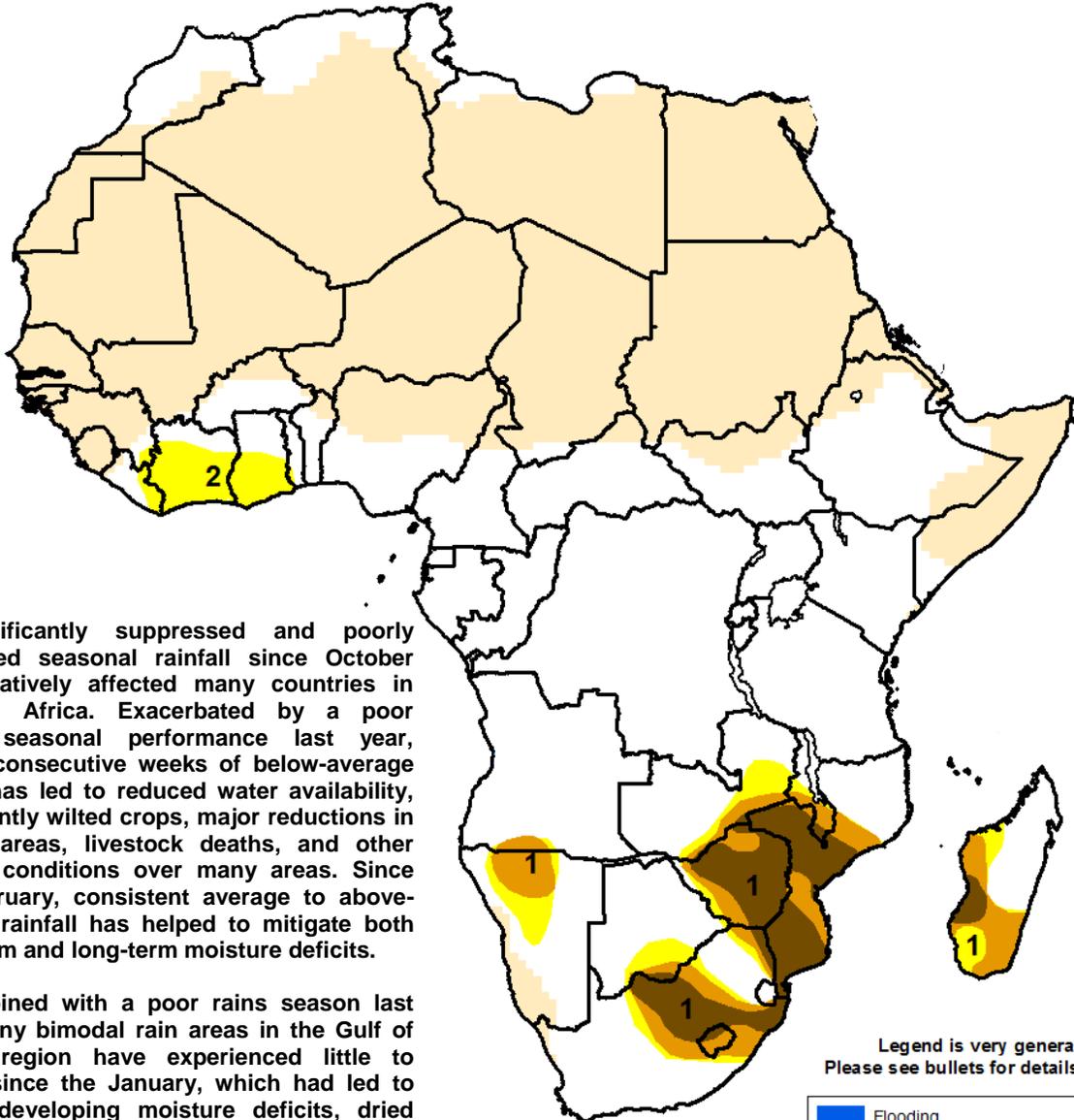




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 17 – March 23, 2016

- Despite increased seasonal rainfall since late February, some local areas in Ethiopia remain slightly below-average.
- Significantly heavy rains received throughout south-central regions of southern Africa.



1) Significantly suppressed and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. Exacerbated by a poor rainfall seasonal performance last year, several consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall has led to reduced water availability, permanently wilted crops, major reductions in planted areas, livestock deaths, and other adverse conditions over many areas. Since late February, consistent average to above-average rainfall has helped to mitigate both short-term and long-term moisture deficits.

2) Combined with a poor rains season last year, many bimodal rain areas in the Gulf of Guinea region have experienced little to rainfall since the January, which had led to quickly developing moisture deficits, dried rivers, and crop losses.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Brown	Drought
Dark Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat
Light Tan	Seasonally Dry

Slightly delayed onsets of seasonal rainfall observed in Ethiopia.

During the last observation period, moderate to locally higher amounts of weekly precipitation (25-50mm) were received across central and southern Ethiopia, and into portion of northern Kenya (**Figure 1**). Compared to the last two weeks, the past weeks rainfall distribution slightly shifted towards the east, bringing increased rainfall and moisture into more pastoral portions of eastern Ethiopia, as well as, northward into northern Somalia. Further south, rainfall was lighter in amount but fairly well distributed throughout Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Light rainfall amounts were also registered in southern Somalia. Across the Gulf of Aden, precipitation was considerably heavy (>75mm) in western Yemen during the last seven days.

Analysis of the evolution of seasonal rainfall since the beginning of February suggest a strengthening of rainfall after late February which followed a relatively dry and delayed start of rains last month for many local areas in Ethiopia. As a result, there are pockets of anomalous early season dryness throughout parts of the SNNP, Oromia, and Amhara provinces. Conversely, wetter seasonal conditions have been concentrated southern and eastern portions of the Oromia province, and across the border into northern and eastern Kenya and into southern Somalia (**Figure 2**). Rainfall also continues to remain below-average across much of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and some areas of northern Tanzania.

During the middle of March, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of seasonal rainfall, with the potential for above-average rainfall over western portions of Ethiopia, and slightly suppressed rainfall over some portions of eastern Ethiopia. Many local areas in the Oromia, Gambela, Amhara, SNNP and southeastern Tigray are likely to receive light to locally moderate rainfall (5-25mm).

Late season moisture recovery being felt across southern Africa countries.

Since early March, many portions of of southern Africa have experienced a reversal in moisture conditions following one the driest monsoons on record during the (Oct-Feb) timeframe. Analysis of the 30-day rainfall anomalies differences over the past several weeks support markedly high positive trends in late season rainfall over southeastern Angola, southern Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and western Mozambique (**Figure 3**). Conversely, sharp reductions in rainfall have been occurring over portions of northern Mozambique, and southern Tanzania over the last couple of weeks. A continuation of enhanced rainfall during March over many drought affected areas is likely to provide relief in replenishing water availability and benefiting pastoral areas, however, significant crop reductions are still expected after a consistently poor rainfall performance in previous months. Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of average to above-average rainfall during the next outlook period.

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.

