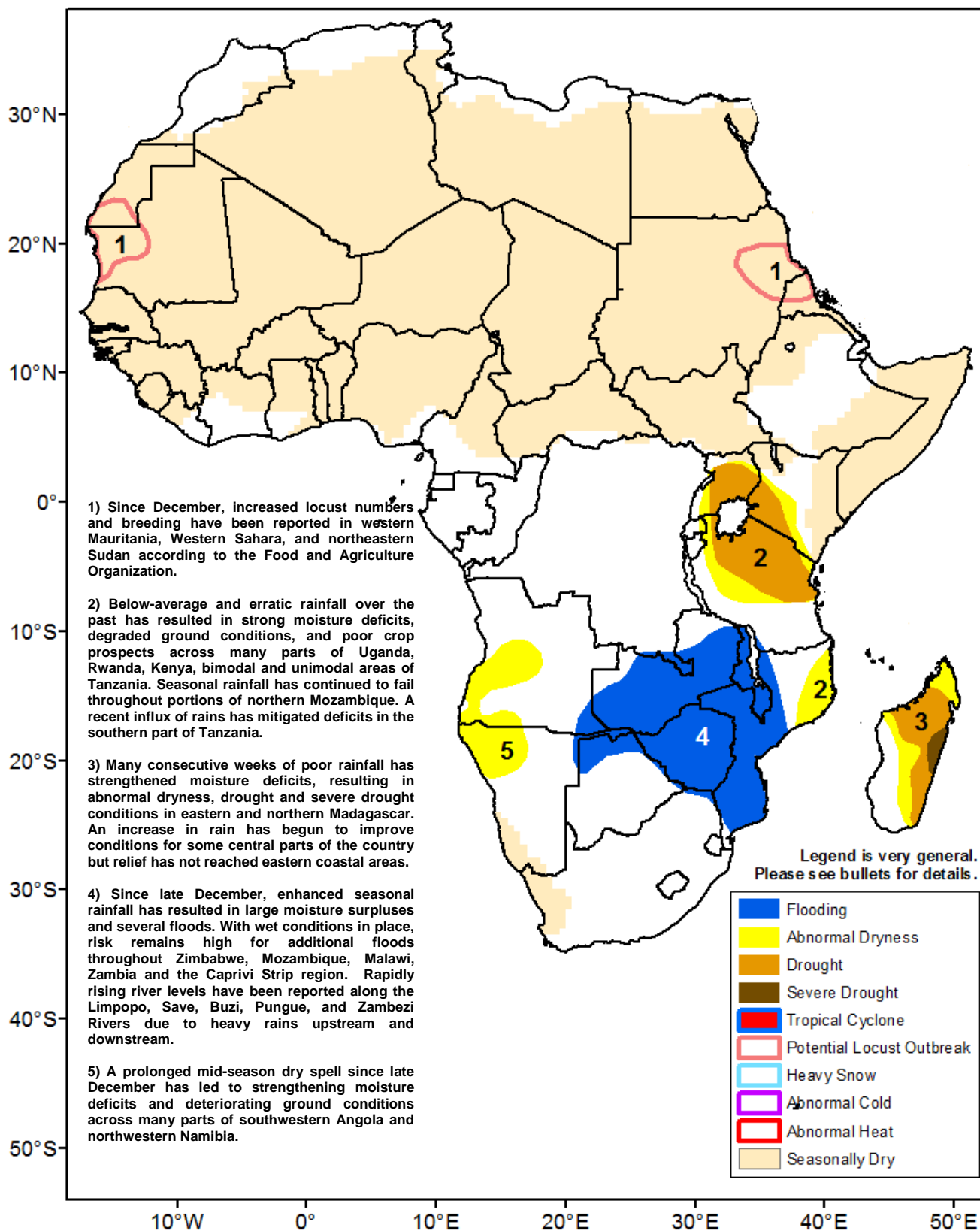




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 9 – February 15, 2017

- Heavy rainfall expected over much of Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique again during the next week.



Heavy rainfall was widespread across much of southern Africa.

To start February, rainfall increased across many portions of the sub-region yet again. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were widely observed across parts of Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania, central Madagascar, Botswana, and parts of northeastern Namibia (Figure 1). Additional moderate amounts covered other areas, including Zimbabwe and central South Africa. Rainfall was suppressed for the week in many parts of western and central Angola, and in parts of southeast Mozambique and eastern South Africa. Similarly, many coastal parts of eastern and southern Madagascar continued to observe unfavorably low totals.

Dating to late last year, large portions of southern Africa have received persistent above-average rains. Cumulative totals more than twice the average for parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique have led to many reports of flooding and adverse ground impacts. A more recent increase in rains for parts of Zambia and Malawi may trigger flooding in those areas as well. Conversely, many parts of Tanzania, northeastern Mozambique, and Madagascar have seen persistent suppression of rains leading to drought-like conditions.

With several weeks of the monsoon remaining in February and March, the spatial distribution of end-of-season precipitation anomalies has taken shape. Seasonal Rainfall Performance Probability (SPP) analysis for the Jan-Mar timeframe suggests a high certainty that seasonal rainfall will remain above-average for many by the end of March due to sustained drenching rain in January through the beginning of February (Figure 2). In some areas in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, total seasonal rainfall to date has already surpassed the end of season normal total. Towards the north, there is now a high likelihood for near average rainfall across southeastern Angola, Zambia, Malawi and central Mozambique. Many of these areas had experienced a slow start, but have recovered well during the last month. Conversely, there is a high probability that seasonal rainfall will be well-below average for northeastern Mozambique, and eastern Madagascar. Though dry, many parts of Tanzania still have room for recovery as the rainy season continues through the end of March.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest that enhanced rainfall should continue north of the Zambezi River basin. Large precipitation accumulations in excess of 100mm in central and eastern Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique are possible due to a broadly strong zone of atmospheric convergence (Figure 3). While increased rainfall is expected to mitigate seasonal moisture deficits further over Tanzania and Mozambique, excessive rainfall along the Zambezi River basin and in the central and eastern provinces of Zambia and Malawi is expected to elevate the risk for flooding during early February. Seasonal rains are also likely to be enhanced in Namibia and the Caprivi Strip region. Improved rainfall performance is also possible for Madagascar.

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.

