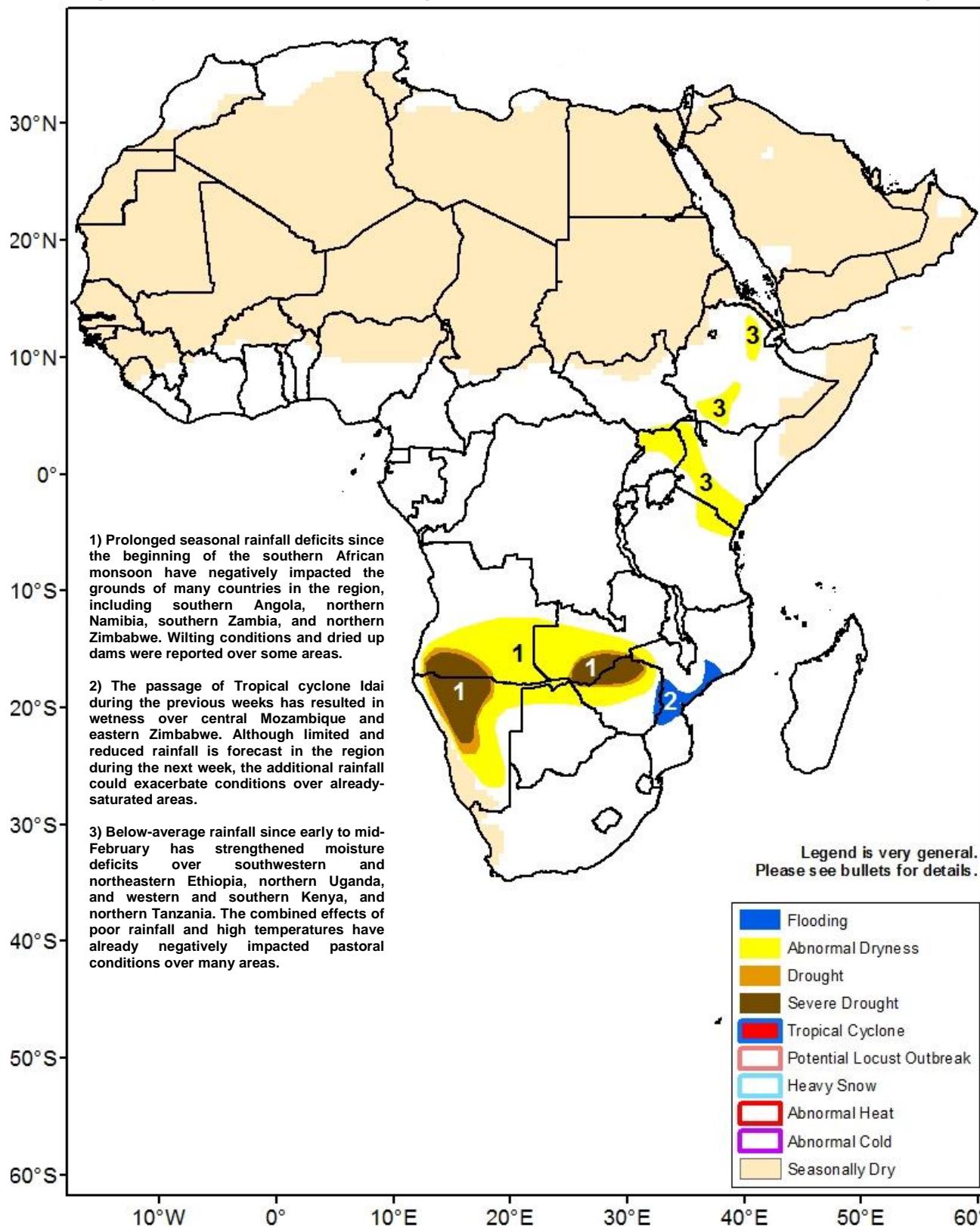




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook

March 28 – April 3, 2019

- Dryness observed over many areas of eastern Africa due to an uneven rainfall distribution since mid-February.
- Prolonged dry spells resulted in severe droughts over parts of southern Africa as the season is winding down.



Unevenly-distributed rainfall persisted over the Horn of Africa.

During the past observation period, light to locally moderate rainfall fell over the west-central highlands portions of Ethiopia and bordering eastern South Sudan. Some localized areas of southwestern Ethiopia received heavy rainfall amounts, according to rainfall estimates (**Figure 1**). However, suppressed rainfall prevailed elsewhere, including southern and eastern Ethiopia, Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania, which climatologically receive at least 10 mm of rainfall during the same period. Over the past thirty days, below-average rainfall was registered over the SNNPR, southern Oromia and Afar regions of southern and northeastern Ethiopia, respectively. Negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies were also recorded across Uganda and southern Kenya, where deficits ranged between 25-50 mm. According to reports, high temperatures since January and dry conditions that followed the previous, poor October-December season, has already negatively impacted pastoral conditions and the livelihoods of people over many areas of the region.

An analysis of recent vegetation health index has indicated that a wide area throughout southern Ethiopia, northern Uganda, and much of Kenya were under unfavorable conditions and continued to do so over the recent weeks. Conditions on the grounds could further deteriorate if good rainfall distribution does not return over the upcoming weeks. During the next week, widespread light to moderate and possibly locally heavy rainfall is expected over western Ethiopia. Moderate rainfall is forecast over central Kenya, while little to light rainfall is expected elsewhere, including southern Somalia.

Large seasonal deficits have negatively impacted southern Africa.

Well below-average rainfall since the beginning of the southern African monsoon has resulted in large seasonal moisture deficits over a wide area of southern Africa. Since January to present, negative rainfall anomalies were observed across southern Angola and northern Namibia, southern Zambia and northern Zimbabwe, where the largest (> 200 mm) deficits were registered (**Figure 2**). According to reports, the lack or absence of rainfall for some areas has already resulted in wilting conditions and dried up dams over some areas. As the season is already winding down over the sub-region, the likelihood for rainfall recovery is virtually nil. In contrast, the eastern portions, including Mozambique, Malawi, and eastern Zimbabwe may have received well above-average rainfall, which was essentially associated with Tropical weather disturbances during the previous weeks. During the past week, heavy rainfall was recorded over northern Mozambique and central Madagascar, while suppressed rainfall was registered over central southern Africa.

During the next seven days, while suppressed rainfall is forecast to continue over a wide area of central southern Africa, enhanced and heavy rainfall is expected to continue over northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania, and northern Madagascar. Over Mozambique, the forecast additional light rainfall may still exacerbate conditions over water-logged and oversaturated areas.

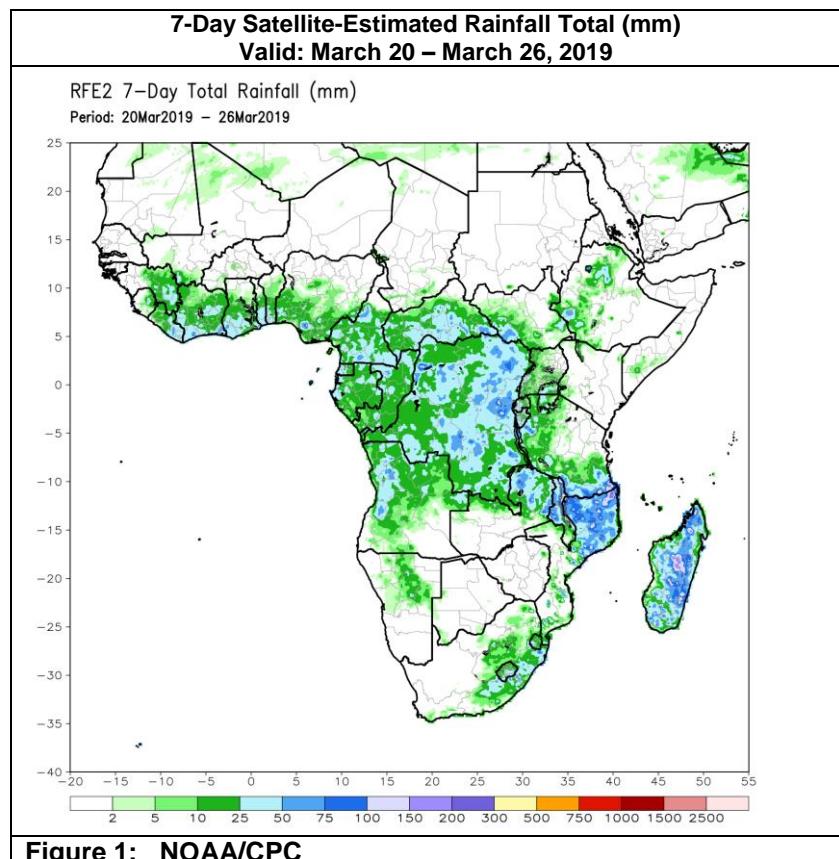


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

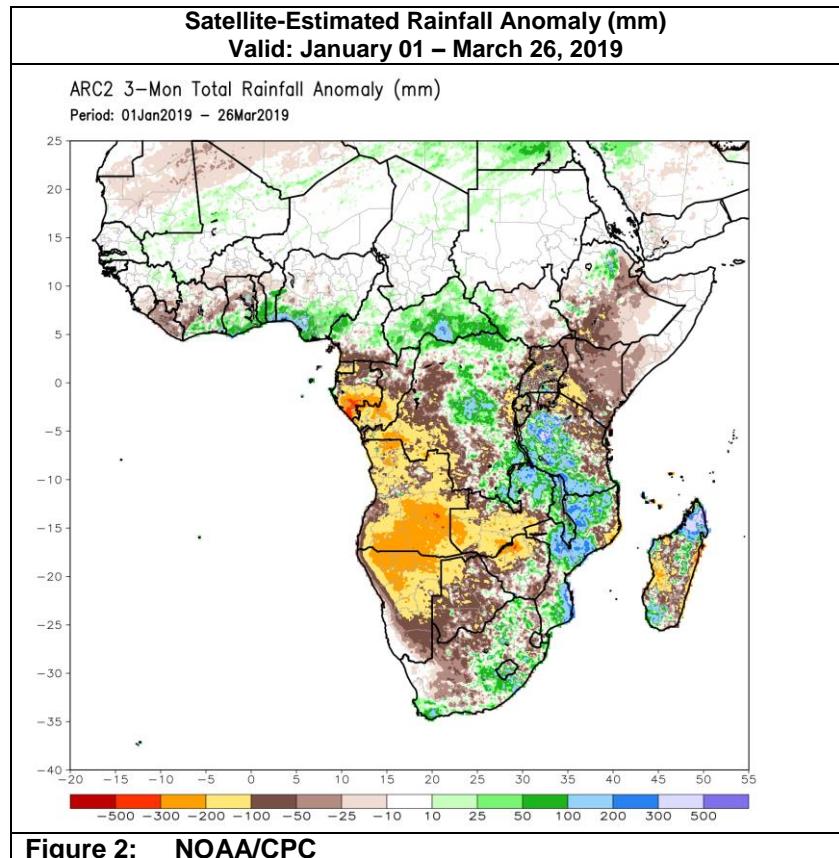


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.