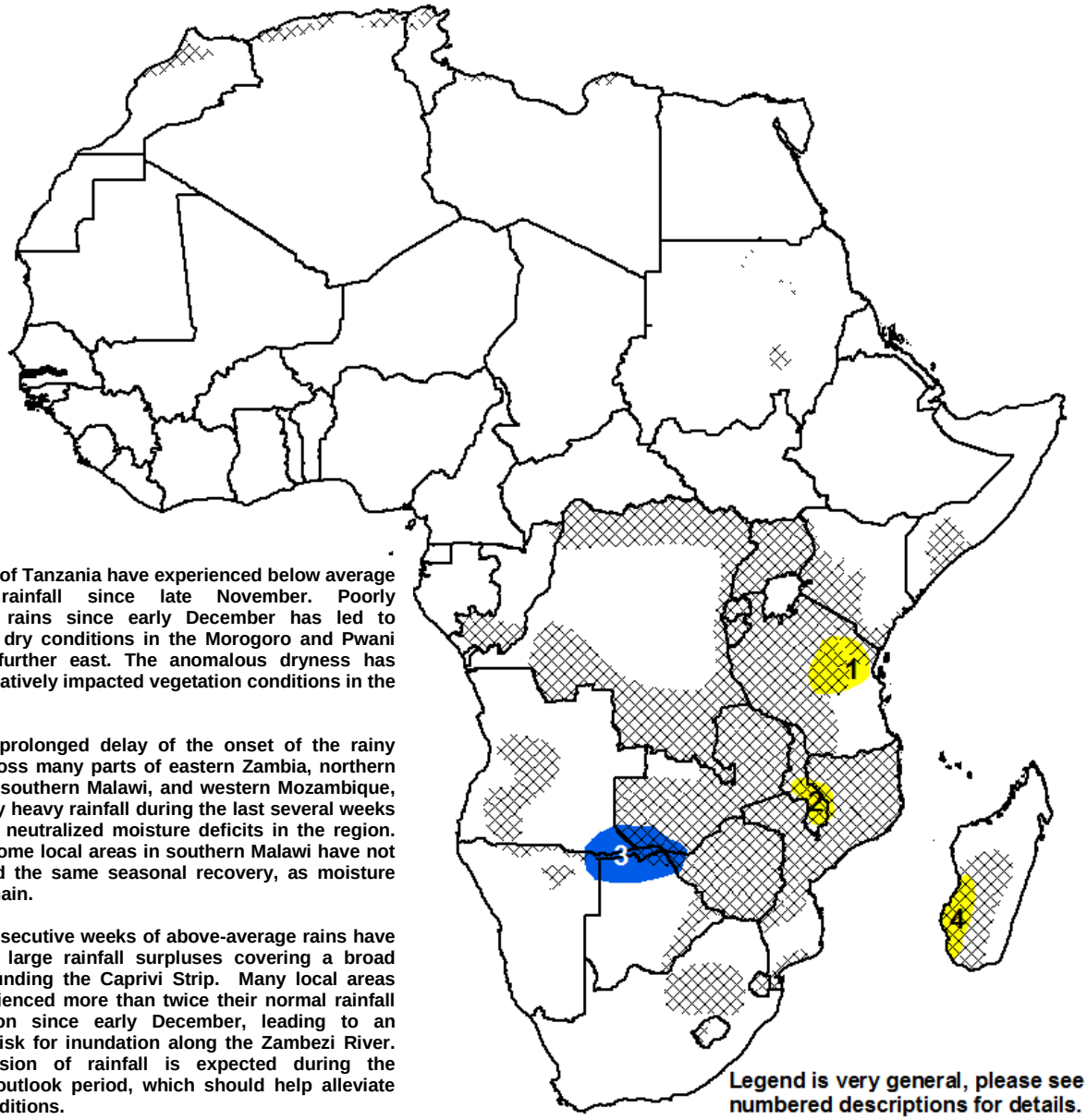
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
January 9 – January 15, 2014

- **Significantly heavy and well distributed rainfall fell across much of southern Africa, leading to an increased risk for flooding in the Caprivi Strip region, while alleviating many anomalously dry conditions further east.**



1) Portions of Tanzania have experienced below average seasonal rainfall since late November. Poorly distributed rains since early December has led to developing dry conditions in the Morogoro and Pwani provinces further east. The anomalous dryness has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions in the region.

2) After a prolonged delay of the onset of the rainy season across many parts of eastern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and western Mozambique, significantly heavy rainfall during the last several weeks has largely neutralized moisture deficits in the region. However, some local areas in southern Malawi have not experienced the same seasonal recovery, as moisture deficits remain.

3) Four consecutive weeks of above-average rains have resulted in large rainfall surpluses covering a broad area surrounding the Caprivi Strip. Many local areas have experienced more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation since early December, leading to an increased risk for inundation along the Zambezi River. A suppression of rainfall is expected during the upcoming outlook period, which should help alleviate ground conditions.

4) Little to no seasonal rainfall since mid-November has resulted in large rainfall deficits along the southwestern coastline of Madagascar. The magnitude of these early season moisture shortages may likely negatively impacting cropping activities in the region. An increase in rainfall is expected during the upcoming week.

Enhanced rainfall continues across southern Africa.

During the last seven days, significantly heavy rainfall was received across a broad area of southern Africa. Continuously high and well distributed rainfall in excess of 75mm was observed extending from southeastern Angola towards the Mozambique Channel and into Madagascar (**Figure 1**). The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>100mm) were received across the Caprivi Strip region of Namibia, and neighboring areas of Zambia and Botswana. Further south, lesser precipitation amounts were observed across southern Zimbabwe and into South Africa, where moderate rainfall totals were more localized. In Tanzania, moderate to heavy rainfall accumulations were limited to the western half of the country, with much lesser rainfall amounts received across many eastern provinces.

Over the past 30 days, southern Africa monsoon rainfall has generally been average to above-average. The most enhanced precipitation has remained concentrated over the Caprivi Strip region in the month of December (**Figure 2**). During this time, many local areas in southeastern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia and northern Botswana have received more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation, which is likely to elevate the risk for inundation along the Zambezi River basin. Further east in portions of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, rainfall has been less anomalous, but more favorable in terms of increased ground moisture for ongoing cropping activities.

Precipitation forecasts indicate an increased probability for a suppression of rainfall over the Caprivi Strip region for the upcoming outlook period. A reduction of seasonal rainfall is expected to provide some relief to the anomalously wet conditions, however there still remains a sustained risk for flooding during early January.

Seasonal moisture recovery observed throughout eastern Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.

After a prolonged delay of the southern Africa monsoon across many parts of eastern Zambia, Malawi, and western Mozambique, the return of seasonal rainfall during December has greatly offset early season moisture deficits that had been developing since the beginning of October. An analysis of rainfall percentiles since the start of the season (**Figure 3**) depict mostly neutral to above-average conditions in the region; indicative of a large scale mid-season moisture recovery. As of early January, there remain a few localized areas in eastern Zambia, Malawi and southern Mozambique, where the moisture recovery has been less pronounced. For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of average to above-average rainfall in southeastern Africa. This is expected to provide more favorable ground conditions for many local areas affected by early season dry spells.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: December 29, 2013 – January 4, 2014

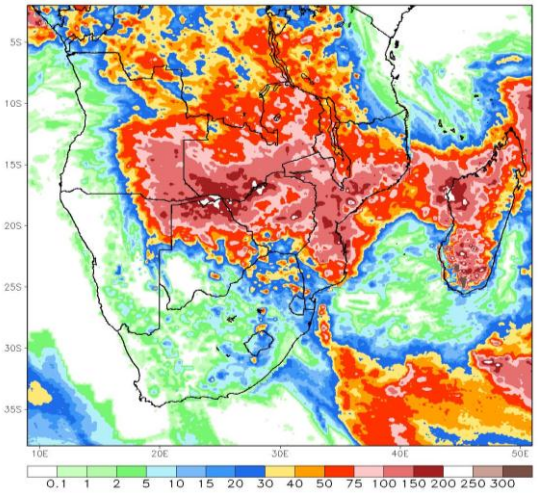


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 6, 2013 – January 4, 2014

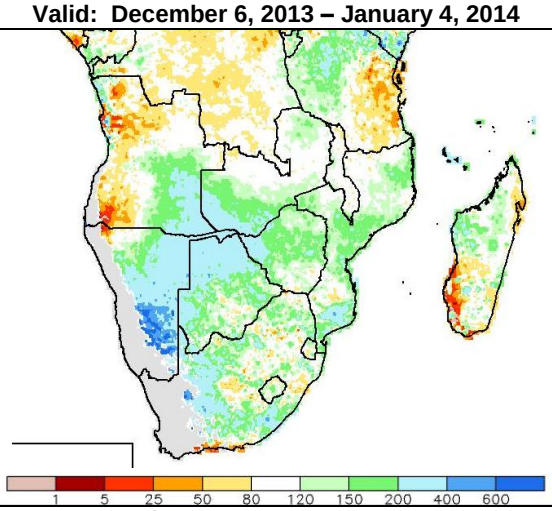


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Seasonal Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: October 1, 2013 – January 4, 2014

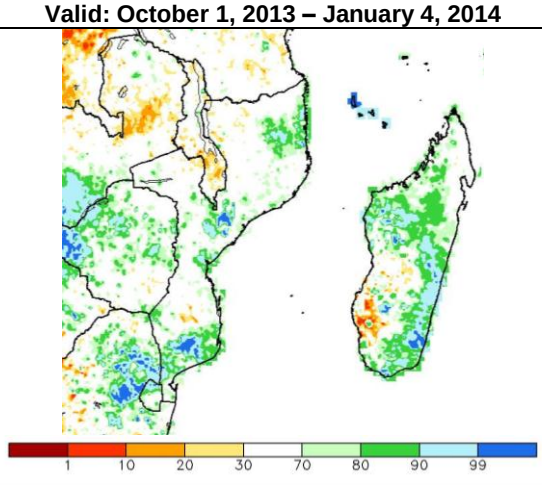


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.