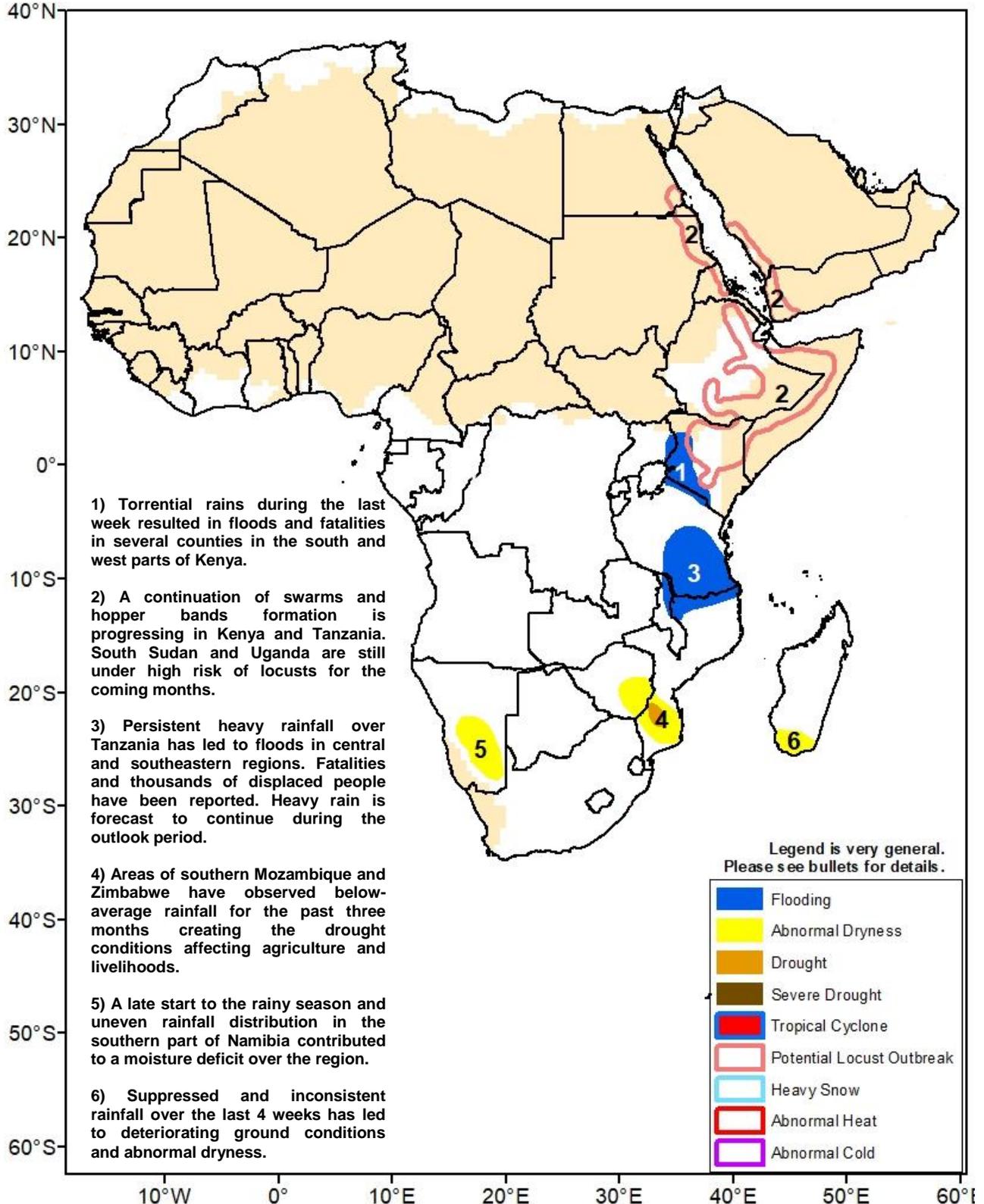




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 6 – February 12, 2020

- East Africa cropping activities are seriously threatened by the worst locust outbreak in decades.
- The flood risk remains high this after weeks of persistent heavy rains over Kenya and Tanzania.



Abnormally heavy rains are likely to continue in Tanzania this week.

The placement of the convergence band over Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda continues to focus heavy rainfall over those areas. According to satellite estimates, 7-day totals exceeded 100mm in many cases in western Kenya and Central Tanzania (Figure 1). Moderate to heavy rain pushed as far north as Ethiopia's SNNPR. Many reports of flooding came out of Kenya and Tanzania where thousands of people were affected and displaced and several people perished. Meanwhile, rainfall in northeastern DRC was greater and more widespread than the previous week.

The past few months brought copious rainfall all across the East Africa region. Floods have been widespread over many weeks as a result. Over the last 30 days, rainfall surpluses of 100mm or more are widespread across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Analysis of percent of normal rainfall since the start of December reveals that most of Kenya and neighboring areas of Tanzania and Uganda have received more than twice their normal rainfall for the period (Figure 2). Outside of flooding concerns, the rainy pattern over the last two months and even dating to back late summer has led to excellent vegetation health through all of East Africa as evidenced by VHI. Additionally, urgent mitigation measures are ongoing to stop the spread of locusts throughout the region.

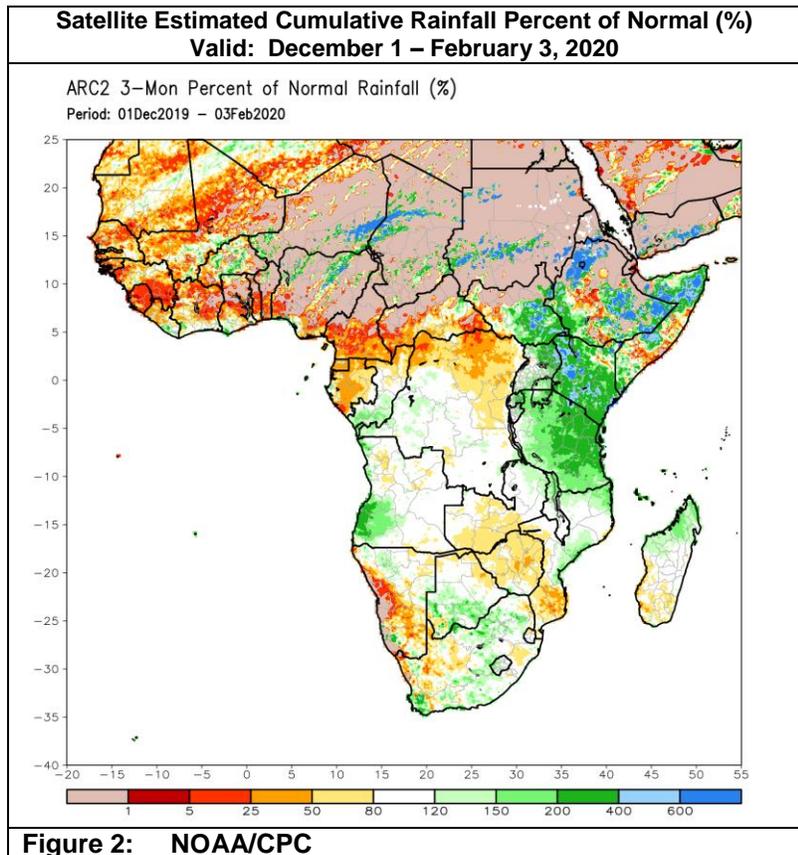
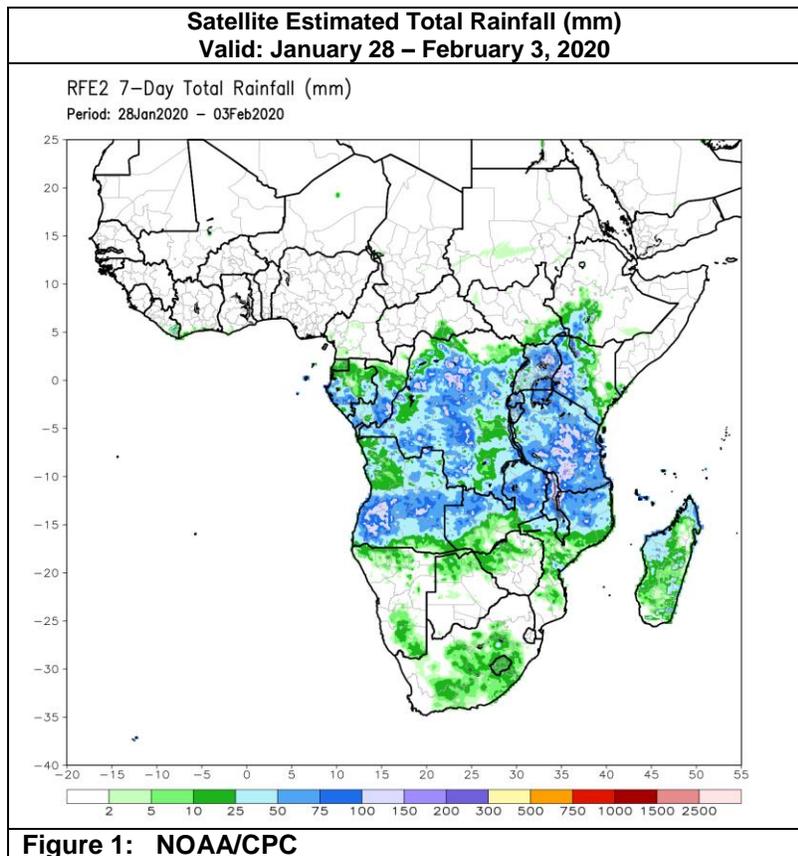
During the outlook period, the heaviest rains are likely to be displaced farther south. While less rain is expected over Uganda and Kenya, light or moderate rain is still forecasted. Very heavy rain, likely in excess of 100mm locally, is expected throughout Tanzania according to the GEFS model. This will keep the flooding threat elevated. Elsewhere, a strip of light to moderate rain is expected in western Ethiopia.

Uneven rainfall is causing moisture deficits to increase for several portions of southern Africa.

Many parts of southern Africa dried out considerably during the past couple of weeks. According to satellite estimates, rains over the last 7 days were largely non-existent in Namibia and large parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique (Figure 1). Scattered light or moderate rainfall was observed across South Africa and Lesotho. A band of heavier rains set up over southern Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique. 7-day totals reached more than 100mm locally in southwestern Angola and northern Malawi. Helpfully, much drier weather was observed in Madagascar this past week, allowing time for flood recovery.

Several areas have seen multiple weeks of poor rainfall accumulate into significant rainfall deficits. Analysis of 30-day anomalies shows deficits of more than 100mm across Namibia, southern Angola and Zambia, parts of Botswana, southern Mozambique and Madagascar. With the additional evidence of struggling vegetation health as supported by veggie indices, several areas exhibit characteristics of abnormal dryness. These include Namibia, southern portions of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar.

During the outlook period, rainfall is expected to be near or below normal for much of southern Africa. This may exacerbate already dry ground conditions. South Africa is forecast to receive enhanced rains of more than 50mm. Heavy rains are also expected in northern Mozambique.



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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.