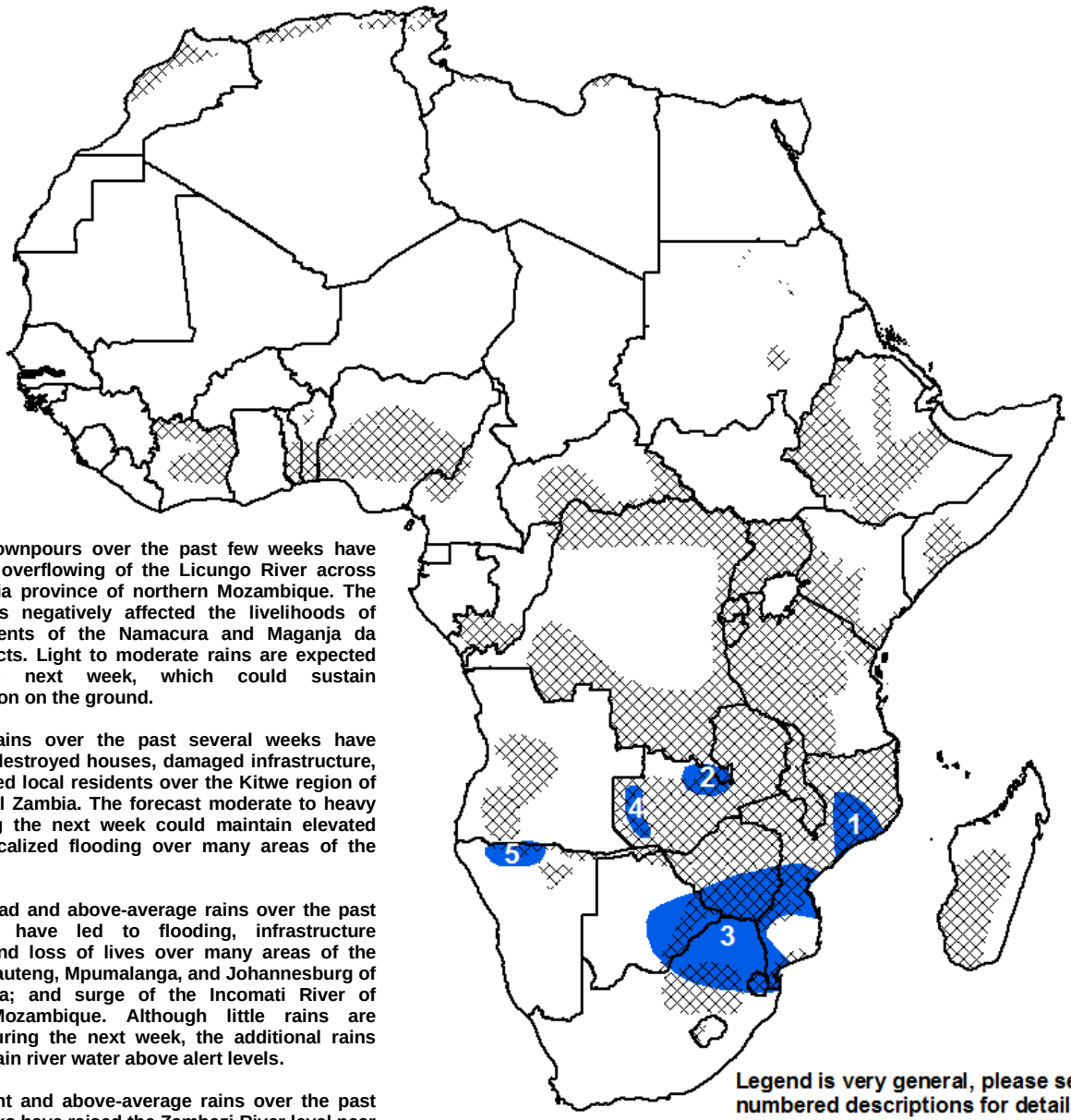
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 20 – March 26, 2014

- **A favorable distribution of rainfall was observed over Southern Africa during the past week.**
- **Widespread and above-average rains fell across the Greater Horn of Africa during the past week.**



1) Heavy downpours over the past few weeks have caused the overflowing of the Licungo River across the Zambezia province of northern Mozambique. The flooding has negatively affected the livelihoods of many residents of the Namacura and Maganja da Costa districts. Light to moderate rains are expected during the next week, which could sustain oversaturation on the ground.

2) Heavy rains over the past several weeks have resulted in destroyed houses, damaged infrastructure, and displaced local residents over the Kitwe region of north-central Zambia. The forecast moderate to heavy rains during the next week could maintain elevated risks for localized flooding over many areas of the region.

3) Widespread and above-average rains over the past few weeks have led to flooding, infrastructure damages, and loss of lives over many areas of the Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Johannesburg of South Africa; and surge of the Incomati River of southern Mozambique. Although little rains are expected during the next week, the additional rains could maintain river water above alert levels.

4) Consistent and above-average rains over the past several weeks have raised the Zambezi River level near its flooding level in western Zambia. There is an increased chance for flooding along downstream areas as moderate to heavy rains are forecast to persist during the next week.

5) Heavy rains over the past few weeks have resulted in flooding over the Omusati region along the Angola-Namibian border. The inundation has led to the closure of several schools. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast over the region during the next week, which could worsen conditions on the ground.

A favorable distribution of rainfall was observed in Southern Africa.

A favorable distribution of rainfall was observed over Southern Africa as moderate to heavy rains spread across the region during the past week. Although the bulk of the rainfall was received farther North over southern Democratic Republic of Congo and northern Zambia, where rainfall exceeded 50 mm, eastern Angola, eastern Namibia, southeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, central South Africa, central and southern Mozambique registered moderate to heavy rains (**Figure 1**). Light to moderate rains were observed elsewhere. The observed enhanced rains over the past several weeks have resulted in flooding over many local areas of Southern Africa. In Zambia, the continued enhanced rains have helped to increase the Zambezi River to reach its normal flood level. Local villages in the Caprivi Strip of northeastern Namibia also reported flooding during the past week. In southern Mozambique, many rivers have sustained above-alert level.

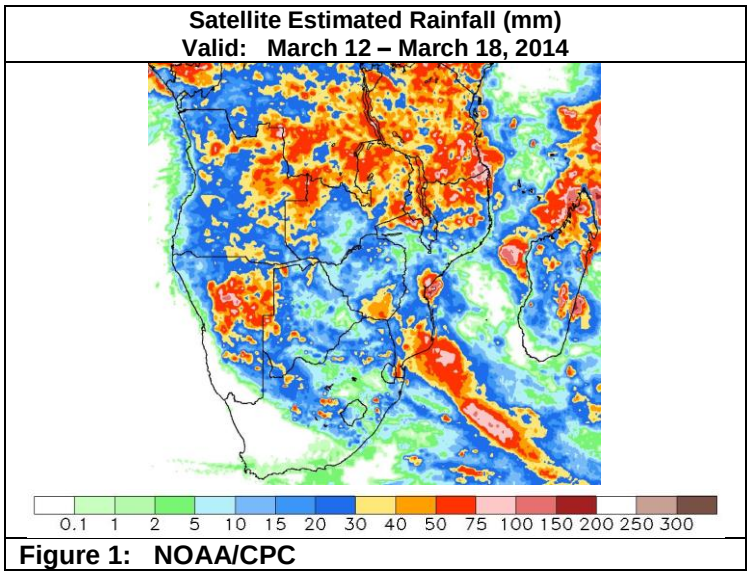


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Since the beginning of the Southern Africa monsoon, average to above-average rainfall has been observed across much of the region. The central portions of Southern Africa, including eastern Namibia, Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique have received over hundred and fifty percent of their average rainfall (**Figure 2**). The seasonal surpluses were mostly attributed to wet spells that have resulted from anomalous low-level convergence since late January. Conversely, northwestern Angola, northwestern Namibia, and localized areas of central South Africa have accumulated below-average rainfall accounting for less than eighty percent of their average. The seasonal deficits could be linked to anomalous low-level divergence and associated rainfall suppression. During the next week, the rain-belt is expected to move to the north, bringing heavy rains over Angola, northern Zambia, and northern Mozambique. Suppressed to little rains are, however, forecast over Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and southern Mozambique. The forecast reduced rains should help to relieve wetness over many local areas.

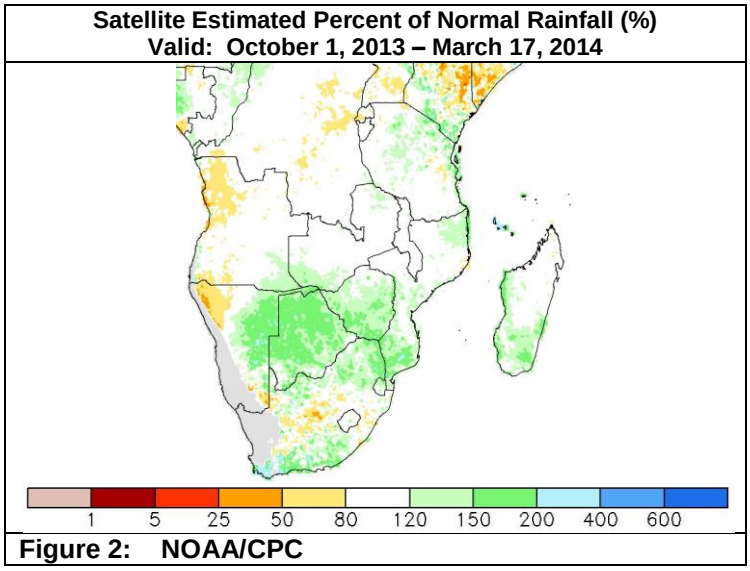


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Widespread, heavy rains were observed over the Greater Horn of Africa.

Moderate to heavy rains were observed throughout Eastern Africa from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, southern Somalia, to South Sudan during the past week (**Figure 3**). In South Sudan, this past week's heavy rains triggered flooding and affected many people over the Juba. The much above-average rains during the past week have helped to eliminate early-season deficits and bring surpluses over much of Eastern Africa. Western Ethiopia and southern Kenya have accumulated rainfall surpluses exceeding 50 mm since the beginning of February. During the next week, a reduction in rainfall is forecast over Eastern Africa, with light to locally moderate rains over Kenya and the southern and central parts of Ethiopia and little to no rainfall elsewhere. The continuation of seasonal rains should aid cropping activities in the region.

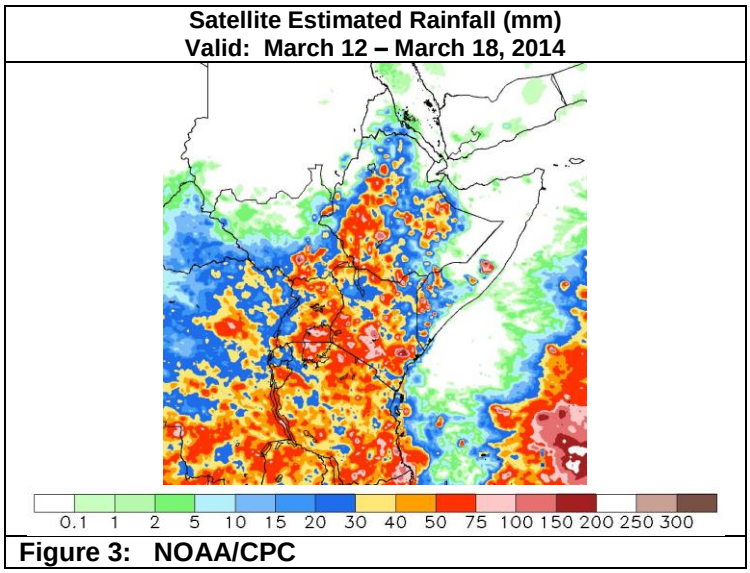


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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