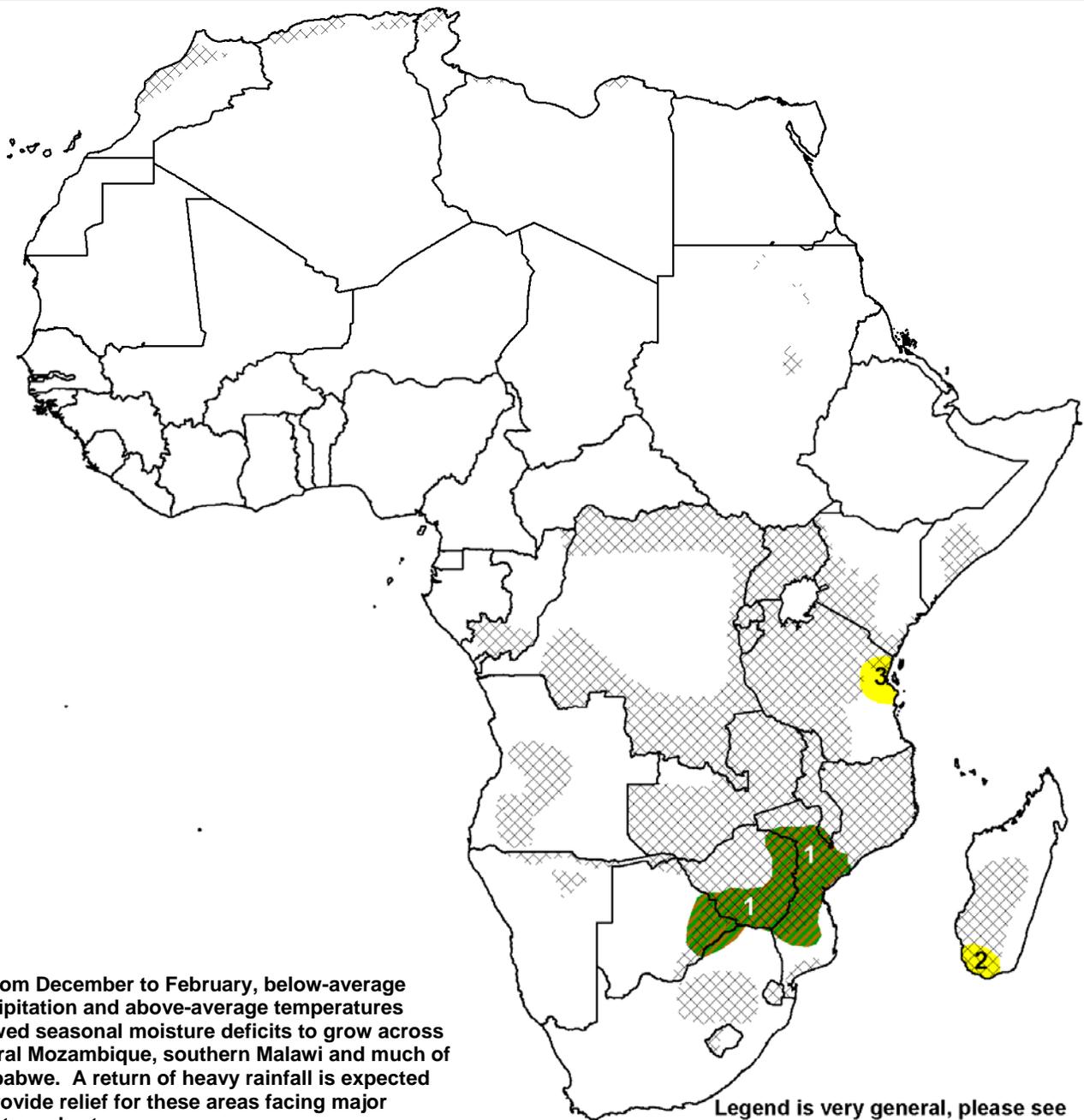


- The onset of widespread and heavy precipitation in the last seven days is expected to help alleviate both short-term and long-term dryness that has impacted many areas in southeastern Africa.

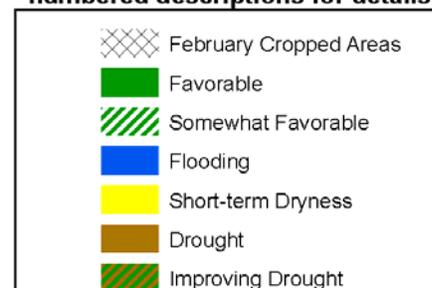


1) From December to February, below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures allowed seasonal moisture deficits to grow across central Mozambique, southern Malawi and much of Zimbabwe. A return of heavy rainfall is expected to provide relief for these areas facing major moisture shortages.

2) Below-average precipitation has led to deteriorating crop conditions in southern Madagascar.

3) A month of dry conditions in northeastern Tanzania has reduced moisture availability.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Recovery of rains helps relieve seasonal moisture shortages in southern Africa.

In the last seven days, ample and much-needed amounts of precipitation were received across southern Africa. In Mozambique, heavy and well-distributed precipitation amounts ranging between 50-75 mm were observed from Northern provinces, extending southward to the Inhambane and Gaza provinces. Locally heavier amounts in excess of 100mm fell in the central parts of the country, providing excess ground moisture along the Save, Pungue and Zambezi River basins (**Figure 1**). In Zimbabwe, moderate to high amounts of precipitation were observed throughout the north, with more isolated totals (>100mm) observed in the Masvingo province during the last observation period. Further west, many local parts neighboring the Caprivi Strip also received favorable amounts of rain, with lesser seven day rainfall amounts observed in parts of northern Namibia and southern Angola.

The onset of ample rainfall over the last week marks not only the return of more seasonable totals, but is also likely to improve areas impacted by short-term and season long dryness in southern Africa. Moderate to severe rainfall deficits that were centered across central Mozambique have been mostly eradicated due to the excessive rainfall in the last week. From the Cahora Bassa region of western Mozambique to the central Manica and Sofala provinces, rainfall now remains above-average over many local areas for the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). Although some local areas still remain below-average over the last month, the recent increase in precipitation is expected to help the development of crops, as well as replenish water resources.

Forecasts suggest a continuation of high, favorable precipitation across many portions of Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe during the upcoming observation period. Rainfall amounts ranging between 50 -75 mm are expected for parts of western and central Mozambique and northern Zimbabwe for the next seven days.

Favorable pre-season showers observed in Gulf of Guinea.

In the last two weeks, heavy rainfall amounts were observed across many local parts of Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana. Many coastal areas in the Gulf of Guinea normally experience some rainfall accumulation for this time of the year; however the magnitude and northern extent of rains remain unseasonably wet. Anomalously high rainfall was recorded from areas west of Lake Volta northward towards the Burkina Faso border and along the coast towards Liberia (**Figure 3**). Although agricultural activity has yet to begin in West Africa, these pre-seasonal rains are likely to lead to favorable conditions for field and crop preparation in the next couple of months.

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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Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: February 14, 2010 – February 20, 2010

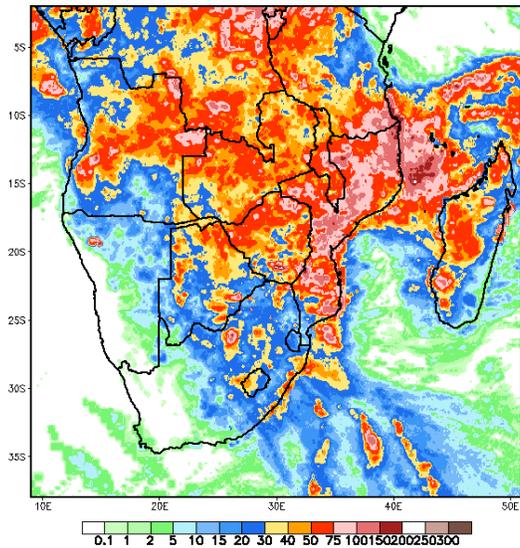


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (%)
Valid: January 22nd - February 20th, 2010

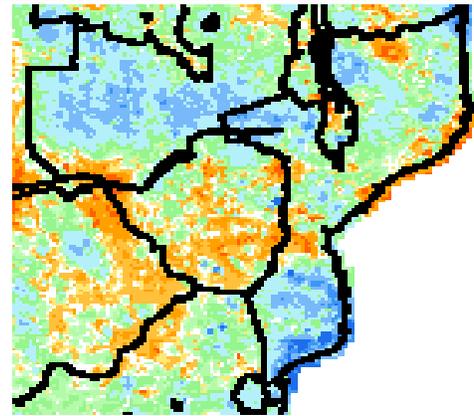


Figure 2: : NOAA/CPC

Standardized Precipitation Index
As of: February 20th, 2010



Figure 3: USGS / EROS