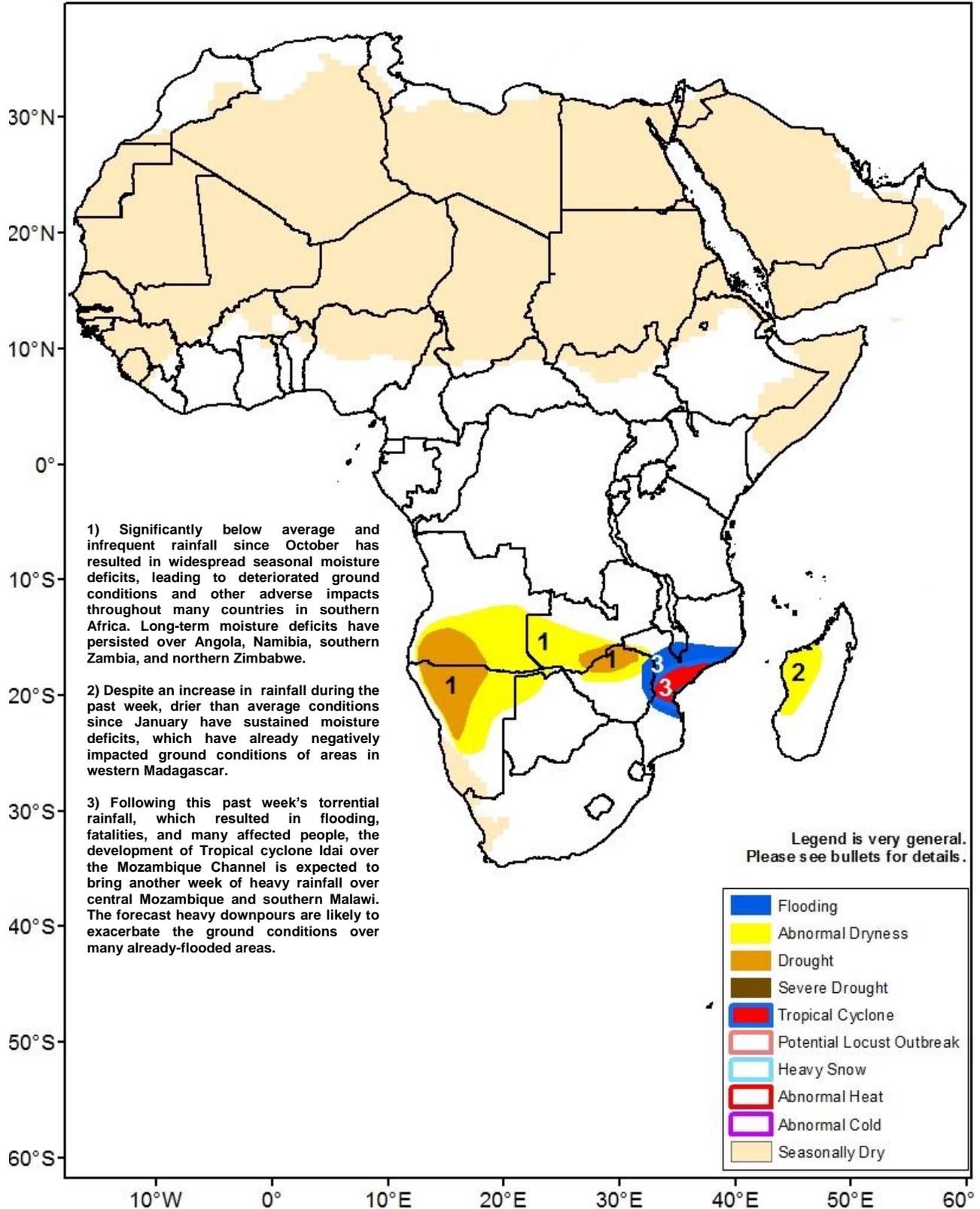




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 14 – 20, 2019

- Well below-average rainfall since November of the past year has led to droughts over areas of southern Africa.
- The development of Tropical cyclone Idai poses threats for flooding over central Mozambique and Malawi.



A tropical weather disturbance has oversaturated parts of eastern southern Africa.

During the past observation period, the bulk of the rainfall fell over eastern southern Africa, including northern Mozambique, southern Malawi, and northern Madagascar (Figure 1). Rainfall amounts in excess of 100 mm were received, which resulted in flooding, fatalities, destroyed infrastructures, and many affected people over some areas. These included the Chikhwawa, Thyolo, Mulanje, Zomba, Machinga, Chiradzulu, Balak, Nsanje, Neno, Blantyre, Phalombe, Mwanza districts of Malawi and the Tete and Zambezia Provinces of Mozambique, according to reports. This past week's torrential rainfall was associated with the passage of a Tropical depression over the Channel of Mozambique. This has eliminated thirty-day rainfall deficits and turned rainfall anomalies into surpluses over areas of the Zambezia and Nampula Provinces. In contrast, light to locally moderate rainfall was registered across Angola. This past week's rainfall total remained below-average and therefore maintained long-term moisture deficits in the region. Meanwhile, suppressed rainfall was recorded over Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique. The consistent, insufficient rainfall has strengthened thirty-day rainfall deficits over certain areas, including southern Zambia and northern Zimbabwe.

Recent vegetation indices have exhibited that poor and degraded conditions have continued to the west stretching from Angola, Namibia, to parts of Botswana and South Africa. Also, worsening negative conditions were observed over southern Zambia and northern Zimbabwe. For next week, Tropical cyclone Idai is expected to track westward and make landfall over central Mozambique during early period, increasing therefore the risks for flooding over areas of the Sofala, Tete, and Zambezia Provinces of Mozambique and southern Malawi. Little to no rainfall is expected elsewhere.

Positive short-term rainfall anomalies observed over the Horn of Africa

A comparison of the accumulated rainfall since early February to date with long-term average has indicated that average to above-average rainfall was received over the western and west-central Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia (Figure 2). Positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies were observed over parts of the SNNPR, Gambela, Oromia, eastern Amhara, and southern Tigray, where surpluses exceeded even 50 mm over some areas. However, small moisture deficits crept in over the southern fringes of Ethiopia, while moderate rainfall deficits were recorded in southern Kenya. During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall fell over central Ethiopia. Little to light rainfall fell over the Lake Victoria region of southwestern Kenya, while suppressed rainfall was observed elsewhere. Over Ethiopia, the continuation of consistent good rain over the past few weeks could indicate a favorable onset of the March-May rainfall season. During the next outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest scattered moderate to locally heavy rainfall over central and southwestern Ethiopia and possible heavy rainfall over the eastern parts of the Amhara and Tigray regions. The forecast continuation of seasonal rainfall should aid land preparation and planting over many local areas.

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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