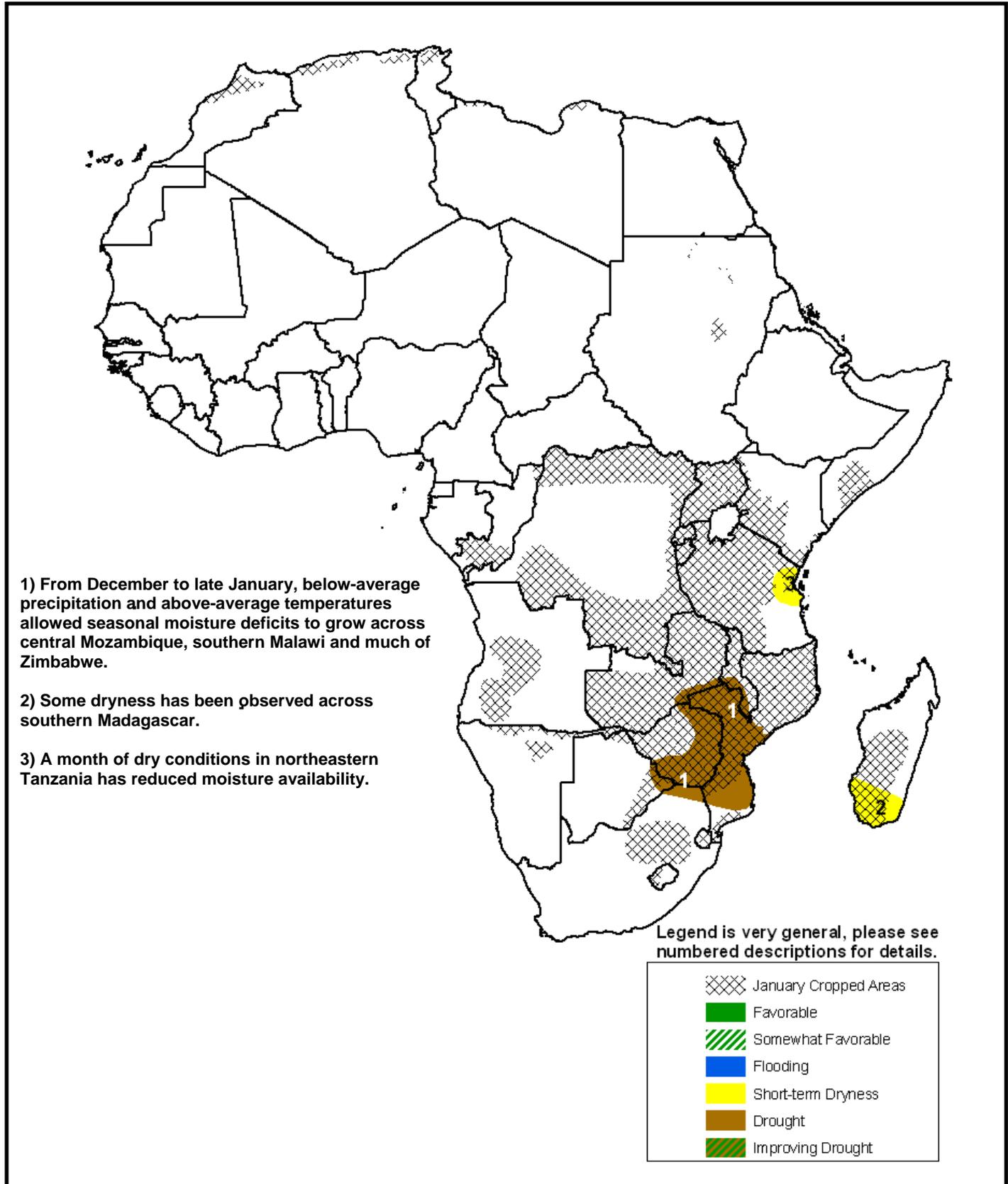


- Poorly distributed rains and above average temperatures across portions of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and southern Malawi have reduced soil moisture in southeastern Africa.



## Dry weather returns to southeastern Africa

During the last observation period dry weather returned to southeastern Africa. The precipitation that brought short-term relief to the area has moved out, and the dry conditions that had been predominant since December have returned. The heavy rainfall has improved drinking water and pastures across central and southern Mozambique, as well as eastern parts of Zimbabwe. Further northwest, moderate to high precipitation amounts over the last seven days continue to provide ample ground moisture in Zambia and nearby parts of Mozambique. Seasonally wet rainfall totals were also observed in portions of northern Mozambique, and in northern Malawi. Most other areas saw a week of below normal precipitation.

Southern Angola and northern Namibia continued on a drying trend after a soaking wet first half of the season. Recent trends across much of Tanzania show a drying trend, with below normal precipitation observed for the last three weeks. **(Figure 1)**

Seasonal rainfall deficits **(Figure 2)** have started growing again this week and many local areas in central and western Mozambique still have only received 50-70 percent of average rainfall accumulation since October. In addition to the below-average totals for the season, many of these areas have also experienced a significantly low occurrence of precipitation, with many local areas in central and southern Mozambique having received only 3-5 days of measurable rain in the last 30 days with less than 50% of normal rainfall over that same period.

Temperatures had regularly been exceeded 40 degrees Celsius in Mozambique and Zimbabwe during the last two months; this has negatively impacted available ground moisture for the development of crops in many local areas. The arrival of rainfall two weeks ago has brought temperatures down to more seasonable levels. The rainfall has also allowed soil moisture to recover, with the latest soil water analyses suggesting that many areas that had been parched in central and southern Mozambique, as well as southern Zimbabwe and eastern portions of Botswana **(Figure 3)**, have improve drastically over the last two weeks.

The current outlook for the next week shows that some light, to moderate precipitation may move through the area. This would likely keep air temperatures down, and continue to improve soil moisture throughout the region. This moisture would mostly be beneficial to pastures and for drinking water. If any areas have managed to sow shorter cycle crops, this would help to sustain those as well.

**Note: This product is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and 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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