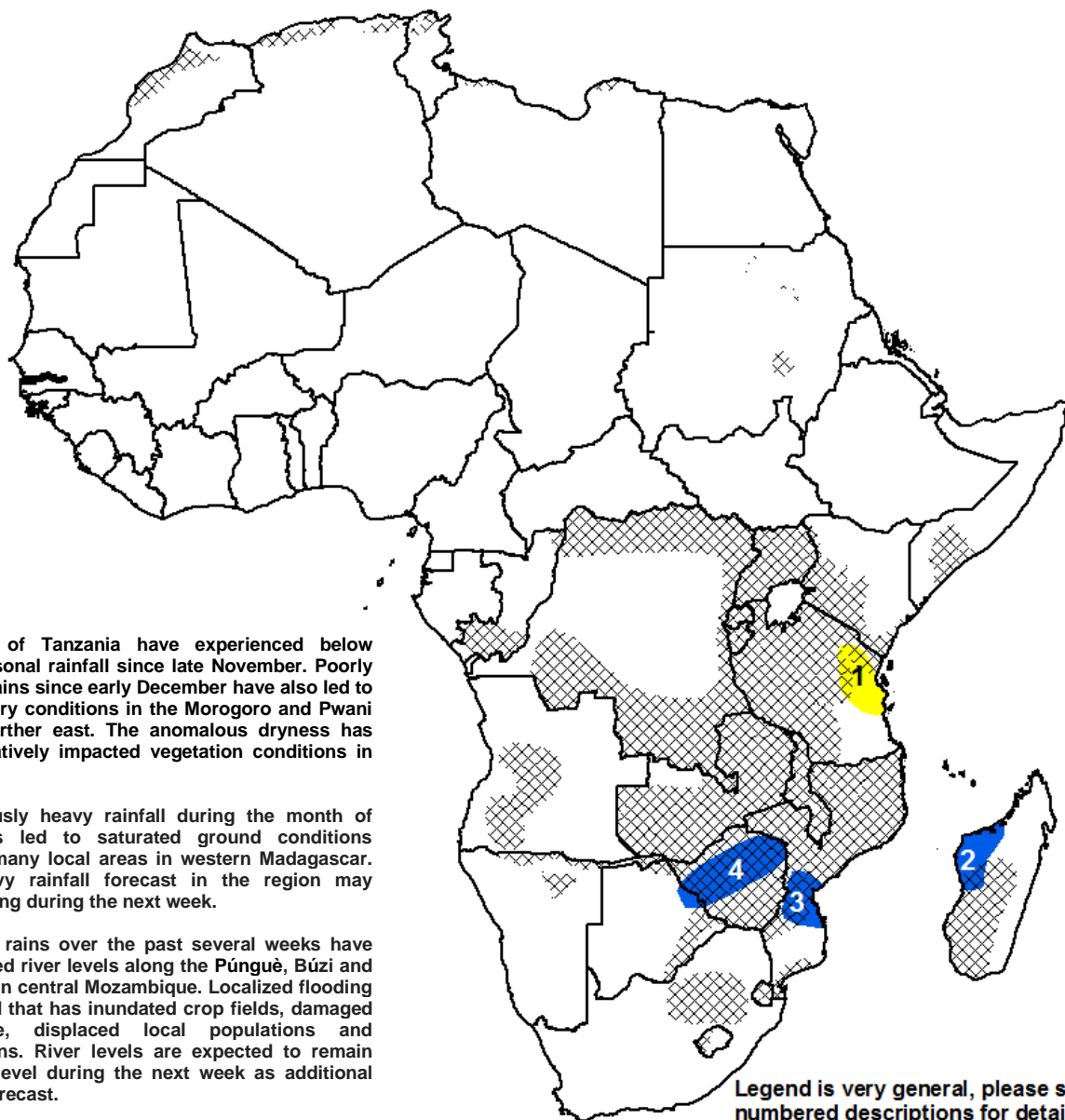# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 6 – February 12, 2014

- **Above-average monsoon season rainfall was observed across central southern Africa during the past 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) 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.

3) 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, displaced local populations and isolated towns. River levels are expected to remain above alert level during the next week as additional heavy rain forecast.

4) Torrential rain during the past several weeks across central and northern Zimbabwe, including last week where weekly rainfall surpluses exceeded 100mm, has left grounds saturated. With additional heavy rain forecast, the risk for localized flash flooding across central and northern Zimbabwe is elevated.

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

Legend:
- February Cropped Areas
- Flooding
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Tropical Cyclone
- Potential Locust Outbreak
- Heavy Snow
- Abnormal Cold
- Abnormal Heat

Torrential rains were observed in southeastern Africa.

During the last week, heavy and well-distributed amounts of rainfall were observed across southeastern Africa. The highest weekly precipitation totals (>75mm) were located across Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and localized areas in Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and eastern Angola. Moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded elsewhere in southern South Africa and western Tanzania (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains, during previous weeks, in central Mozambique have resulted in elevated river levels and localized flooding along the Zambezi, Púnguè, Save and Búzi Rivers. The flooding has inundated crop fields, displaced local populations and damaged infrastructure. Recent torrential rains have also increased the risk for flash flooding in saturated areas in Zimbabwe. In contrast, below-average and light rains (<20mm) were observed in portions of southern Angola and central/eastern Tanzania.

Throughout the southern Africa monsoon season, rainfall has exhibited a pattern of heavy, above-average rains across central and eastern southern Africa while areas in the south, north and west, along the periphery of southern Africa, have observed below-average rains. This is evident in thirty-day rainfall percentiles. Locations in Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern DRC and southern Tanzania have observed rainfall between the 30th-90th percentiles (**Figure 2**). The above-average rains in southeastern Africa followed a delayed start of season in October and November. Since then, however, abundant rains have increased flooding risks for parts of Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. The abundant rains have also provided relief to dry conditions from last year. Above-average rains in Namibia during the current monsoon season have helped alleviate dryness left over from drought conditions the previous year.

In contrast, areas in central South Africa, southern Angola and northeastern Tanzania have recorded rainfall that is below the 30th percentile (**Figure 2**). The driest areas including the Morogoro, Manyara, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, and Pwani provinces of eastern Tanzania, the North West, Gauteng, and Free States of South Africa and the Namibe, Cunene and Cuando Cubango provinces of Angola. The suppressed rainfall has led to moderate rainfall deficits (25-100mm) over the past thirty days. The lack of adequate rainfall has also adversely impacted the development of late season crops in bi-modal areas in northern Tanzania and could negatively impact crops and pastoral conditions in Angola and South Africa.

For the next week, a continuation of heavy (>50mm) and above-average rain is forecast for Zimbabwe, central/northern Mozambique, Botswana, eastern Namibia, Zambia, and central South Africa. The abundant rains are likely to raise the risk for flash flooding in Zimbabwe as well as keep river flooding risks elevated along the Zambezi, Púnguè, Save and Búzi Rivers in Mozambique. The heavy rains in central South Africa will provide relief to drier than average conditions. In contrast, light (<20mm) and below-average rain is expected in Angola, likely increasing rainfall deficits and worsening ground conditions. Elsewhere, moderate rains (20-40mm) are expected across Tanzania (**Figure 3**), improving ground moisture for cropping activities.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 28 – February 3, 2014

Figure 1:   NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: January 5 – February 3, 2014

Figure 2:   NOAA/CPC

GFS Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: February 5 – February 12, 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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