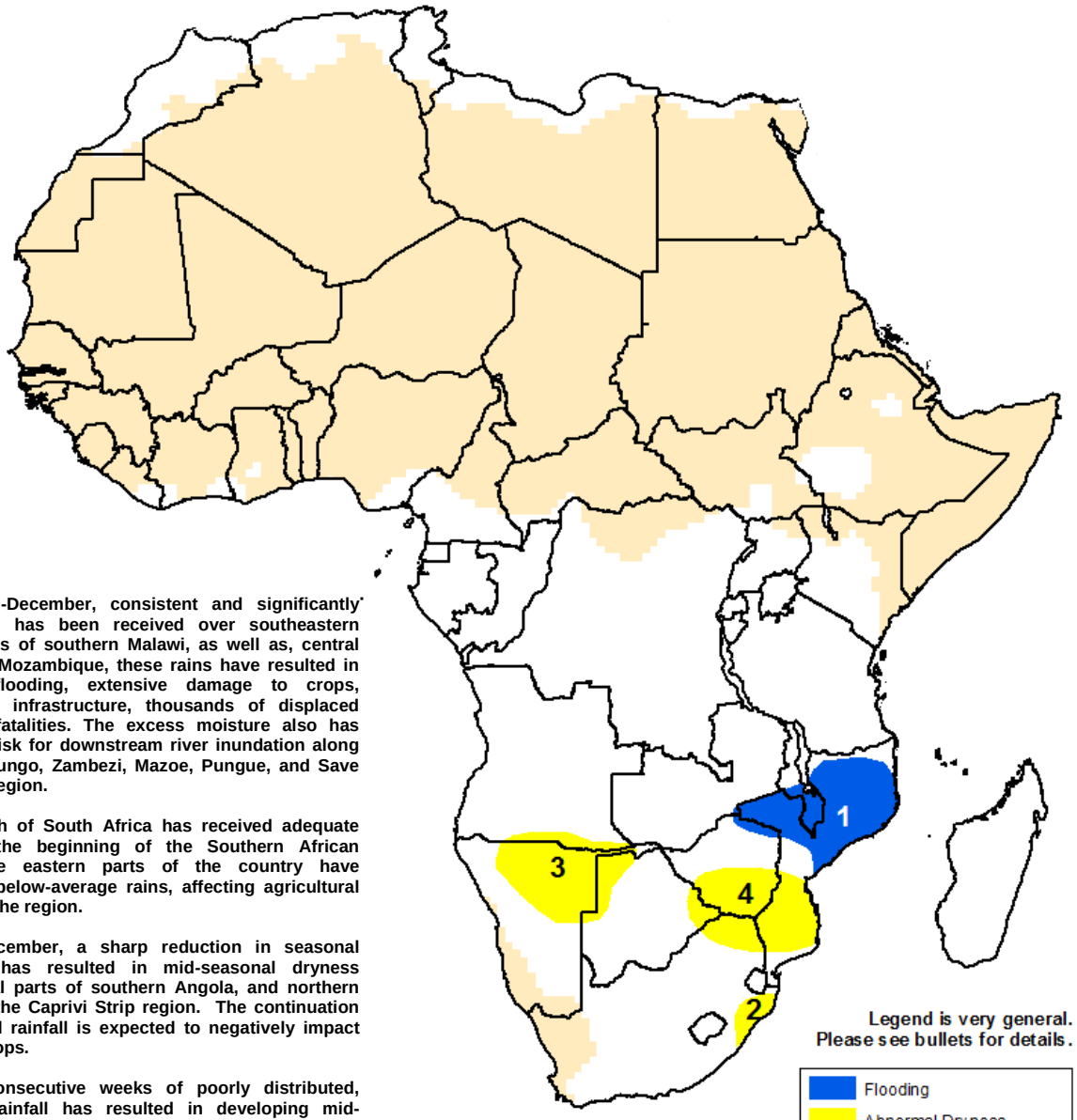
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
January 29 – February 4, 2015

- **Suppressed seasonal rains over southeastern Africa expected to provide relief to saturated ground conditions.**
- **Mid-seasonal dry spells experienced throughout several parts of Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.**



1) Since mid-December, consistent and significantly heavy rainfall has been received over southeastern Africa. In parts of southern Malawi, as well as, central and northern Mozambique, these rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities. The excess moisture also has elevated the risk for downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region.

2) While much of South Africa has received adequate rains since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, the eastern parts of the country have accumulated below-average rains, affecting agricultural conditions in the region.

3) In late-December, a sharp reduction in seasonal precipitation has resulted in mid-seasonal dryness across several parts of southern Angola, and northern Namibia into the Caprivi Strip region. The continuation of suppressed rainfall is expected to negatively impact developing crops.

4) Several consecutive weeks of poorly distributed, suppressed rainfall has resulted in developing mid-season dryness across parts of eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, central and southern Mozambique, with the largest moisture deficits in southern Zimbabwe. Continued dryness is forecast in early February, and may result in deteriorating ground conditions and wilting crops in the region.

Some relief to heavy rains, flooding felt in southeastern Africa.

In late January, the core of the heaviest precipitation totals shifted northward compared to the previous several weeks, with a welcomed suppression of seasonal rainfall further south in the flood affected regions of southeastern Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were received in local parts of southwestern Angola, Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, and southern Tanzania. More reduced rainfall amounts (<25mm) were received across several saturated areas in Zimbabwe, western Mozambique and southern Malawi (**Figure 1**). Elsewhere, little to no rainfall was received in northern South Africa, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar.

From the middle of December to the middle of January, the evolution of the southern Africa monsoon had experienced a significant reversal of anomalous moisture conditions, as several areas in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar experienced persistent and flood inducing rainfall. This has led to numerous reports of flooding, thousands of displaced populations, damages to crops, livestock, infrastructure, and fatalities in recent weeks. Both the countries of Malawi and Mozambique declared states of emergencies/red alerts due to the heavy rains and adverse ground impacts, as there remains an increased risk for continued downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region. However, the suppressed amounts of rainfall during the last week have led to a considerable decrease in mid-seasonal moisture surpluses, which is expected to help mitigate saturated ground conditions **(Figure 2**).

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models do not suggest much change in the distribution and quantity of seasonal rainfall from this past week. Heavy amounts are expected for much of Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique, with a moderate potential for heavy rains to return further south across the flood-affected regions. This is expected to sustain flooding hazards into early February.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 18 – January 24, 2015

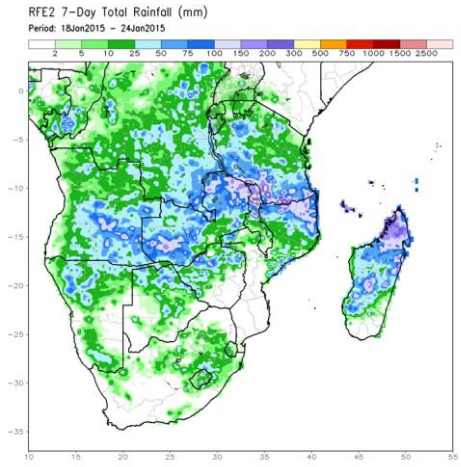


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Rainfall Anomaly Difference (mm)
As of: January 24, 2015

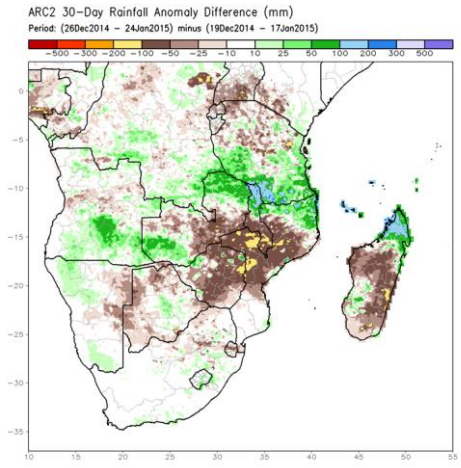


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Mid-seasonal dryness affects southern Angola, northern Namibia

In contrast to the anomalously wet conditions across southeastern Africa, mid-seasonal dryness continues to develop across many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, northwestern Botswana, and the Caprivi Strip region. Since late December, several local areas have registered precipitation less than the 10th percentile (**Figure 3)**. The developing moisture deficits have been associated with both low and infrequent rainfall during a time in the season where precipitation is climatologically at its maximum. The continuation of suppressed rainfall into February is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions.

30-Day Satellite Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: December 26, 2014 – January 24, 2015

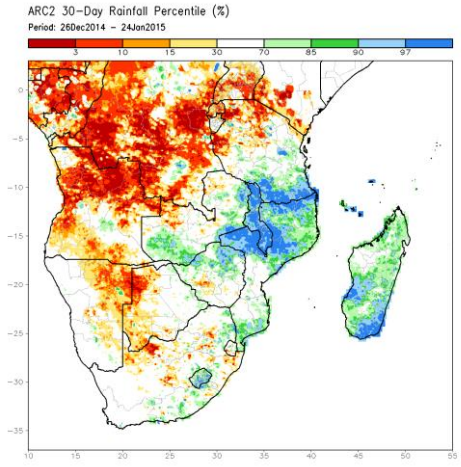


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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