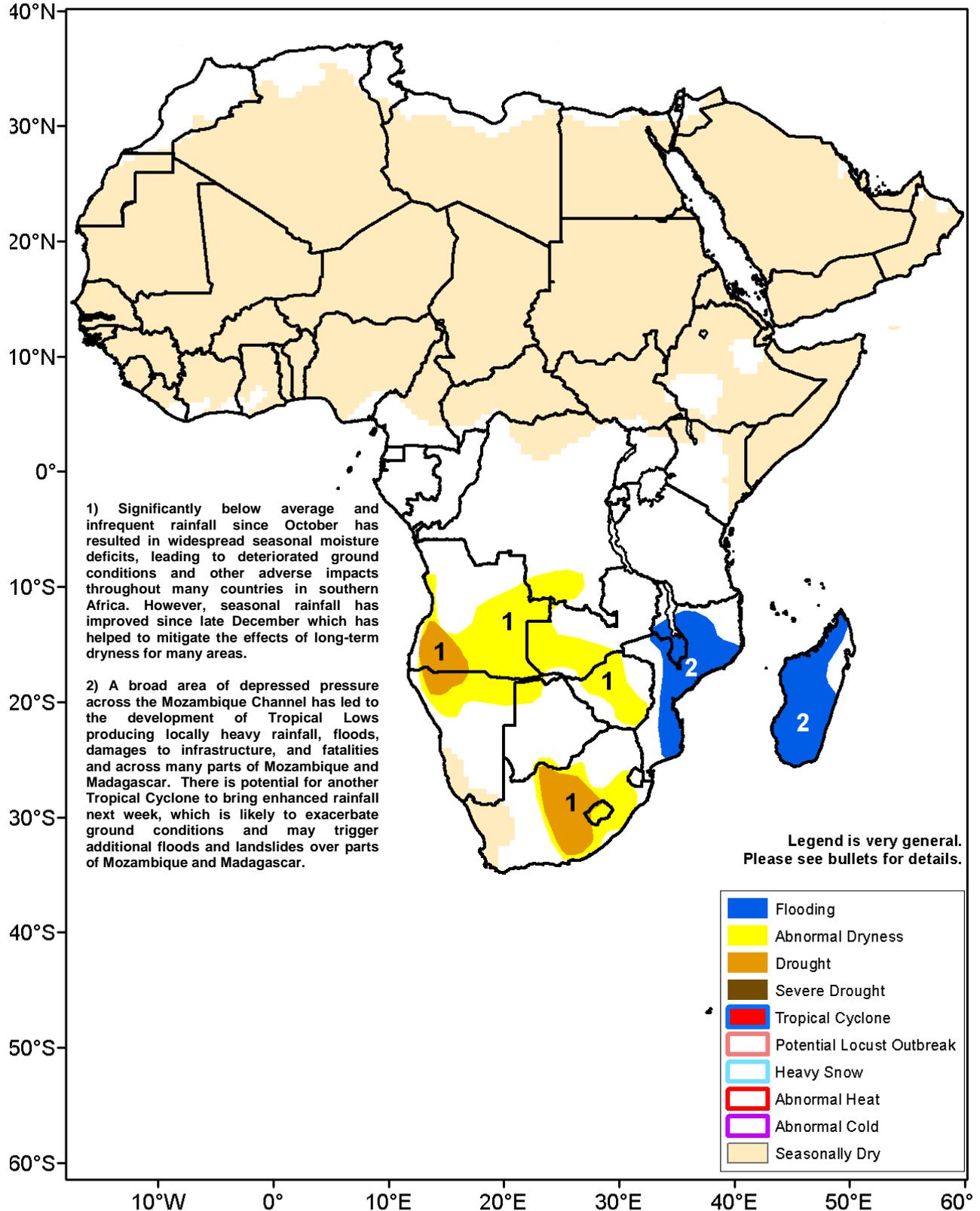




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 24 – 30, 2019

- Significantly heavy rainfall received over parts of Mozambique and Madagascar has led to floods and other adverse ground impacts.



Significantly heavy rains continue to adversely impact southeastern Africa.

During the mid-January, widespread moderate to locally heavy precipitation amounts were received across much of southeastern Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, torrential weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm were registered over northern Madagascar, Mozambique, and northwestern Zambia. The heavy rains have been associated with the development of tropical disturbances in the Mozambique Channel, reportedly resulting in floods, damages to infrastructure, landslides and fatalities during the last week. Lesser, but favorably well distributed amounts greater than 50mm registered over the Caprivi Strip, and in many parts of northern Botswana, Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, and Tanzania (Figure 1). However, several drought affected areas further south and west in southern Angola, northern Namibia, and central South Africa have continued to experience limited rainfall amounts during the last week.

Although the recently heavy rainfall has been responsible for flooding and other adverse ground impacts, the continued enhancement in precipitation over the past 3-4 weeks has been part of a longer moisture recovery period which has helped to mitigate both short term and long term rainfall deficits throughout southern Africa. While the spatial extent of the recovery pattern has varied over the past several weeks, many areas are expected to benefit from improved seasonal rainfall that had previously been absent, delayed or insufficient since last October. The poor rainfall performance had already resulted in adverse ground impacts and increased concerns for crop production.

In an analysis of weekly changes in 30-day precipitation anomalies over southern Africa, there are a larger percentage of areas now experiencing near average to above-average moisture conditions compared to several weeks ago. Portions of the southeastern Angola, the Caprivi Strip, northeastern Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, and South Africa are experiencing more than 120% of their normal rainfall accumulation since late December (Figure 2). Latest remotely sensed vegetation health indices also reflect moisture recovery with much needed positive changes over several southern Africa countries.

Despite the beneficial moisture recovery over the last 30 days, many areas are still registering below-average precipitation amounts since the late October. Namely, many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, western and central South Africa, and southern Zimbabwe have received near record lows in precipitation quantities for last 90 days. For areas where the latest mid-season increase in precipitation has failed to reach, including southwestern Angola, northwestern Namibia, and central South Africa, season to date rainfall remains less than a quarter of normal, which suggests drought conditions are likely to strengthen for these regions.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest a continuation of a broad area of low pressure over the Mozambique Channel, which is somewhat likely to induce another Tropical Disturbance over the southwestern Indian Ocean. Regardless of any cyclone formation and any associated landfall, locally heavy rains (>75mm) are likely over many areas of Mozambique and Madagascar, which may trigger additional floods, and landslides in the higher elevations during the next week.

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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