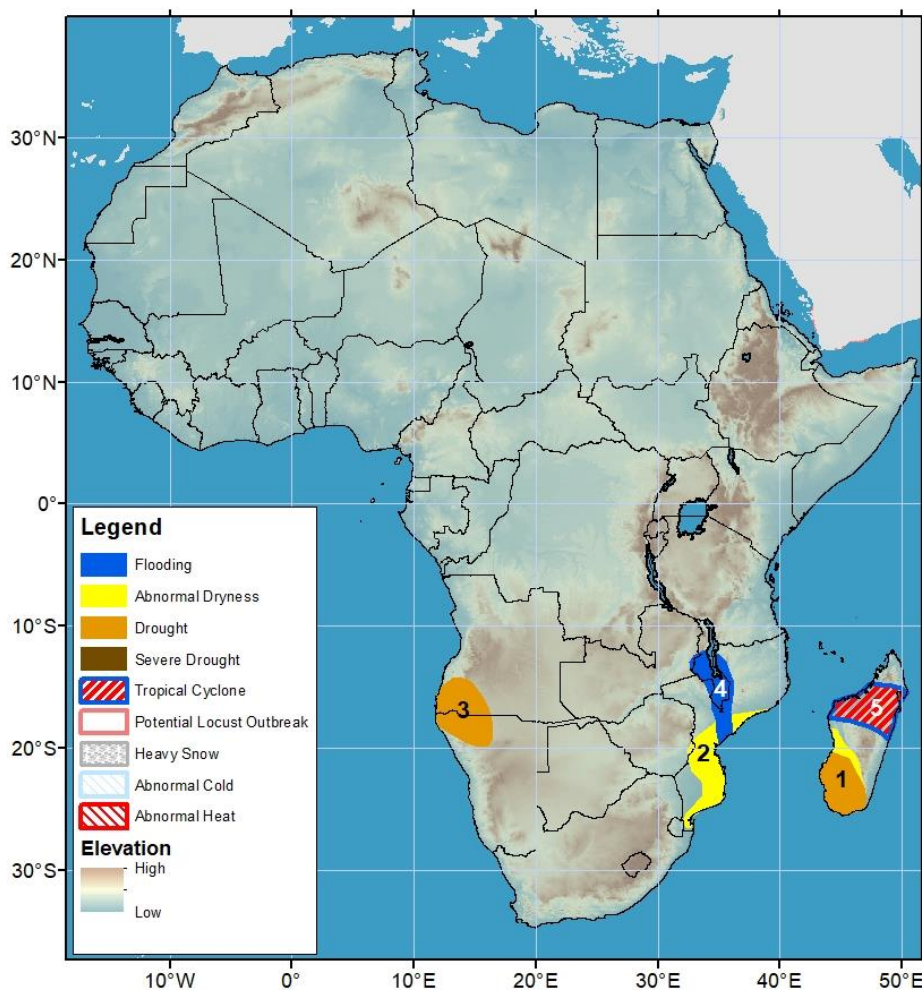




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 17 – 23 February, 2022

- Another tropical cyclone is impacting Madagascar
- Moisture deficits remain entrenched in southern Madagascar and Mozambique.



1) Little rainfall so far this season in southern Madagascar has led to large seasonal moisture deficits and very negatively impacted conditions on the ground. This is especially sensitive as the area is in a multi-year drought.

2) Uneven rainfall performance during the past couple of months has led to abnormal dryness in central and southern Mozambique. Forecast is for a return to drier conditions.

3) Below normal rainfall for the past 3 months has led to drought conditions over southwestern Angola and northwestern Namibia.

4) Earlier rains from Tropical Cyclone Ana as well as recent heavy rainfall upstream has led to high river levels and stream flows that have been slow to recede in southern Malawi and central Mozambique.

5) A 3<sup>rd</sup> tropical Cyclone in the past month is threatening northern Madagascar. Though a much weaker system, Dumako will still likely bring torrential rains, and some gusty winds to the northern half of the island early in the outlook period.

## Increased rainfall brought some moisture relief to portions of drought-stricken Angola and Namibia.

During the past week, rain was suppressed over central and southern Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and parts of Botswana and South Africa. Little or only very light rainfall was observed in those areas (**Figure 1**). A similar lack of rainfall was experienced in northwestern Angola, where 7-day deficits were 10-50mm. Heavy rains were observed in a band that stretched from southern Angola, through Zambia, Malawi, and into Tanzania and northern Mozambique. Rainfall was widely more than 50mm and locally more than 100mm according to satellite estimates. In Madagascar, rainfall was greater than normal in the North and the South, while significant suppression was observed in-between. Some lingering floodwaters are present after Tropical Cyclone Batsirai. Recent rainfall has eroded short-term moisture deficits in northwest Namibia, but seasonal deficits are still prominent. Less than 80%, or even 50%, of average rainfall has been observed in southern and central Mozambique during the past 3 months (**Figure 2**). This region of moisture deficits is now starting to expand again into Zimbabwe and Botswana over the past 30 days. Analysis of NDVI vegetation index reveals largely very healthy vegetation throughout southern parts of the region. The two regions of most persist dryness are well highlighted by degraded vegetation health in southern Madagascar and southern Angola/northwestern Namibia.

The current pattern is forecasted to persist during the outlook period. The heaviest rain (>100mm) is likely in southern Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique. Meanwhile strongly suppressed rains are likely in Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar. TC Dumako is impacting Madagascar as the period begins. A weaker system, it will bring gusty winds, but mainly heavy rain. Another TC forming to the east may move towards Madagascar later in the period

## Outside of scattered shower activity in western Ethiopia, most rain has remained in the south of the region.

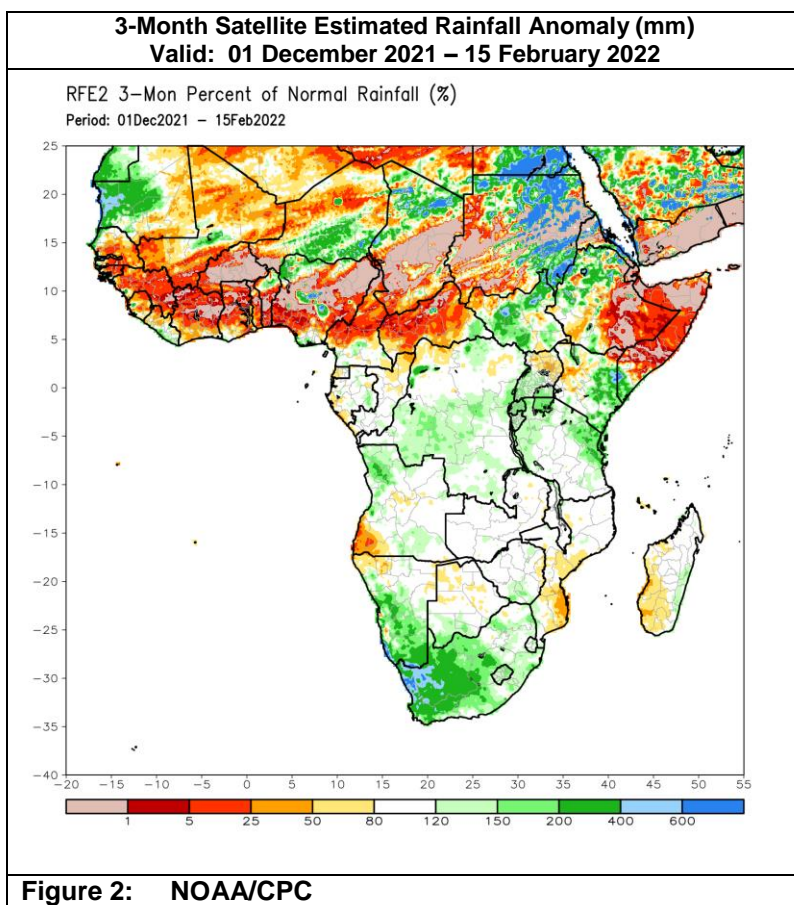
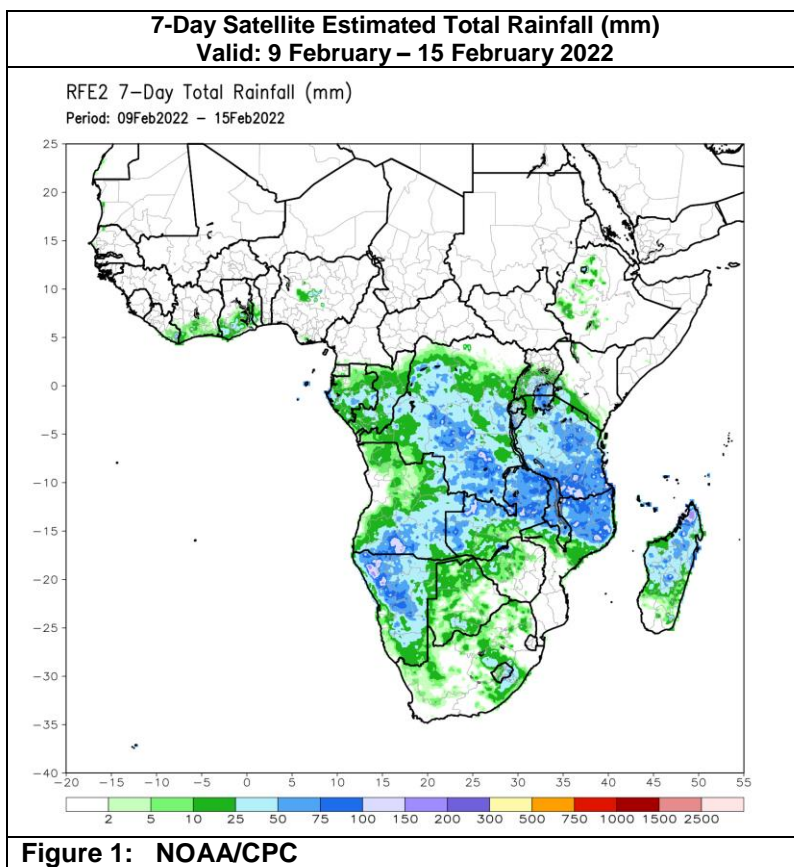
Moderate rains (25-75mm) were observed over southern Uganda, southern Kenya, and Tanzania (**Figure 1**). Some scattered light showers occurred in western Ethiopia. Otherwise, the remainder of East Africa stayed dry. Some small negative 7-day anomalies are present in central Ethiopia where some light 'Belg' season rains should be starting to emerge. Above-average rainfall has been present in Tanzania, southern Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi since the start of the year. Surpluses greater than 100mm are evident in Tanzania. This is leading to improving vegetation health in the country according to satellite derived indices. Vegetation health remains poor in southern Ethiopia and Somalia, stemming from the last failed rainy season.

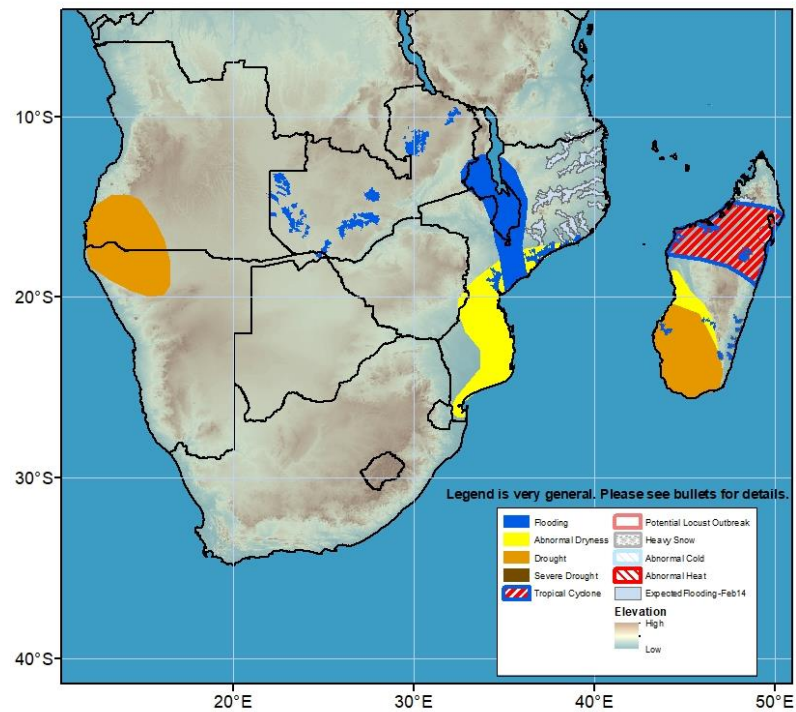
The locust situation has improved in the region to the best position in 2 years. A few small immature swarms were present in northern Somalia and some adults are present in northeast Sudan, but widespread breeding is not expected.

For the upcoming outlook period, enhanced rainfall will continue in Tanzania, with more than 50mm likely. Little rainfall is anticipated in Ethiopia indicating the 'Belg' season is yet to start.

**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.





A broad geographic range of Madagascar has seen impacts from floods. More tropical cyclones impacting the country will reinforce a broad flooding risk. Flash floods and landslides were reported over southern Zambia and near Blantyre City in southern Malawi. During the outlook period, heavy rains are expected to continue over Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, and northern Mozambique, reinforcing flood hazards for those and downstream areas. Discharge levels in northern Mozambique are forecasted to be between 2 and 5-yr return period levels over the next two weeks.

**Figure 3:** Hazards, focused over southern Africa