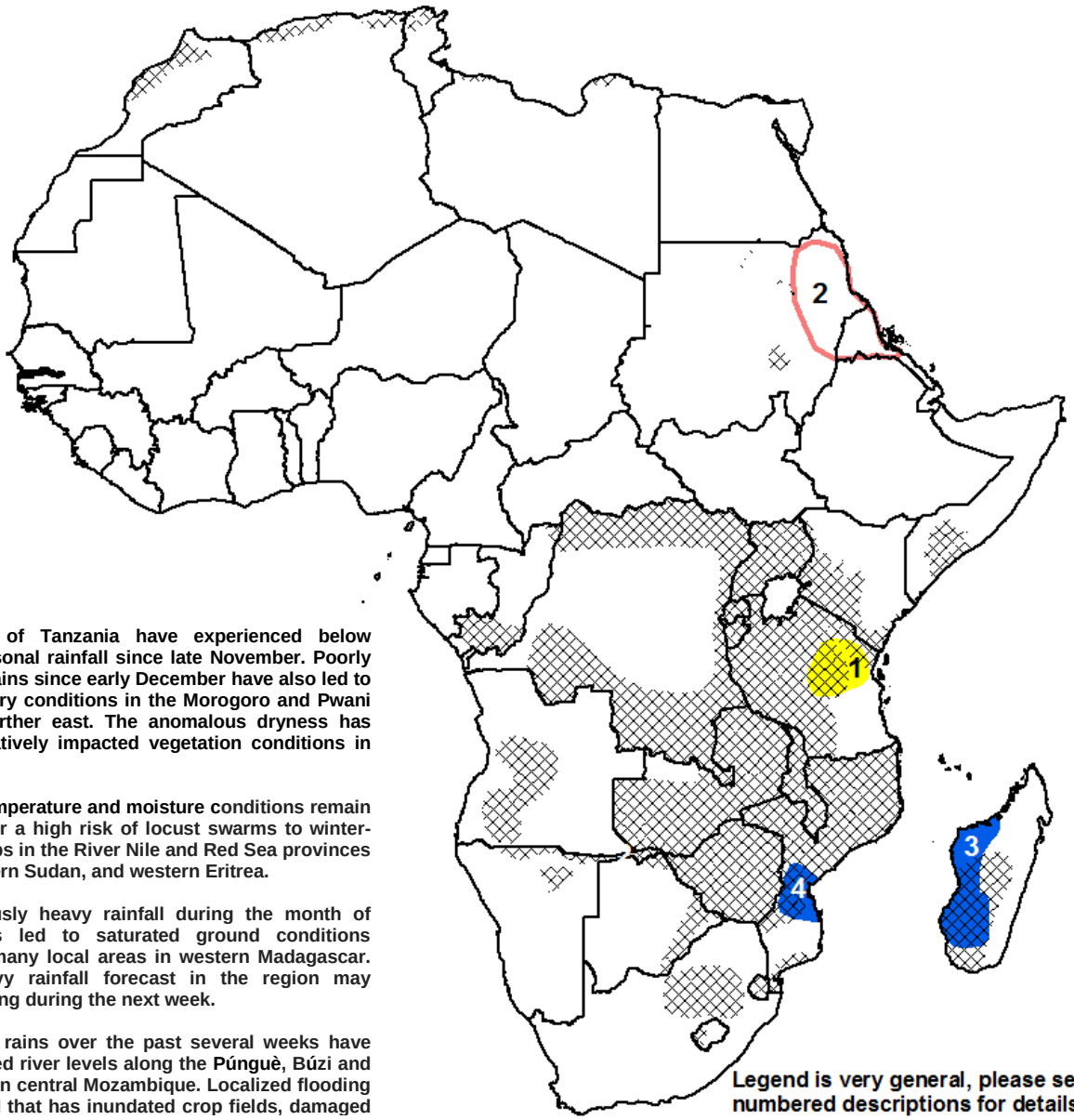
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
January 30 – February 5, 2014

- **A seasonable distribution of precipitation was received throughout much of southern Africa during the last week.**



1) Portions of Tanzania have experienced below average seasonal rainfall since late November. Poorly distributed rains since early December have also led to developing dry conditions in the Morogoro and Pwani provinces further east. The anomalous dryness has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions in the region.

2) Winter temperature and moisture conditions remain conducive for a high risk of locust swarms to winter-irrigated crops in the River Nile and Red Sea provinces of northeastern Sudan, and western Eritrea.

3) Anomalously heavy rainfall during the month of January has led to saturated ground conditions throughout many local areas in western Madagascar. Locally heavy rainfall forecast in the region may trigger flooding during the next week.

4) Abundant rains over the past several weeks have led to elevated river levels along the Púnguè, Búzi and Save Rivers in central Mozambique. Localized flooding has occurred that has inundated crop fields, damaged infrastructure and isolated the town of Buzi. With additional heavy rain forecast during the next week, the risk for additional river flooding remains elevated.

Locally heavy rains continued throughout southeastern Africa.

During the last seven days, well-distributed amounts of seasonal precipitation were received throughout many local areas in southern Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were observed across parts of eastern Zimbabwe and central Mozambique, with more moderate, well-distributed amounts received further north in parts of Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains in central Mozambique resulted in elevated river levels and localized flooding along the Púnguè, Save and Búzi Rivers. In eastern Tanzania, an increase in rainfall was observed over many anomalously dry portions of the country. However, decreased amounts of precipitation were observed throughout parts of Botswana, southern Zimbabwe and South Africa during the last seven days.

Since late December, the southern Africa monsoon system has exhibited a large scale increase in precipitation throughout many southeastern parts of the African continent. Analysis of 30-day satellite rainfall estimates depict anomalously wet conditions largely encompassing from eastern Angola, southern DRC, Zambia, southwestern Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, northern Botswana and Madagascar (**Figure 2**), with very few local areas experiencing near to below average rainfall. The anomalously wet conditions in southeastern Africa followed a delayed start to the monsoon during October and November, which had begun to negatively impact parts of eastern Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. Although excess rains and moisture did trigger localized flooding in the Caprivi Strip region and across parts of western Madagascar earlier this month, the large-scale recovery in precipitation is expected to be favorable for the development of crops into the later months of the season.

Conversely, below average rainfall conditions are observed on the periphery of this large scale moisture signal, which has affected parts of southern Angola, southern Botswana, South Africa and eastern Tanzania (**Figure 2**). The driest regions include Morogoro, Manyara, Tanga, and Pwani provinces of eastern Tanzania, the North West, Gauteng, and Free States of South Africa and the Namibe and Cunene provinces of Angola. The suppressed rainfall in these areas has led to moderate moisture deficits (25-100mm), which may adversely impact the development of crops and pastoral conditions. Climatologically, many of these areas should be experiencing a peak in their normal rainfall totals during the course of the monsoon season.

Precipitation forecasts suggest another week of seasonable rainfall, with the potential for above-average rainfall to occur across part of southern Zambia and Zimbabwe. Weekly rainfall accumulations between 50-75mm are forecast for the interior parts of the southern continent, with increased amounts for the Caprivi Strip region and throughout South Africa (**Figure 3**). The increase in rainfall in expected to provide some relief to the developing dry conditions felt in South Africa, Botswana and Angola. However, light to locally moderate amounts of rainfall forecast over eastern Tanzania is not expected to provide much relief to dryness.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 19 – January 25, 2014

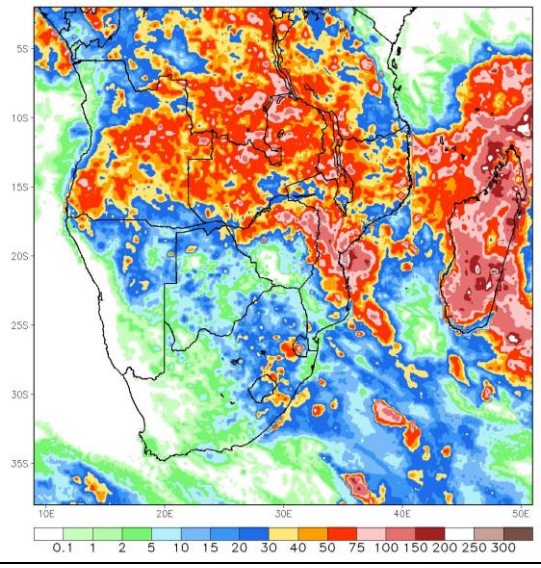


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 27, 2013 – January 25, 2014

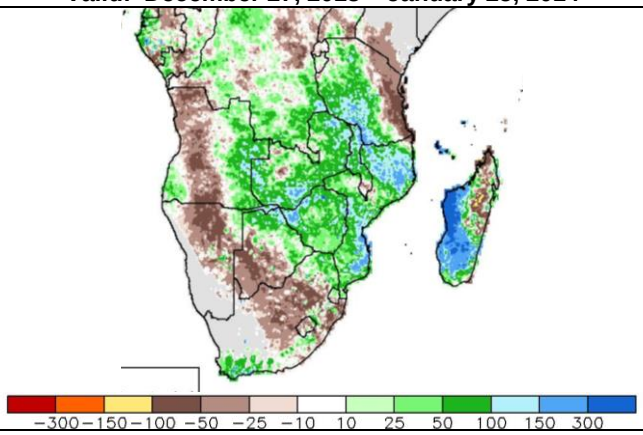


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

GFS Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 22 – January 29, 2014

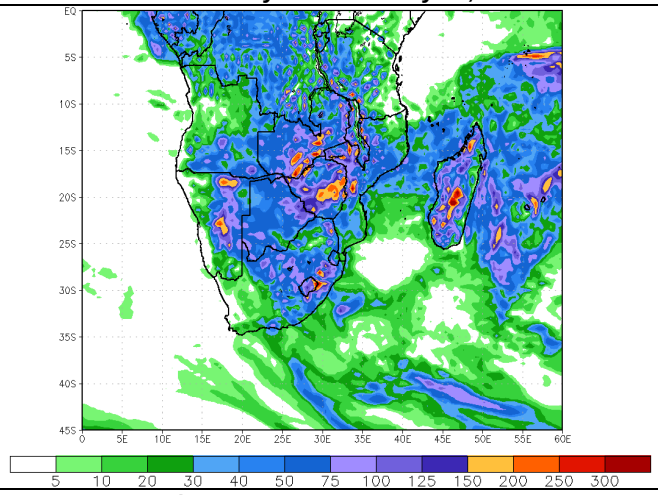


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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