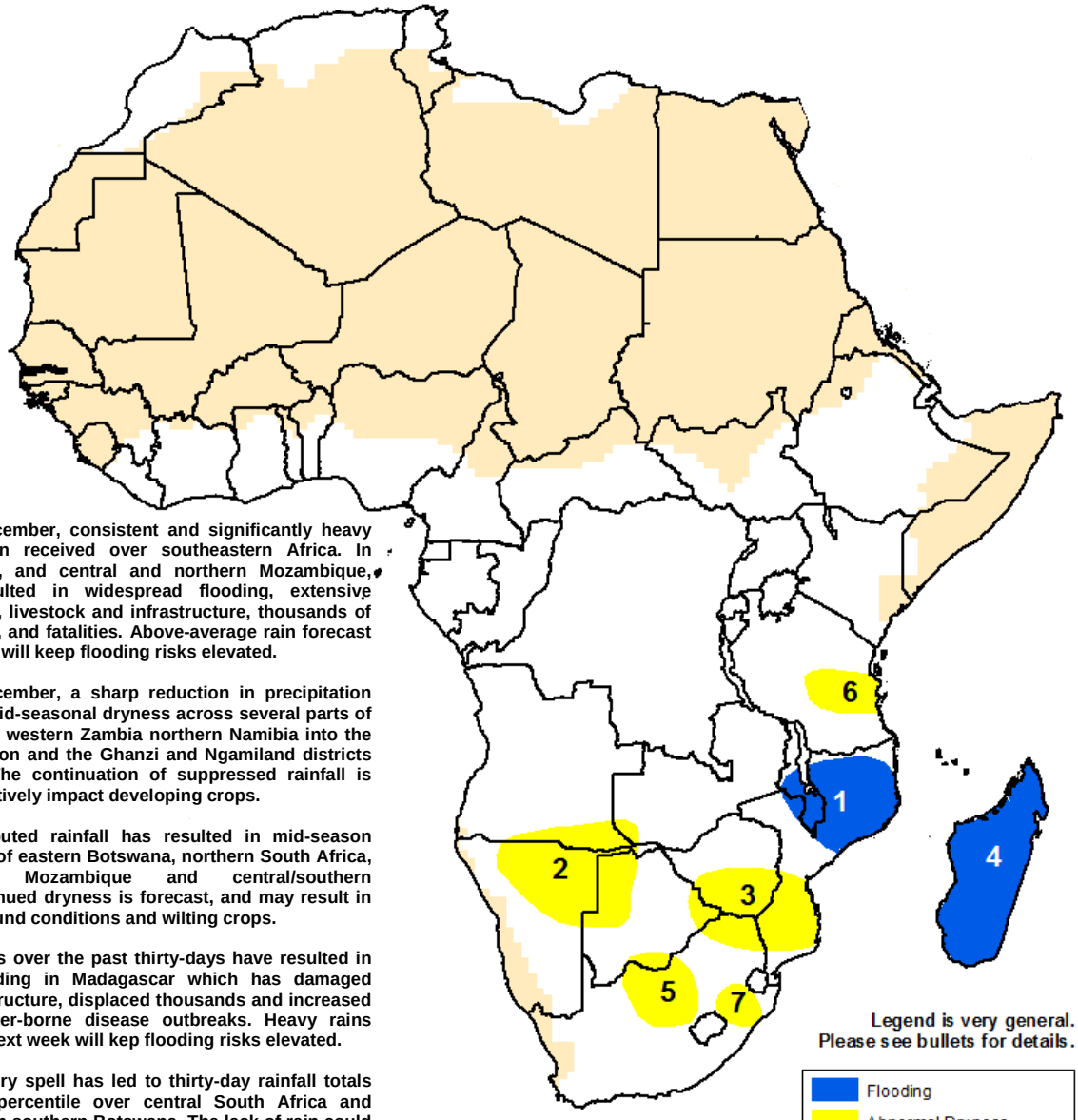
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 26 – March 4, 2015

- **Above-average rains were observed across saturated areas in Madagascar and northern Mozambique.**
- **Dryness deepens across Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and coastal Tanzania.**



1) Since mid-December, consistent and significantly heavy rainfall has been received over southeastern Africa. In southern Malawi, and central and northern Mozambique, rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities. Above-average rain forecast for the next week will keep flooding risks elevated.

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

3) Poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in mid-season dryness in parts of eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, central/southern Mozambique and central/southern Zimbabwe. Continued dryness is forecast, and may result in deteriorating ground conditions and wilting crops.

4) Abundant rains over the past thirty-days have resulted in widespread flooding in Madagascar which has damaged crops and infrastructure, displaced thousands and increased the risk for water-borne disease outbreaks. Heavy rains forecast for the next week will kep flooding risks elevated.

5) A prolonged dry spell has led to thirty-day rainfall totals below the 15th percentile over central South Africa and bordering areas in southern Botswana. The lack of rain could negatively impact maize crops in the Free State and North West provinces of South Africa. With light rain forecast for the next week, dryness is expected to deepen.

6) Extended dry spells and thirty-day rainfall less than the 10th percentile have led to poor ground conditions that could impact crops across central/southern Tanzania. Heavy rain forecast for southern Tanzania will provide relief but dry conditions are expected to continue in central Tanzania.

7) Erratically distributed rainfall has led to below-average vegetative conditions in parts of the KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Free State provinces of South Africa. Moderate rain forecast should provide some relief.

Torrential rains impact eastern coastline of Madagascar.

During the past week, heavy rain was observed across central and eastern Madagascar, northern Mozambique, Malawi, and eastern Zambia. Rain gauges recorded over 150mm along the eastern coastline of Madagascar with one gauge measuring over 500mm in seven days. The abundant rains continued flooding concerns across the island and added to already substantial recent rainfall surpluses. Elsewhere, the moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) that fell over Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia has kept ground conditions saturated in a region that has experienced widespread flooding during much of 2015. Farther north, moderate rains (15-40mm) were recorded in Tanzania helping to provide some relief to recently drier-than-average conditions in eastern and central Tanzania. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) fell across dry areas in southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and South Africa (**Figure 1**).

After a wet beginning to 2015, the past thirty-days have seen positive rainfall anomalies decrease across previously wet regions in southeastern Africa. However, rains are still around average in northern/central Mozambique, Malawi and eastern Zambia. The impacts from past flooding including displaced local populations, damaged infrastructure and livestock and destroyed crop fields will likely have lingering impacts throughout the rest of the season. Meanwhile, thirty-day rainfall remains elevated across Madagascar as rainfall percentiles exceed the 85th percentile across central/southern parts of the country (**Figure 2**). The risk for additional flooding and water-borne disease outbreaks will continue.

For the next week, heavy rains are again expected for saturated areas in Malawi, northern Mozambique and Madagascar increasing the chance for localized flooding. Moderate to heavy rain (>25) is forecast for much of southern Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa.

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

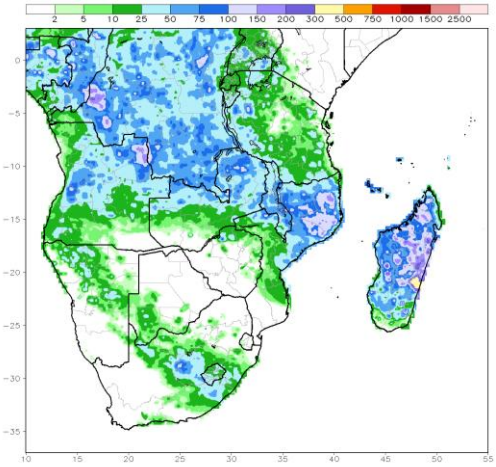


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

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

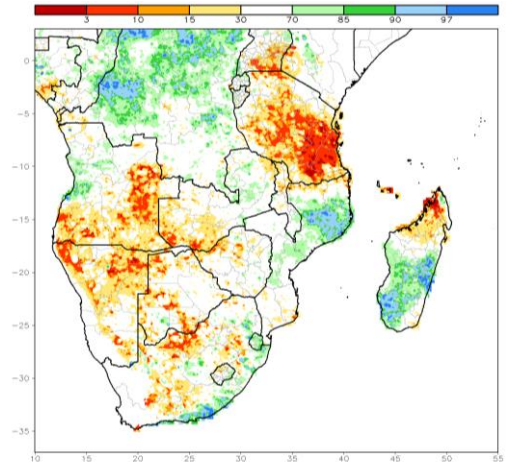


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Rainfall deficits increase across dry areas in southern Africa.

While rainfall totals have become seasonable across southeastern Africa, below-average rains have deepened thirty-day rainfall deficits across Angola, western Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and eastern/central Tanzania. Thirty-day rainfall percentiles are less than the 15th percentile in these regions (**Figure 2**). Dating back to December 1st, rains have been less than 80% of normal across these areas with locations in northern Namibia and South Africa observing less than 50% of their normal rains (**Figure 3**). Erratic rainfall and extended dry spells have begun to negatively impact cropping in central Tanzania and the Lindi region of southeastern Tanzania. Meanwhile, the lack of rain and high temperatures has led to deteriorating ground conditions in the North West, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of central South Africa. Elsewhere, dryness has continued to deepen in Namibia and Botswana while below-average rains were again observed in southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. For the next week, an increase in rain is expected over dry areas in southern Tanzania and South Africa, while light to moderate rain (<20mm) is forecast across dry areas in western southern Africa, southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique likely maintaining dry conditions.

Satellite Rainfall Percent of Normal (%)
Valid: December 1, 2014 – February 24, 2015

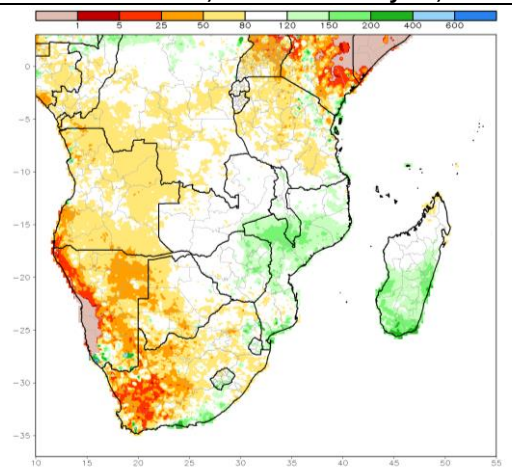


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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