

## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 10 – 16 March 2022

- Tropical Storm Gombe expected to intensify and make landfall over northern Mozambique
- Unevenly-distributed rain maintained short-term rainfall deficits over the Horn of Africa.



1) While most areas in Madagascar received increased rains the past recent weeks, the southwest continued to register longterm large moisture deficits, which have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions leading to drought. Forecasts indicated reduced rain over the south during the outlook period.

2) Consistent suppressed rain since February has strengthened thirty-day rainfall deficits, which has led to abnormal dryness throughout Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and parts of Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia. Reduced rain is forecast during the outlook period, which may exacerbate dryness over the region.

3) Below-average rainfall since December of the past year has led to drought over southwestern Angola and northwestern Namibia. Despite this past month's increased rain, long-term rainfall deficits and poor vegetation conditions persisted.

4) Tropical Storm Gombe, located off of northwestern Madagascar at the time of writing, is forecast to intensify and track westward over the Channel of Mozambique to make landfall over northern Mozambique over the next two days. Tropical Cyclone conditions, with strong winds and heavy rains may lead to widespread flooding and infrastructure damages over parts of northern Mozambique and coastal western Madagascar.

## This past week's poor rains contributed to increased short-term moisture deficits over the Horn of Africa.

During early March, scattered little to light rain fell over localized areas in western Ethiopia and parts of western South Sudan (**Figure 1**). Otherwise, suppressed and below-average rain prevailed elsewhere, in particular, southwestern and central Ethiopia, eastern Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania. This past thirty days, rainfall totals were below-average over southwestern, central, and eastern Ethiopia, indicating a delayed start to the *Belg*, March – May, rainfall season. This delayed onset to the season could be attributed to warmer-than-normal structures in sea-surface-temperatures over the western Pacific, ongoing La Niña over central and equatorial eastern Pacific, and cooler-than-average sea-surface-temperatures over the northwestern Indian Ocean, the combination of which tends to inhibit rainfall over the region.

Vegetation Health Index (VHI) also showed poor conditions across the eastern two-thirds of Ethiopia, indicating already below-average and unfavorable ground conditions to the start of the current growing season, based on the latest analysis.

During the outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggested a return to dry and suppressed rainfall conditions over the Greater Horn of Africa, which would further delay cropping activities and increase moisture deficits over many local areas in the region

## While wetness was observed over northern southern Africa, dryness intensified over the east-central.

During the past week, abundant rains fell over central Angola, northern Botswana, northeastern Zambia, central South Africa, western and northern Madagascar. In contrast, suppressed rain persisted over southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and southern Mozambique. Hence, cumulative rain over this past thirty days indicated worsening dryness over the dry portions of southern Africa. Rainfall totals were less than 50 percent of the average throughout eastern Botswana, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Conversely, wetness was registered over Angola, northern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, and western Namibia. Nevertheless, long-term, seasonal rainfall deficits persisted over southwestern Angola, northwestern Namibia, and southwestern Madagascar, where ninety-day rainfall deficits exceeded 100 mm.

An analysis of the latest VHI suggested that the lack of rain during February has not negatively impacted vegetation conditions yet over most areas in Zimbabwe. However, deteriorated conditions were already depicted over some localized areas in the north, west, and east.

During the outlook period, Tropical Storm Gombe, located off of northwestern Madagascar, is expected to track westward, intensify, and make landfall over northern Mozambique over the next two days. Tropical Cyclone conditions with strong winds and heavy rains could cause widespread flooding and destructions. In contrast, reduced rains are to continue over Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, eastern Botswana, and northern 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.



Flooding were detected in the upper reaches of the Zambezi River in western Zambia, northern Zambia, along the Shire River in southern Malawi, coastal Mozambique, and western and southeastern coastal Madagascar. Additionally, high risks for flooding exist over areas of northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique due to the passage of Tropical Storm Gombe over the Channel of Mozambique.

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over southern Africa