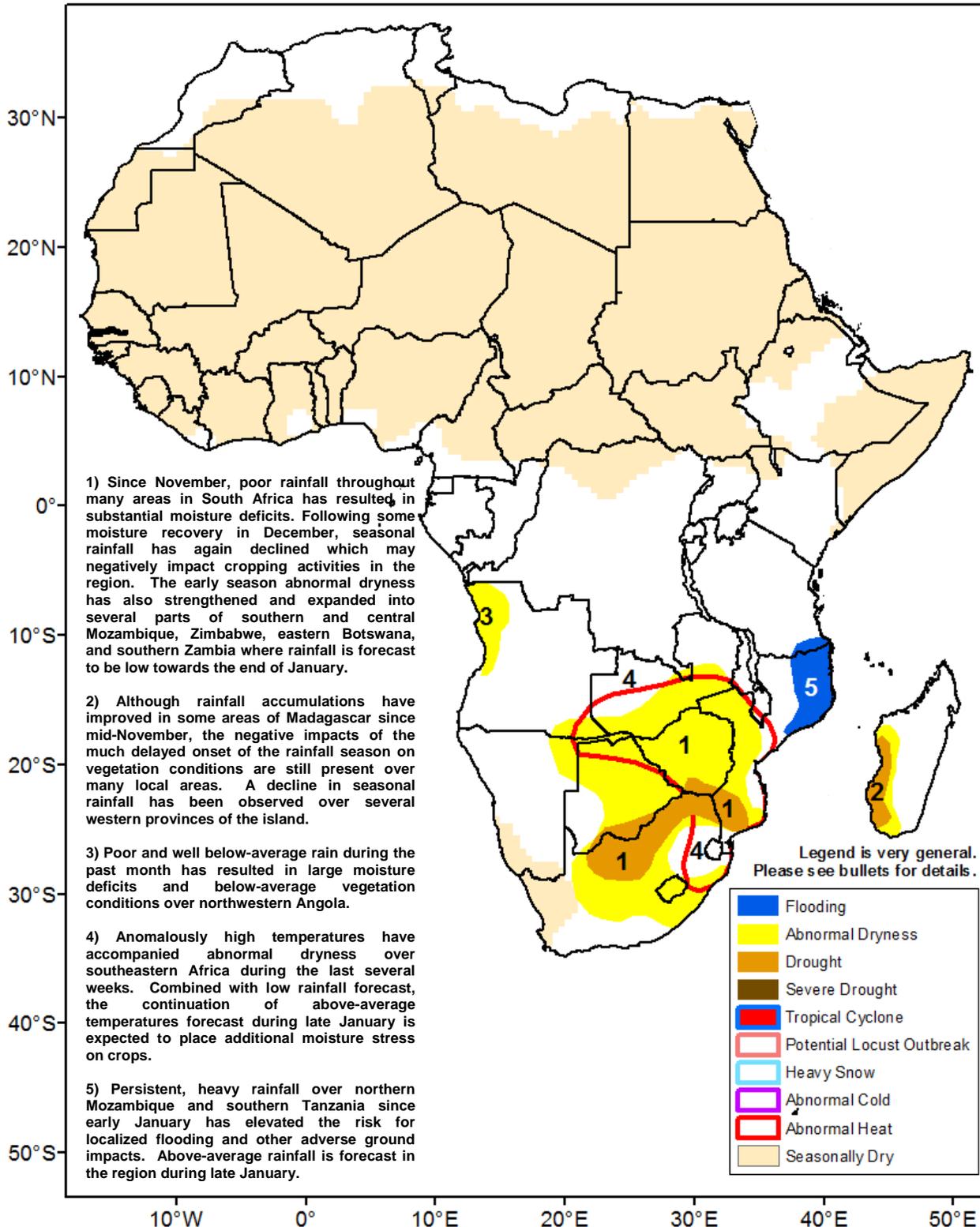




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 25 – January 31, 2018

- The continuation of largely suppressed rainfall and high temperatures has led to significant moisture deficits and drought conditions throughout many regions in southern Africa.



Little to no rainfall received across many dry regions in southern Africa.

Similar to the previous week, heavy rainfall activity continued across many anomalously wet regions of northern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, and southern Tanzania, with satellite estimated accumulations exceeding 100mm for many local areas. Towards the south, however, seasonal rainfall amounts were extremely limited (0-10mm) across Botswana, Zimbabwe, neighboring portions of Mozambique, southern Madagascar, and northern South Africa. A slight increase in rainfall was received over southern South Africa with widespread light to moderate rainfall accumulations, and increased weekly amounts were also registered across southern Angola and northern Namibia according to satellite rainfall estimates (**Figure 1**).

The dearth of seasonal rainfall throughout many regions in southern Africa has led to increased concerns for drought, water availability and impacts on cropping activities. Since the beginning of the monsoon, many regions had experienced either a delayed onset, or poorly distributed and erratic periods of rainfall. Although some of early seasonal dryness was offset by short periods enhanced precipitation during November and December, resulting in some moisture recovery, seasonal rainfall has been markedly poor across a broad swath of the southern continent since late December. Deteriorating crop conditions have been observed in some parts of South Africa, with wilting taken place in Zimbabwe.

This suppressed rainfall pattern has been widespread, persistent and ill-timed, as many regions in Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa are experiencing less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). In parts of South Africa and southern Mozambique, several local areas have received less than a quarter of their normal rainfall. This dryness has been associated an anomalous monsoon circulation, where the bulk of heavy seasonal rainfall has occurred and continues over Tanzania, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar. This has acted to depriving many areas towards the south of seasonal moisture. Combined with anomalously high observed ground temperatures in January, drought conditions are likely to emerge. Although there remains time for moisture recovery due to the length of the monsoon, the absence and infrequency of seasonal rainfall in January is still likely to deplete water availability and result in decreased crop productions for many southern Africa regions. This comes at a time where seasonal rainfall normally reaches its peak in coverage and intensity.

During the outlook period, models again suggest little relief to the anomalous dryness with a poor rainfall distribution and anomalously high daytime maximum temperatures forecast over southeastern Africa, as the higher rainfall amounts are expected to continue well north of the Zambezi River. Portions of South Africa are more likely to see increased rainfall amounts in late January. No tropical activity is expected during the next seven days.

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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