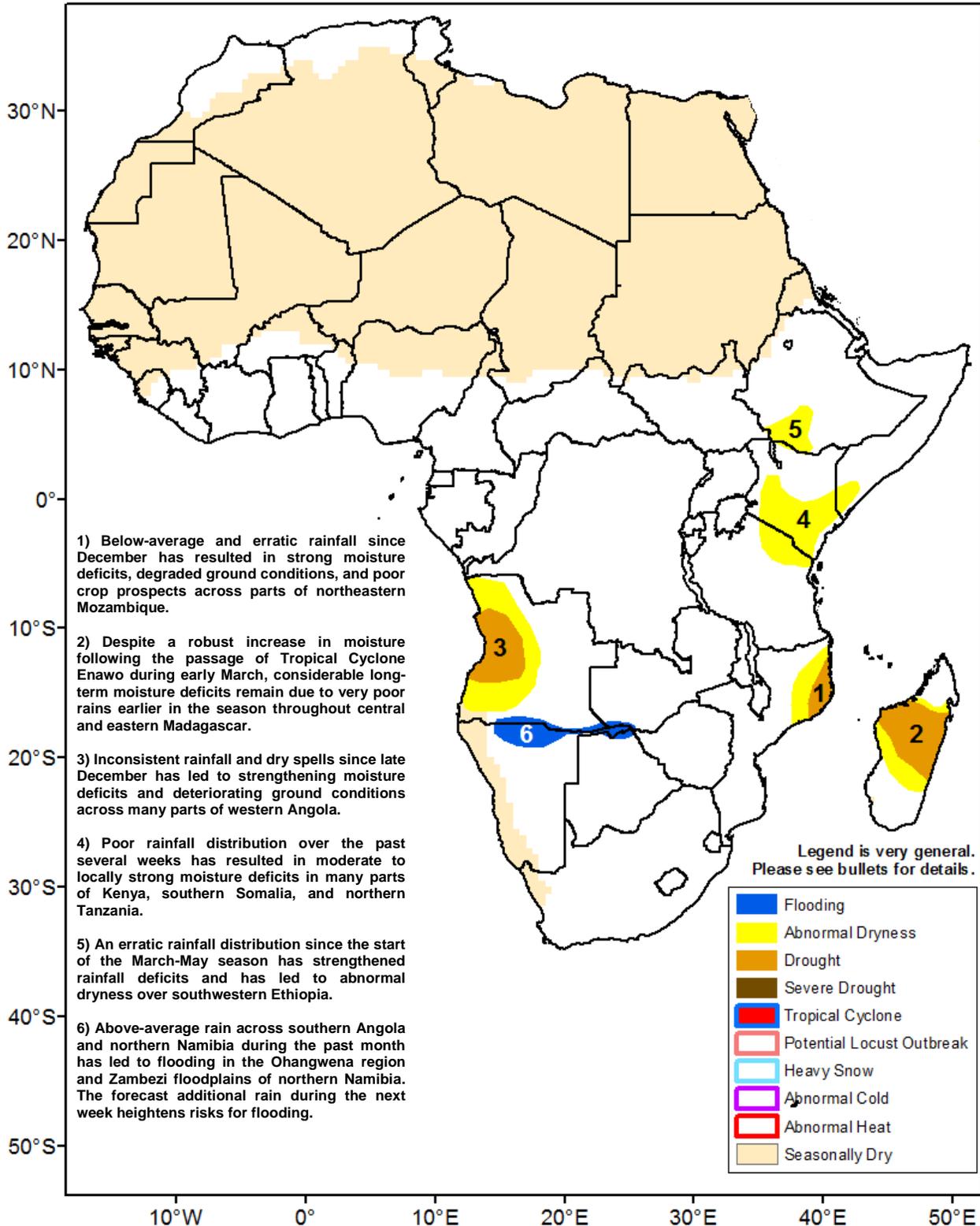




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 6 – 12, 2017

- Abnormal dryness has emerged over the Greater Horn of Africa due to an uneven rainfall distribution.
- Suppressed rain was recorded across Southern Africa during the past week.



Deficient rain observed over the Greater Horn of Africa

Since early March, below-average rain was observed over the Greater Horn of Africa. An analysis of the thirty-day rainfall anomalies depicted moderate to locally large (> 25 mm) deficits over southwestern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, much of Kenya, and eastern Uganda (**Figure 1**). Despite above-average rain over most areas during February, erratic and below-average rain dominated during the previous month. The poor rainfall distribution might have already affected cropping activities over some local areas of the sub-region. Analyses of recent vegetation indices indicated continued, negative trend in vegetation conditions. This situation is likely to worsen if good rain does not return over the upcoming weeks.

During the past week, a widespread distribution of rainfall was observed over Ethiopia relative to that of the week prior. However, the bulk of the rain, with moderate to locally heavy amounts, was concentrated mostly across the east-central portions of the country (**Figure 2**). As a result, the southwestern parts and some local areas over north-central Ethiopia continued to experience drier than average conditions.

During the next week, suppressed rain is forecast throughout northern Ethiopia, while light to locally moderate rain is expected over the southern parts of the country. Light to locally moderate rain is expected in southern Somalia. Farther south, increased rain, with moderate to heavy rainfall amounts, is expected in central and southwestern Kenya.

An early reduction in rain observed in Southern Africa.

An analysis of cumulative rain over the past thirty days indicated widespread, moderate to large deficits throughout Southern Africa (**Figure 1**). Rain has begun to subside over many areas of South Africa since mid to late February. This may indicate an early cessation of the Southern African monsoon over many areas. Recent vegetation indices showed average to above-average conditions over a wide area of Southern Africa due to a favorable accumulated rain over the past several months.

During the past week, suppressed rain prevailed over much of Southern Africa, while heavy rain was registered farther east along the Tanzania-Mozambique border and northern Madagascar (**Figure 2**). This past week's suppression of rain helped maintain or even increase moisture deficits over many local areas. Farther west, light to locally moderate but below-average rain fell over Angola. This maintained drought conditions over the region.

During the next outlook period, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over western Angola. Light to locally moderate rain is expected across southern Angola and northern Namibia, which could increase river levels further and exacerbate conditions over already-flooded areas. Moderate to heavy showers are forecast over central and eastern South Africa, potentially leading to localized flooding. Little to light rain is forecast elsewhere.

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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