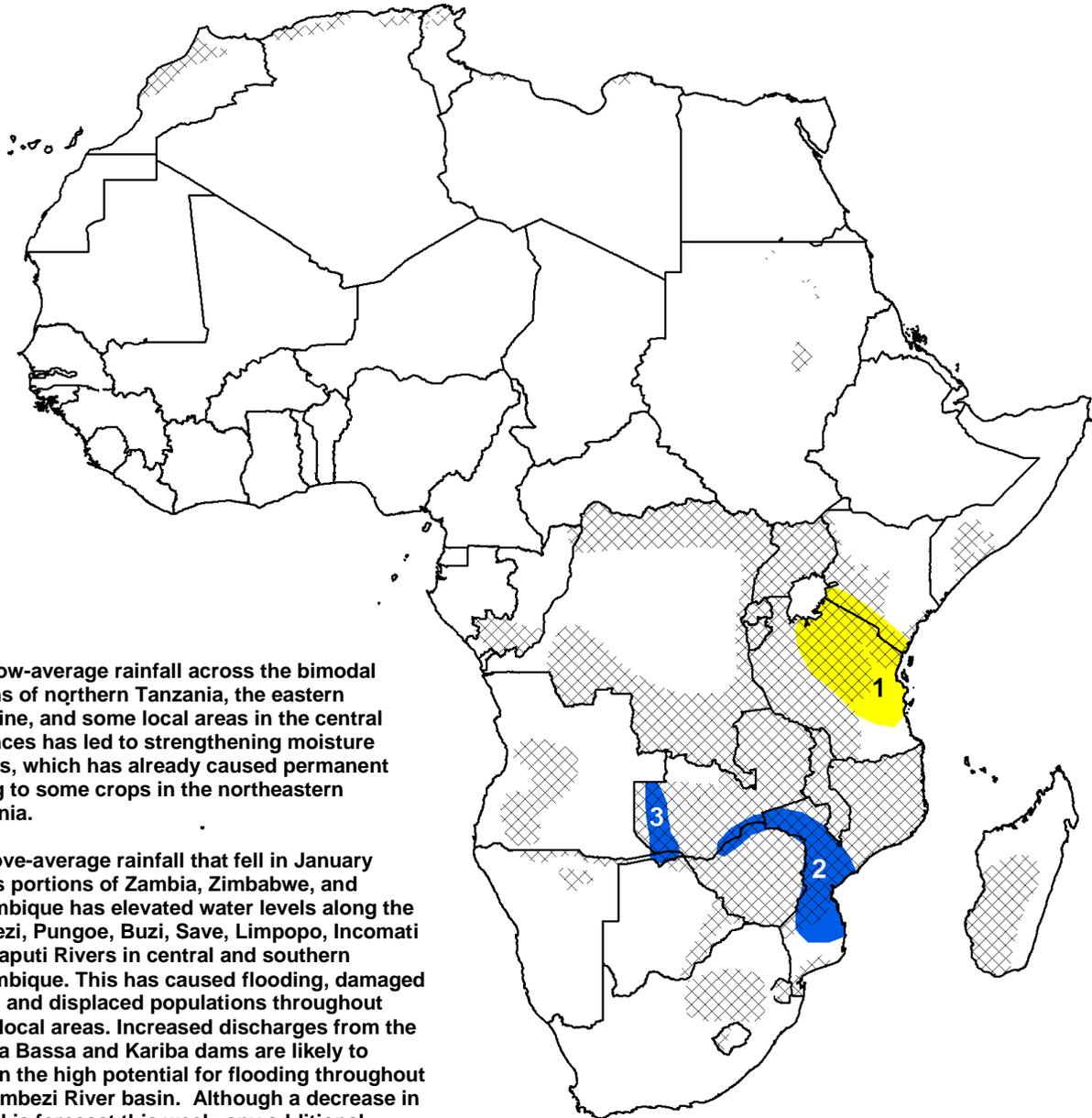


- A suppression of rainfall during the last week is expected to provide some relief to ongoing flooding throughout southern Africa.

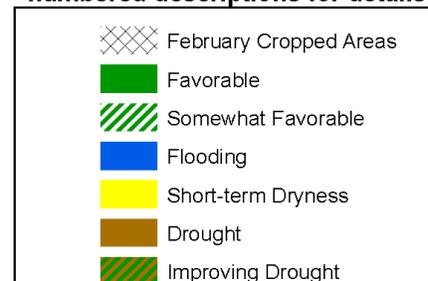


1) Below-average rainfall across the bimodal regions of northern Tanzania, the eastern coastline, and some local areas in the central provinces has led to strengthening moisture deficits, which has already caused permanent wilting to some crops in the northeastern Tanzania.

2) Above-average rainfall that fell in January across portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique has elevated water levels along the Zambezi, Pungoe, Buzi, Save, Limpopo, Incomati and Maputi Rivers in central and southern Mozambique. This has caused flooding, damaged crops, and displaced populations throughout many local areas. Increased discharges from the Cahora Bassa and Kariba dams are likely to sustain the high potential for flooding throughout the Zambezi River basin. Although a decrease in rainfall is forecast this week, any additional rainfall is likely to worsen ground conditions.

3) Persistently heavy rainfall in Zambia has led to rising river levels along the Zambezi River in western Zambia and the displacement of populations downstream near Katima Mulilo in the eastern Caprivi Strip region of Namibia.

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



A break in heavy precipitation observed across southern Africa.

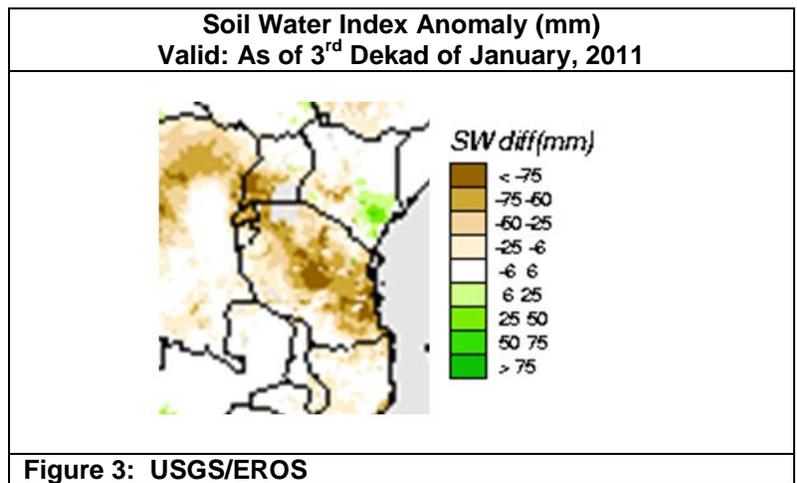
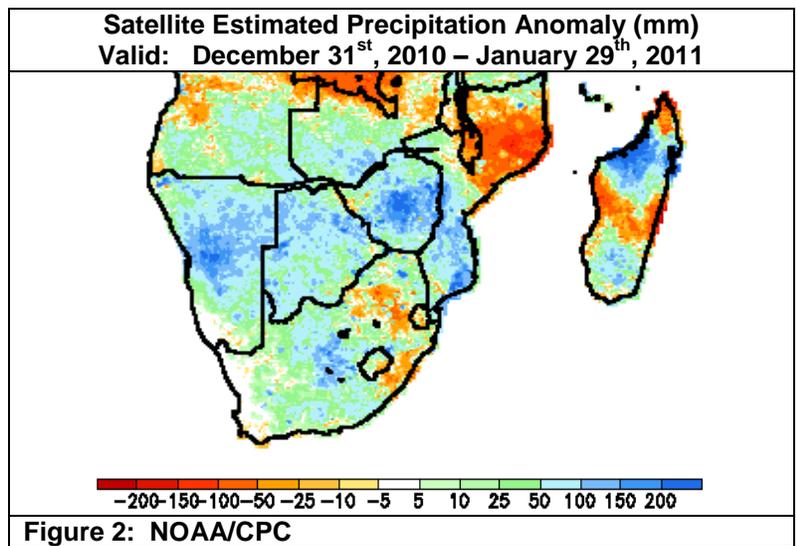
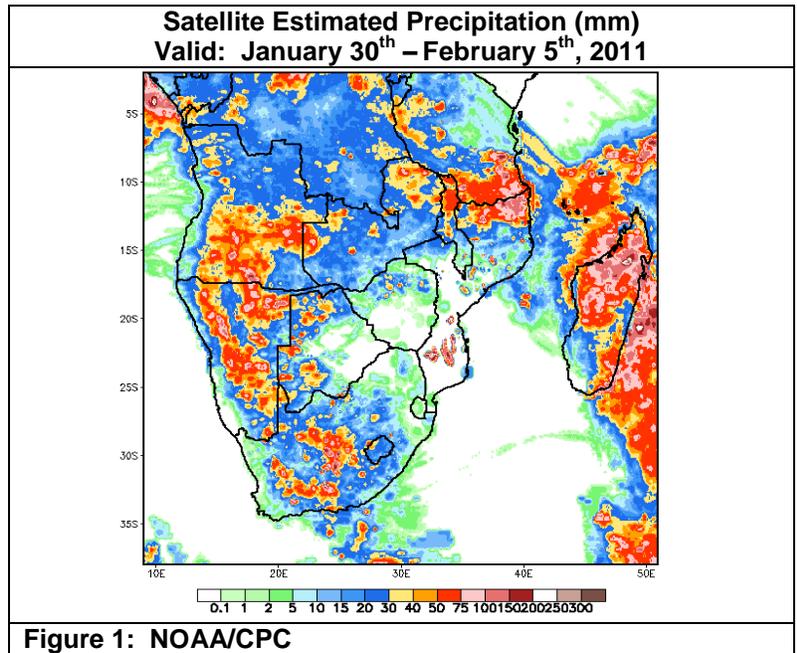
In the last seven days, a considerable decrease in precipitation was observed throughout many areas in southern Africa. Compared to the past several weeks, this sharp reduction in rains and moisture was felt throughout many parts in central and western Mozambique, Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and northern portions of South Africa. With the exception of locally intense rainfall that remained isolated in the Sofala and Inhambane provinces of Mozambique, much of southeastern Africa received less than 30mm of rainfall during the last seven days. Elsewhere, the greatest weekly rainfall accumulations (>75mm) were received throughout coastal Madagascar and along the border between Tanzania and Mozambique. In the southwest, more moderate and well-distributed rains (30-75mm) were observed from central Angola to South Africa (**Figure 1**).

Despite the reduction in rains this past week, heavy precipitation observed throughout January has sustained high moisture surpluses across southern Africa. Many local areas from central Namibia to Mozambique have experienced significant rainfall accumulations typically exceeding more than 50mm of their normal accumulated rainfall in the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). The anomalously wet conditions have resulted in numerous flooding events, damaged crops, and continuation of increased discharges from a number of local dams in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique. While the recent break in heavy rains is expected to provide some relief on the short-term, the addition of any substantial rainfall in the next several weeks is still expected to worsen overly saturated areas and preexisting flood conditions for many local areas in Mozambique, Zambia and the eastern Caprivi region.

Rainfall forecasts indicate another week of suppressed rainfall throughout southeastern Africa. Many areas in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana are expected to receive less than 30mm during the next seven days.

Deficient soil moisture leads to deteriorating crop conditions in Tanzania.

Insufficient rainfall in January has resulted in deteriorating soil water conditions in Tanzania (**Figure 3**). The lack of precipitation over the last 30 days has impeded current cropping activities, particularly in the northeastern Tanzania where permanent crop wilting was observed. The continuation of below-average rainfall is likely to strengthen dryness in the north as well as other declining areas in central Tanzania. However, rainfall forecasts suggest a slight increase in rainfall over Tanzania, which is likely to help replenish soil moisture for many anomalously dry areas in Tanzania during the next seven days.



Note: The hazards assessment 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.

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