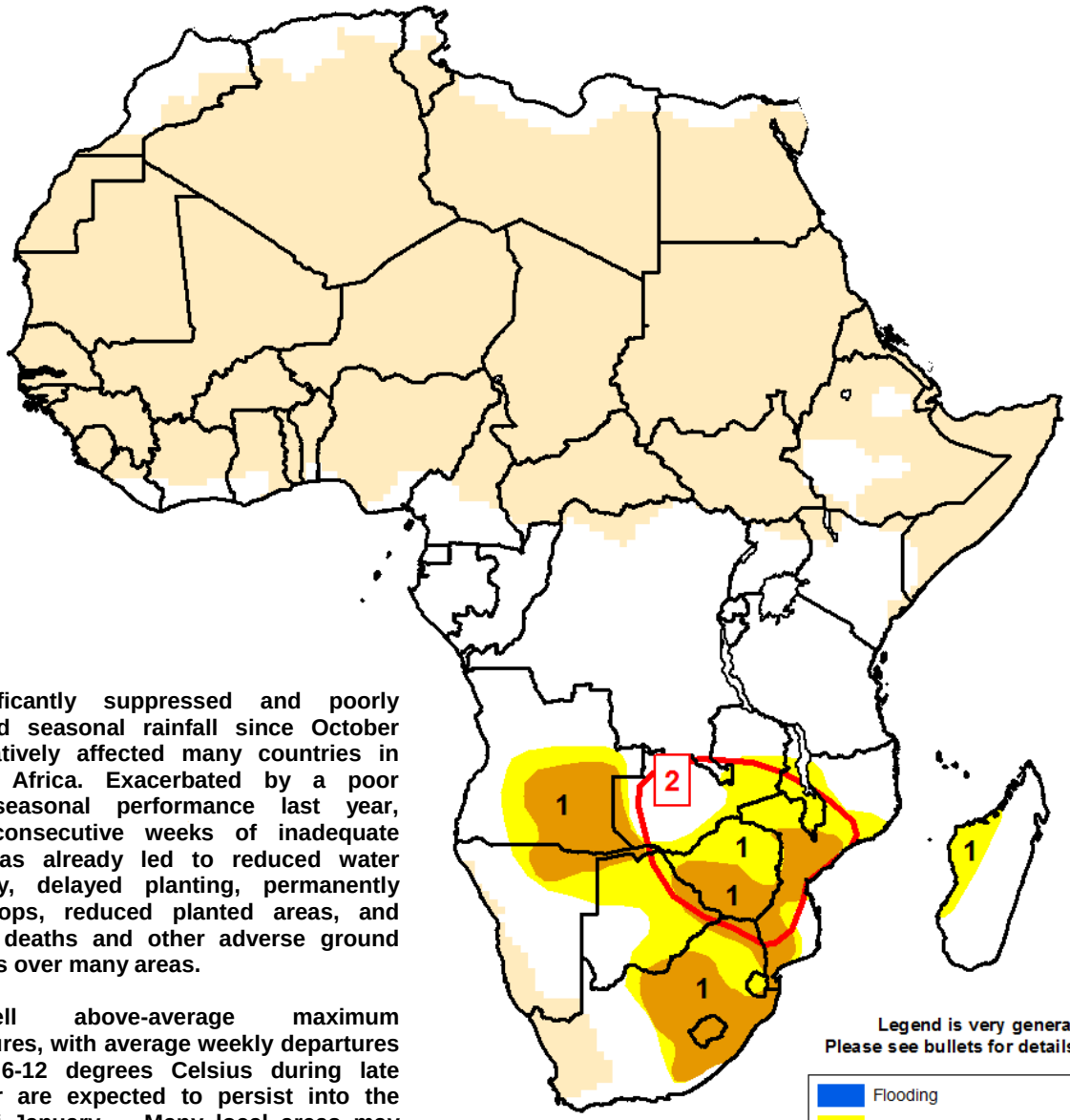
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
January 14 – January 20, 2016

- **The persistence of poor monsoon rainfall and anomalously high temperatures in early January is expected to adversely affect ground conditions for many areas in southern Africa.**



1) Significantly suppressed and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. Exacerbated by a poor rainfall seasonal performance last year, several consecutive weeks of inadequate rainfall has already led to reduced water availability, delayed planting, permanently wilted crops, reduced planted areas, and livestock deaths and other adverse ground conditions over many areas.

2) Well above-average maximum temperatures, with average weekly departures between 6-12 degrees Celsius during late December are expected to persist into the middle of January. Many local areas may experience maximum daily temperatures in excess of 40 degrees Celsius during the next week.

Little change to the quantity and spatial extent of poor southern Africa monsoon rains in January.

Compared to the first week of January, satellite rainfall estimates suggest little change in the quantity and spatial distribution of suppressed seasonal rainfall during the last week. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>75mm) were received across southern DRC, northern Angola, and northern Mozambique. More moderate rainfall amounts were received further south into parts of southern Angola, western Zambia, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. In portions of Botswana, central Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, little to no rainfall accumulations were detected by satellite and gauges during the last seven days (**Figure 1**), continuing a unseasonable dry trend that has been in place in these areas since late December.

Since the beginning of the monsoon season, low and poorly distributed rains has prevailed across much of the continent, with very few areas having received average to above-average precipitation over the past few months. According to satellite information, the strongest seasonal rainfall deficits reside in South Africa and Botswana, where many local areas are experiencing less than 25 percent of their normal seasonal rainfall since the beginning of November (**Figure 2**). Further north, seasonal dryness is currently lesser in magnitude (25-80 percent of normal), but it remains very widespread throughout many parts of Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and western Madagascar. In the last 2-3 weeks, dryness has strengthened the most over central Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe where rainfall has been virtually absent since late December. In addition, the low seasonal rainfall has been accompanied with significantly high temperatures since October which is likely to further exacerbate ground conditions, and deplete water availability for several southern African countries during January.

During the next outlook period, another week of suppressed rainfall is forecast over many areas in southern Africa, with the potential for the lowest rainfall totals over southeastern Africa in the Zambezi River basin (**Figure 3**). As a result, both short-term and longer-term moisture deficits over southern Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique are expected to significantly strengthen. However, due to the development of an anomalous lower-level circulation feature over southwestern Africa, an increase in rainfall is forecast over parts of eastern Namibia, Botswana and western South Africa during the next week. Although the increased precipitation and ground moisture should not fully mitigate season long dryness, more seasonable rainfall should provide some relief, and replenish water availability in the region. Temperature forecasts also show the continuation of abnormally high temperatures during early January, with maximum daily temperature exceeding 40 degrees across some parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 3, 2015 – January 9, 2016

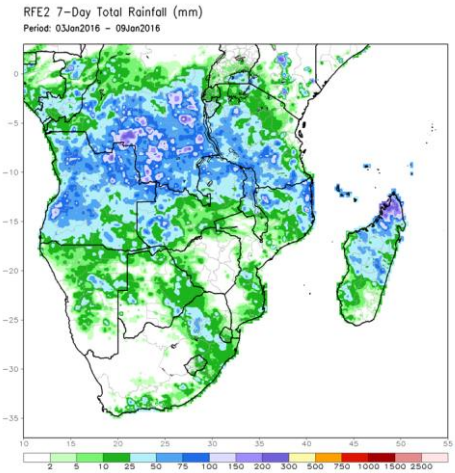


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: November 1, 2015 – January 9, 2016

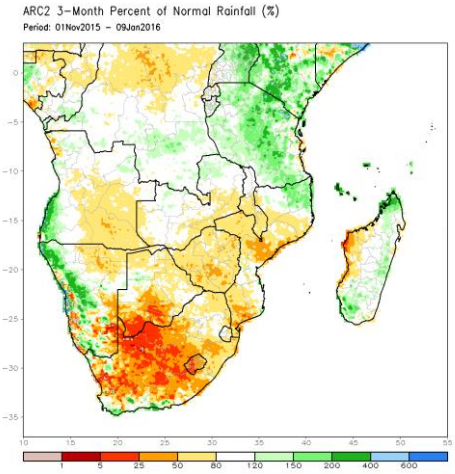


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Southern Africa Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 13 – January 20, 2015

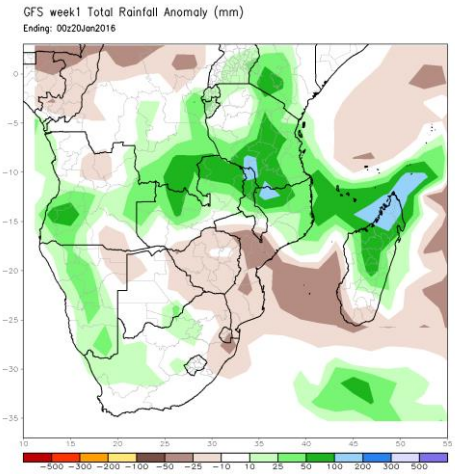


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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