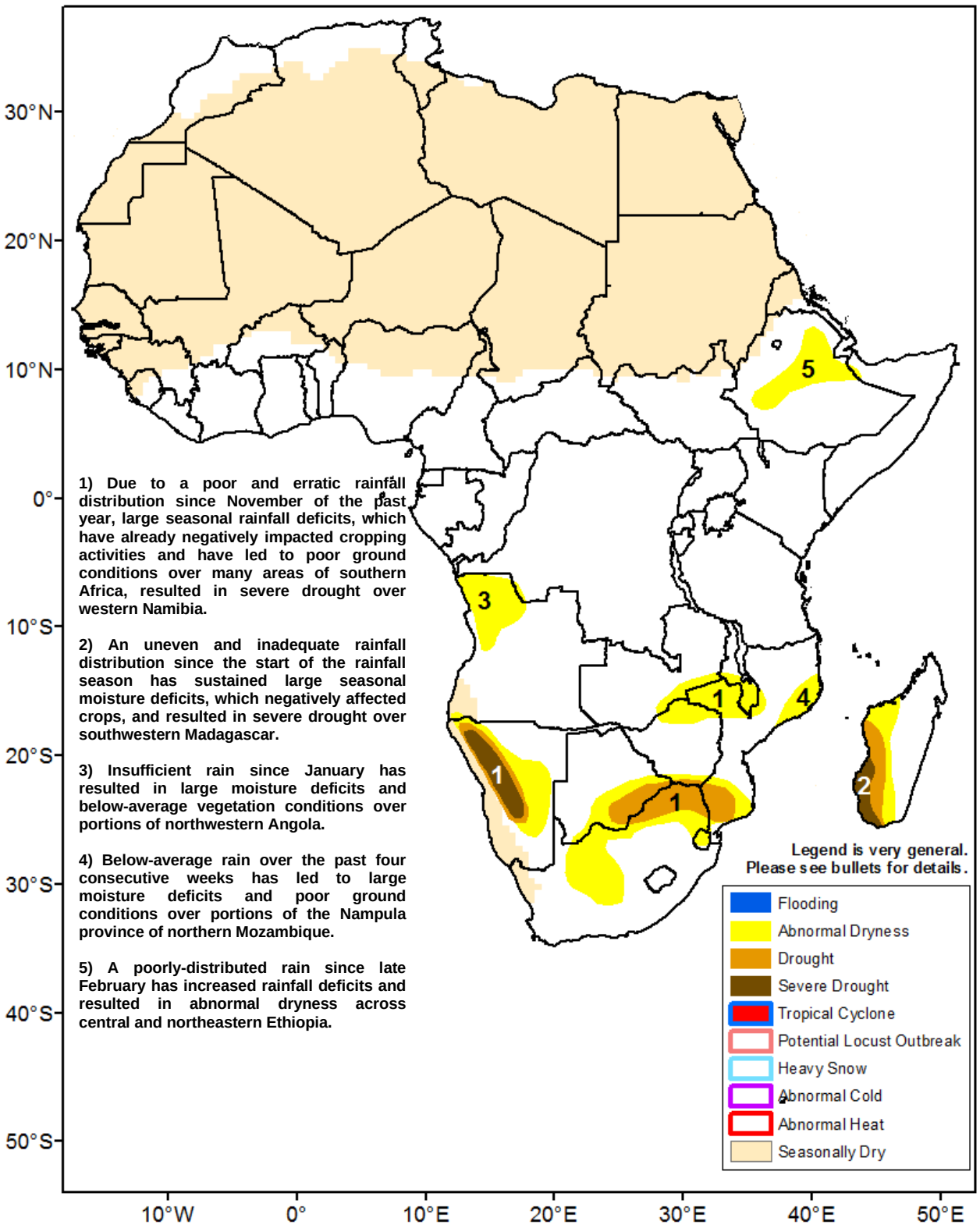
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 5 – April 11, 2018

- **Wetter conditions observed over western Ethiopia with little improvement to dryness over the central and eastern regions of the country.**



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.

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.

Little relief to anomalous dryness over central and northern Ethiopia.

Seasonal rainfall continued throughout the Greater Horn, with increased precipitation amounts over the western regions of Ethiopia, and decreased amounts over the southern region compared to the previous couple of weeks. Lighter rainfall accumulations were also received across many parts of Uganda and western Kenya following heavy, flood inducing rains earlier in March. However, locally moderate to heavy rainfall was observed over the Tana River and Garissa provinces in the southeast. In Somalia, light to locally moderate rainfall was received over the Jubba and Shabelle River basins according to satellite rainfall estimates (**Figure 1**).

Over the last several weeks, a north-south oriented dipole anomaly pattern has developed throughout Ethiopia, as heavy and frequent rainfall has led to above-average moisture conditions in the south, and erratic and poorly distributed rains have resulted in anomalous dryness in the north (**Figure 2**). Since early March, the largest moisture deficits remain concentrated in the northern Oromia, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, with many local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the month of March. The continuation of suppressed precipitation in April is likely to adversely impact ground conditions and cropping activities, as there is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains begin their cessation in May over the region.

Further south, significantly high moisture surpluses (100-200mm) have encompassed much of Kenya and northern Tanzania due to torrential rainfall amounts that fell several weeks ago. Although rains have gradually decreased during the last dekad in March, saturated ground conditions are likely to sustain the risk for localized flash floods and river basin inundation over Kenya.

For the upcoming outlook period, a significant increase in the quantity and distribution of seasonal rainfall is forecast over Ethiopia according to the latest model data. Widespread weekly accumulations in excess of 50mm are expected throughout southern and eastern Ethiopia, with higher amounts also expected across northern and southern Somalia during early April.

High late-season rains provide some relief to anomalous dryness over southern Africa.

For the second consecutive week, enhanced rainfall amounts were registered over much of southwestern Africa, which has helped to mitigate seasonal dryness over parts of southern Angola and northern Namibia. Torrential and possibly flood inducing rainfall amounts were also registered over central Mozambique, where some local areas recorded over 150mm during the last week.

During the next week, heavy rainfall is expected to continue over southern and central Angola with the potential for locally heavy rainfall amounts in northwestern Namibia. While this could help to reduce short-term deficits, drought-like conditions are expected to for the remainder of the season towards the south. Elsewhere in southern Africa, generally seasonable rainfall is forecast.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 28 – April 3, 2018

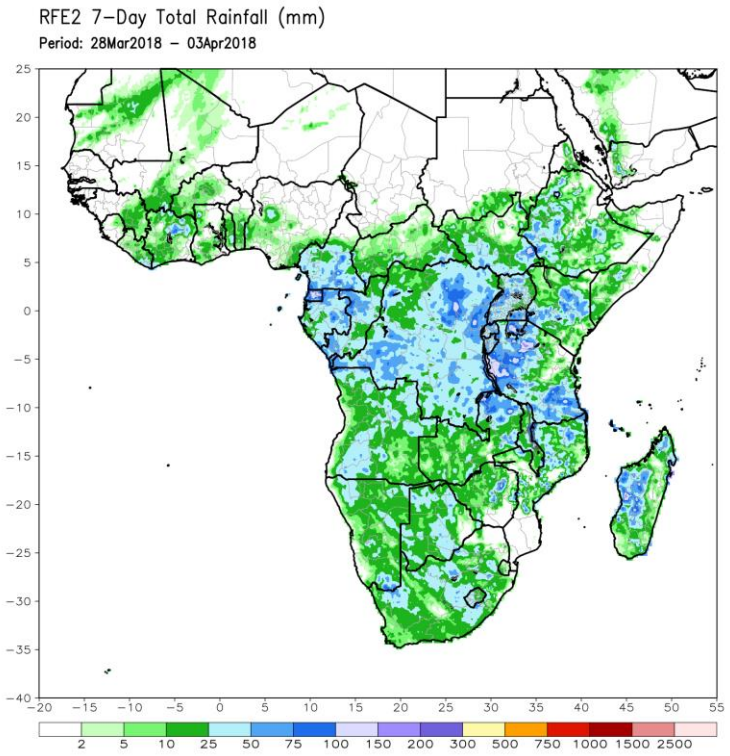


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 5 – April 3, 2018

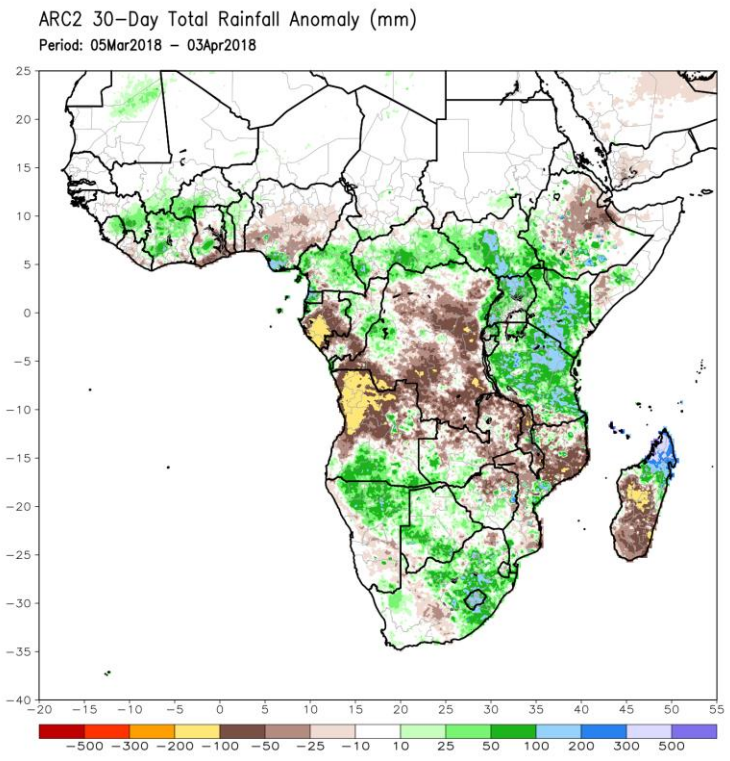


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.