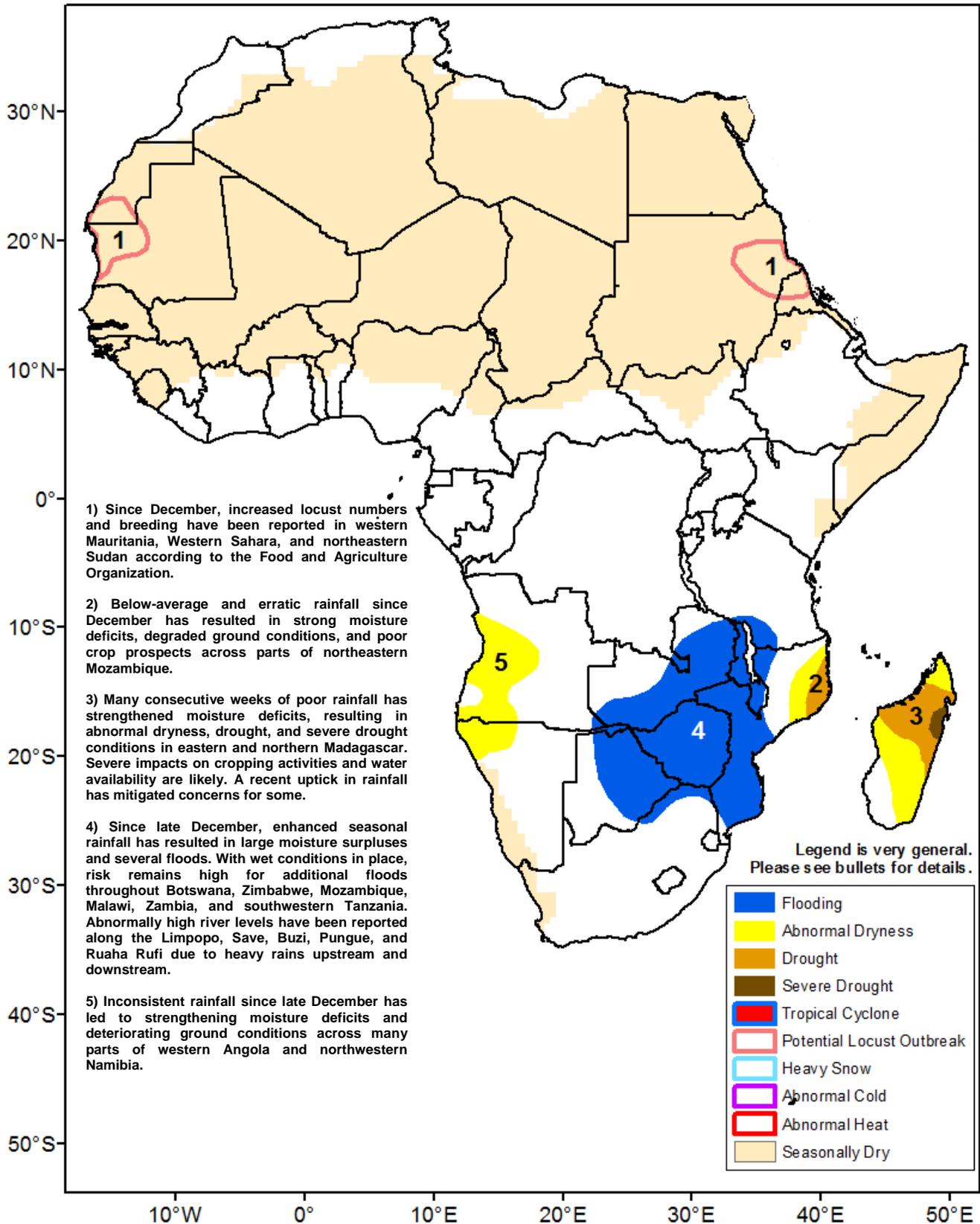




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 2 – March 8, 2017

- Heavy, flooding rains were observed across South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe this week.



Both large moisture surpluses and deficits continue to impact different parts of the region significantly.

Heavy, above-normal rains were prevalent across the southern African region this past week according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Some of the greatest totals (100-200mm) were found in Zimbabwe, and Botswana leading to many reports of flooding. Very large rain totals have also been observed in and around Sofala province of Mozambique. Though a few other local parts of Mozambique only experienced light rain. Additional places receiving significant rainfall include Zambia, the Caprivi Strip region, and southern Tanzania. Madagascar experienced a large and welcome increase in rainfall with some areas reporting 150mm of rain. At the same time, Namibia and western Angola did not benefit from significant rain and exhibited rainfall deficits for the week.

Analyzing the difference between 30-day rainfall anomalies in the present and 7 days ago (**Figure 2**) reveals areas that have seen significant pattern changes recently. Notably, positive values in excess of 100mm are evident in Tanzania and Madagascar. In Tanzania, this has resulted in flipping many areas from moisture deficits to modest moisture surpluses. This has greatly mitigated concerns over abnormal dryness there. In Madagascar, such significant changes have eliminated deficits in the south. Recent rainfall has not had as much impact in northern and central parts of the country where there is still much work to be done before the situation is normalized.

Analysis of vegetation indices reveals very poor vegetation health across Tanzania. These conditions are expected to improve in the near future with the recent uptick in rain there. Poor index values are also collocated with the largest moisture deficits in northeastern Mozambique and Madagascar. The indexes disagree somewhat on conditions in Namibia and western Angola; however both show spotty degraded conditions throughout the regions exhibiting deficits.

In Eastern Africa, the extent of rainfall diminished somewhat compared to the previous week. Still, above normal rainfall was observed from southwestern Ethiopia and southwards through Uganda. Locally, more than 100mm of rain were observed in South Sudan and Uganda. Early season surpluses, as have been observed in February, are welcome following the failed OND rainfall season last year.

The forecast for this week is for heavy rain to be centered in Zambia, Malawi, southern Tanzania, and northern Mozambique. More than 100mm of rain is possible according to weather models (**Figure 3**). This pattern will keep flash flood and river flooding threats elevated. Above-normal rain is also likely throughout central Namibia. To the south, the pattern should begin to dry out a little. Suppressed rainfall is expected in Madagascar, and little rainfall is forecasted for western Angola. In East Africa, only light rains are expected in Uganda and western Kenya, with a thin strip of showers extending through Ethiopia.

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.

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