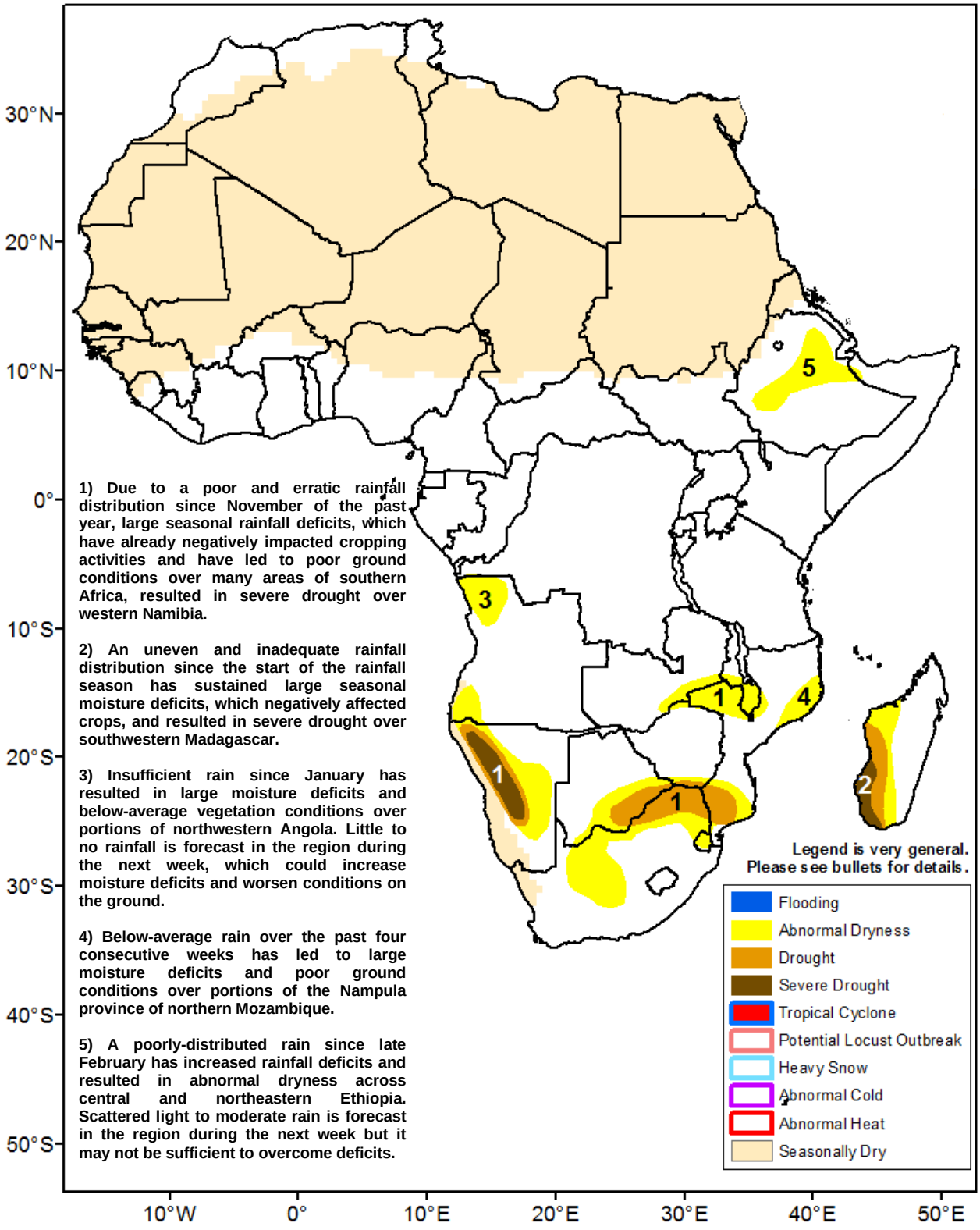
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 29 – April 4, 2018

- **Abnormal dryness has settled in across central and northeastern Ethiopia due to poor rain since February.**
- **Despite a recent increase in rainfall over some regions, dryness remains over many areas of southern Africa.**



1) Due to a poor and erratic rainfall distribution since November of the past year, large seasonal rainfall deficits, which have already negatively impacted cropping activities and have led to poor ground conditions over many areas of southern Africa, resulted in severe drought over western Namibia.

2) An uneven and inadequate rainfall distribution since the start of the rainfall season has sustained large seasonal moisture deficits, which negatively affected crops, and resulted in severe drought over southwestern Madagascar.

3) Insufficient rain since January has resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola. Little to no rainfall is forecast in the region during the next week, which could increase moisture deficits and worsen conditions on the ground.

4) Below-average rain over the past four consecutive weeks has led to large moisture deficits and poor ground conditions over portions of the Nampula province of northern Mozambique.

5) A poorly-distributed rain since late February has increased rainfall deficits and resulted in abnormal dryness across central and northeastern Ethiopia. Scattered light to moderate rain is forecast in the region during the next week but it may not be sufficient to overcome deficits.

A poor progress of the March-May rainfall season observed over northern Ethiopia.

In the Greater Horn of Africa, a comparison of the cumulative rain since late February with the long-term average has indicated that central and northeastern Ethiopia has received poor and below-average rain, while its southern counterpart has accumulated favorable and above-average rain (**Figure 1**). Based on rainfall data from the Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency, rainfall amounts between 25-50 mm were recorded over the Oromiya and SNNPR of southern Ethiopia, while rainfall amounts between 5-25 mm only were registered over the north-central. The uneven rainfall distribution over the past thirty days has resulted in deficits ranging between 10-50 mm even exceeding 50 mm over some areas of central Ethiopia. In contrast, rainfall surpluses between 50-200 mm were observed to the south from southern Ethiopia, Kenya, parts of southern Somalia, to Tanzania.

Over southern Africa, large thirty-day negative anomalies persisted over northwestern Angola, portions of northern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar due to a significant decrease in rainfall since late February. Conversely, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over the central portions of southern Africa, including southern Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, central South Africa, and much of Mozambique. As rain is, generally, expected to gradually subside over southern Africa during the upcoming months, continued decreased rain is likely to worsen conditions over the dry portions of the sub-region. Farther north, in the Horn of Africa, insufficient rain also would negatively impact agricultural and pastoral activities during the March-May rainfall season.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 26 – March 27, 2018

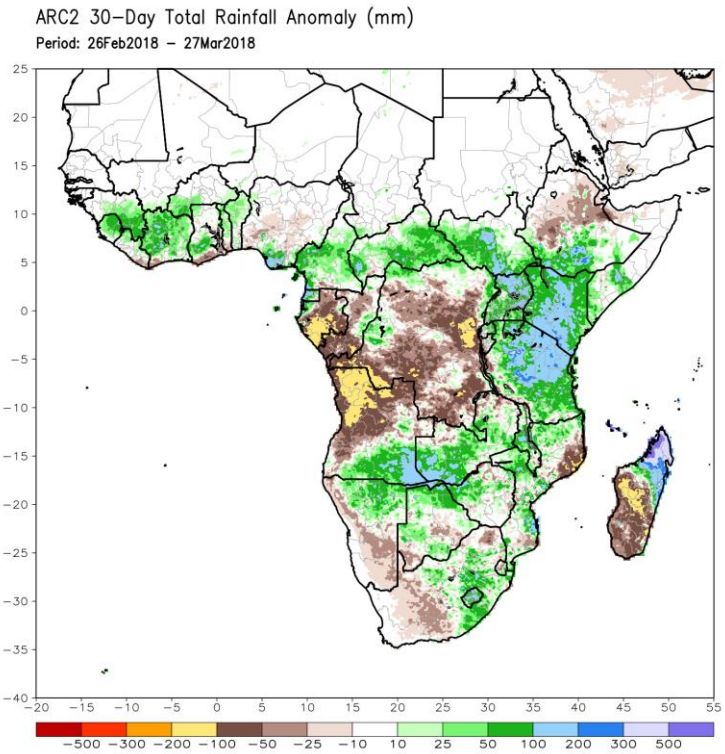


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Heavy downpours caused flooding over the Gauteng Province of South Africa during the past week.

From March 21-27, abundant rain fell over southern Angola, northern Namibia, and central South Africa (**Figure 2**). In South Africa, the torrential and well above-average rain resulted in flooding, disrupted traffic, destroyed homes, and sinkholes. While light to locally moderate rain prevailed elsewhere, limited with little to no rainfall was recorded in northwestern Angola, northern Zimbabwe, southern Zambia, central Mozambique, and central Madagascar.

In the Horn of Africa, scattered moderate to heavy rain continued and was observed over southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia, while limited and reduced rain was registered over north-central Ethiopia. The continuation of wet conditions over the southern portions of Equatorial Eastern Africa may benefit ground conditions over many local areas. However, oversaturation could also cause flooding and threaten the livelihoods of people over some areas.

During the next week, light to locally moderate rain is forecast over Ethiopia, which could help to partially reduce deficits over some local areas. In southern Africa, moderate to heavy rain is expected to continue over Angola and northern Namibia, while suppressed rain is forecast over Botswana and northern South Africa.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: Mar 21 – March 27, 2018

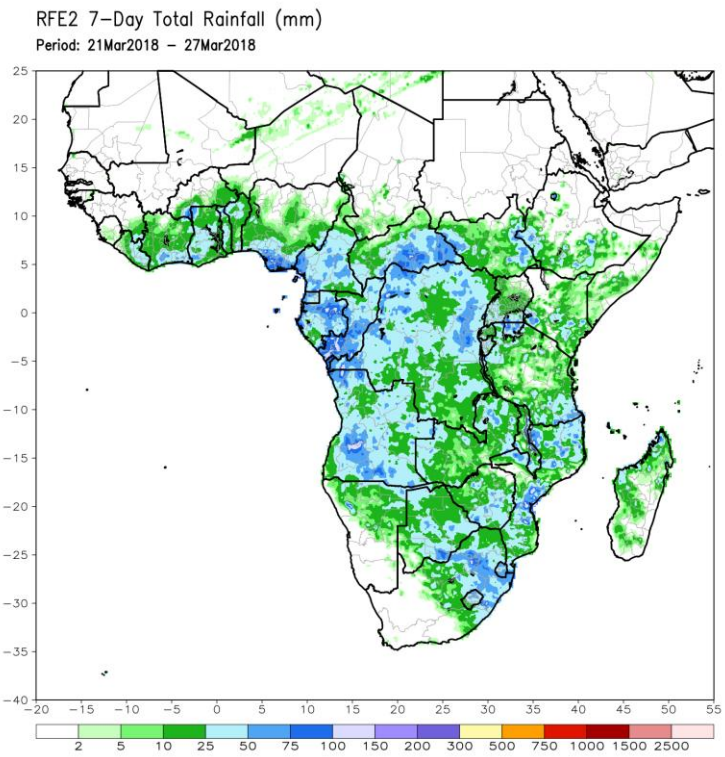


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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