

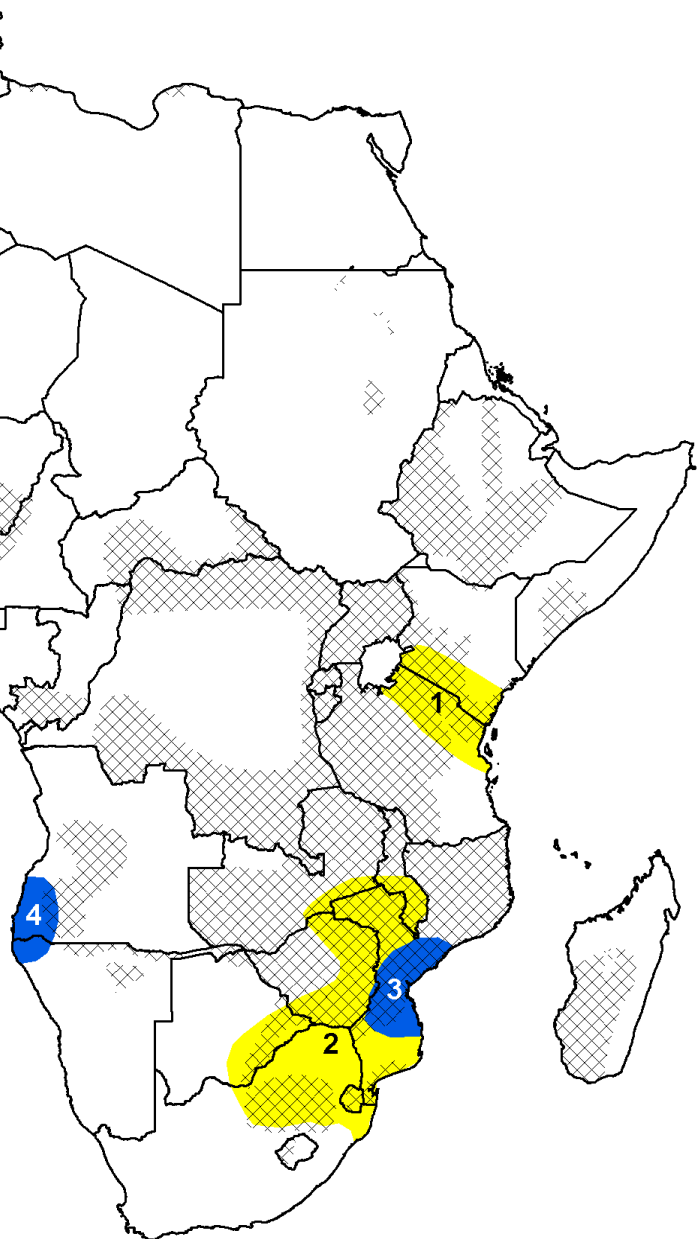
- Mid-season dryness over southeastern southern Africa continued for a fifth consecutive week while heavy rain was observed over southern Angola and northern Mozambique.

1) Below-average rainfall across the bimodal regions of northern Tanzania and the eastern coastline has led to strengthening moisture deficits, which has already caused permanent wilting to some crops in the northeastern Tanzania.

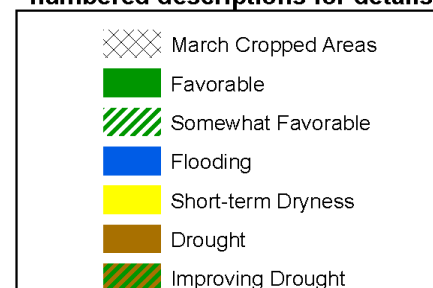
2) Since the start of February, the cessation of seasonal rainfall in southeastern Africa has resulted in a rapid expansion and strengthening of moisture deficits throughout portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. The onset of this mid-season dryness has already resulted in acute crop failure for many local areas, and is also likely to negatively impact crop development in other areas in southern Africa.

3) Rapid development of a low pressure system in the Mozambique Channel could bring heavy rainfall to central and southern Mozambique during the observation period. The abundant rain would fall on dry ground caused by a lack of rainfall since February which could increase the potential risk for flash flooding.

4) Five consecutive weeks of above-average rain across southwestern Angola has led to flooding, fatalities and damages to infrastructure. With heavy rain forecast, the potential for additional flooding is high.



Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Little to no rain fell over southeastern southern Africa.

Rainfall across southern Africa during the past week was similar to that observed two weeks ago. Rainfall was suppressed over the southeastern portion of southern Africa including northern South Africa, central/southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana. In general, less than 10 mm of rain was observed over the region. Below-average rains were also observed across northern Tanzania and Kenya. The heaviest rain (> 50mm) was located along an east to west axis across Madagascar, northern Mozambique, central/southern Tanzania, Zambia, southern Angola and northern Namibia. Localized areas in northern Botswana and northern Zimbabwe also received heavy rain (> 40mm) (**Figure 1**). The ample rain over Zambia for a second consecutive week has been a relief from the drier conditions that dominated the area during February. In addition, southern Angola has received above-average rain for five consecutive weeks which has caused flooding, fatalities and damages to infrastructure in the Namibe province and has elevated river levels along the Okavango River in southeastern Angola /northeastern Namibia.

Rainfall anomalies over southern Africa during the past thirty days indicate dryness in the southeast and wetness in the west. In southeastern southern Africa, moderate rainfall deficits (> 50mm) are widespread with localized areas in central/western Mozambique, and southern Malawi experiencing rainfall deficits greater than 100 mm. The mid-season dryness has negatively affected crops during their developmental phase and has led to crop wilting in Malawi and southern Zambia. In contrast, rainfall surpluses over southern Angola, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania are greater than 100 mm (**Figure 2**). Over the last dekad of February, according to the Standardized Precipitation index (SPI), the anomalous rainfall has been greater than three standard deviations above-normal over southern Angola, while precipitation has been three standard deviations below-normal over southeastern Africa (**Figure 3**).

Forecasts suggest a continuation of light rainfall (< 10mm) over South Africa and southern Botswana. Further north, heavy rain (> 50mm) is expected across Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Namibia and central/eastern Zimbabwe. The abundant rain (locally > 100mm) forecast over Mozambique and southern Malawi is associated with the cyclonic development of a low pressure system which could possibly cause flash flooding over dry portions in the region.

Belg rains forecast to begin over Ethiopia.

During March, the Belg rains climatologically begin over the Amhara, Tigray, and SNNP regions of Ethiopia. Rains, though, have been light during the beginning of March. However, models forecast a beginning of these rains during the next week as moderate to heavy rain (> 30mm) is expected.

Note: The hazards assessment 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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Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: March 1st – March 7th, 2011

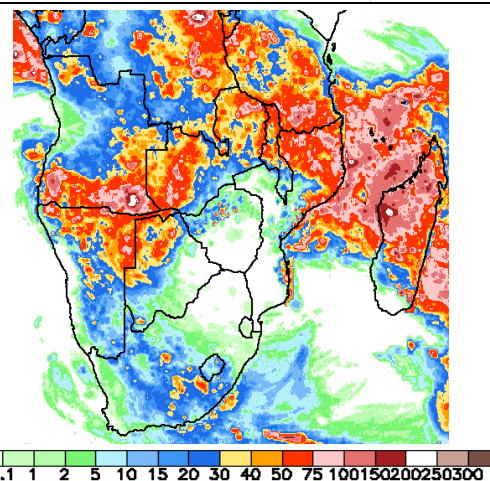


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 6th – March 7th, 2011

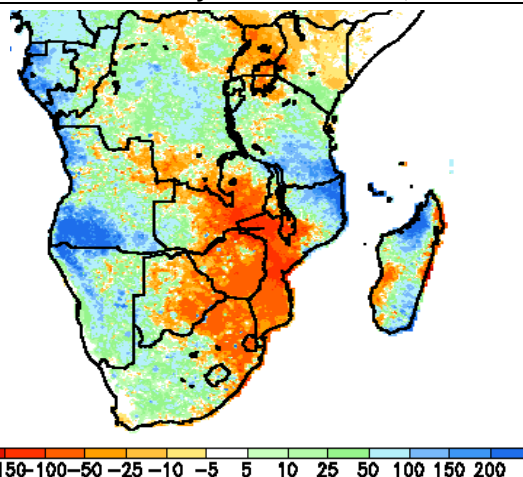


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Valid: As of the 3rd Dekad of February, 2011

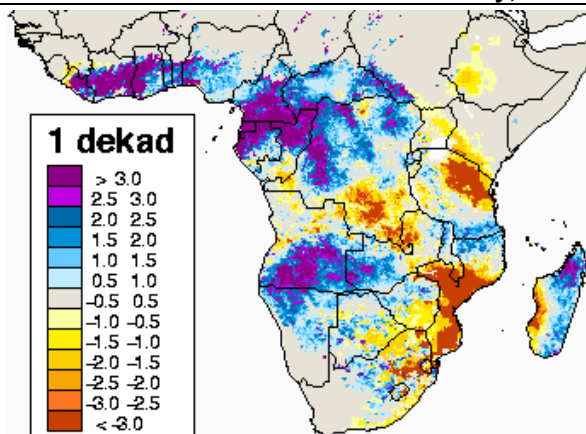


Figure 3: USGS/EROS