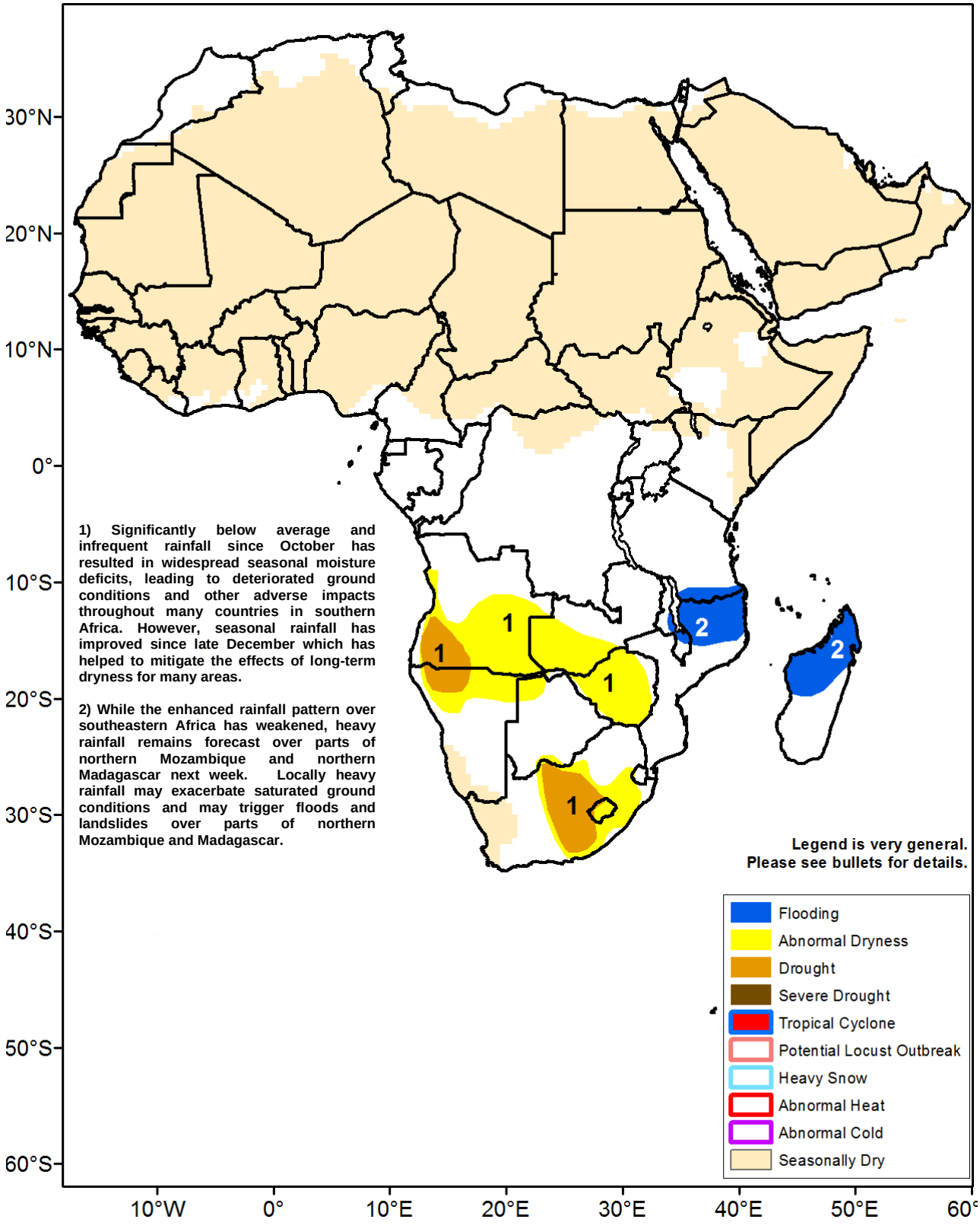
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
## January 31 – February 6, 2019

- **Widespread, enhanced rainfall continues over parts of Mozambique and Madagascar.**
- **Anomalous dryness strengthens over parts of Angola and Namibia.**



**Heavy rains received over northern Mozambique, Madagascar.**

The persistently broad area of enhanced monsoon precipitation over southeastern Africa has weakened over the last seven days, however, several regions in Mozambique and Madagascar still received heavy rainfall accumulations. According to satellite rainfall estimates, weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm were registered over northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique, with increased amounts (>25mm) also received over South Africa (**Figure 1**). While most of the monsoon activity was concentrated over the Mozambique Channel, convective inactivity and much lesser rainfall accumulations (<25mm) were observed further west across southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Throughout January, the spatial extent of the enhanced precipitation pattern has varied. Some areas are expected to benefit from improved mid-seasonal rainfall that had previously been absent, delayed or insufficient since last October. Other areas, however, have experienced too much rainfall resulting which has already resulted in flooding, damages to infrastructure, landslides and fatalities within the last month. Specifically, portions of central and southern Mozambique and northern Madagascar have experienced one of the wettest January's on record.

With the large increase in seasonal rains over the past 30 days, near normal precipitation conditions can be seen throughout Zambia, portions of Zimbabwe, and Malawi. Favorably above-average moisture conditions remain across eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, western Tanzania, and southern Madagascar (**Figure 2**). Latest remotely sensed vegetation health indices also reflect moisture recovery with much needed positive changes over these regions.

However, much of southwestern Africa has not experienced any favorable increase in moisture, which has resulted in poor percent of normal values over Angola, Namibia, and western South Africa. Many of these areas experiencing dryness over the past 30 days are also registering below-average precipitation amounts since late October. Namely, many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, western and central South Africa, and southern Zimbabwe have received near record lows in precipitation quantities for last 90 days. Here, season to date rainfall also remains less than a quarter of normal. With little increase in moisture during January, drought conditions are likely to strengthen for many of these regions.

For the end of January and early February, models suggest a continuation of a broad area of monsoon convergence extending from central Angola eastward to northern Madagascar. Many areas in Angola, Zambia, southern DRC, Malawi, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar are forecast to receive weekly amounts in excess of 50mm, with the potential for locally heavier totals (>100mm) over northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar which may trigger flooding next week. Portions of eastern South Africa and Lesotho are also expected to receive enhanced rainfall next week. Conversely, a broad area of suppressed rainfall is forecast towards the south, with limited precipitation amounts (<25mm) expected for southern Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. It is likely the decreased rainfall over southwestern Africa will strengthen drought conditions into February.

**7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)**
**Valid: January 23 – January 29, 2019**

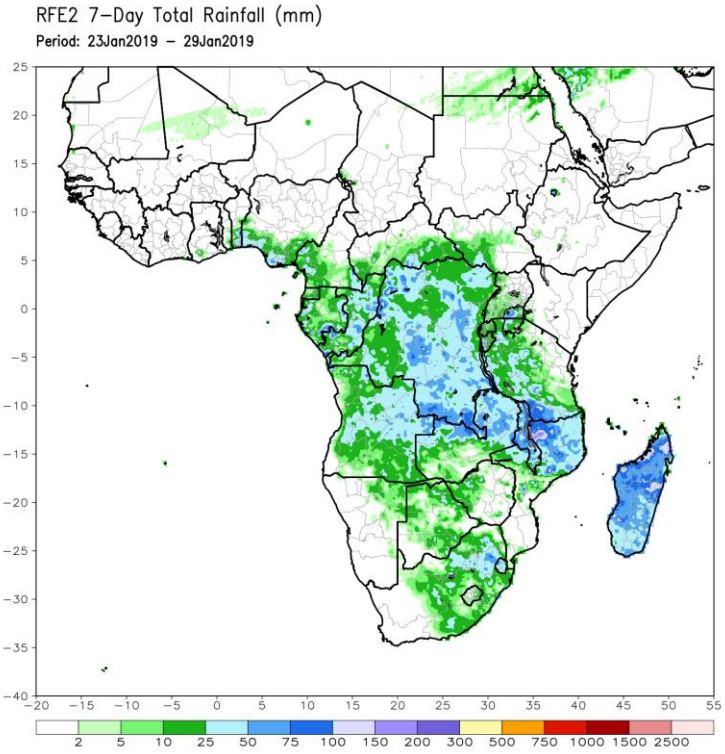



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**30-Day Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)**
**Valid: December 31, 2018 – January 29, 2019**

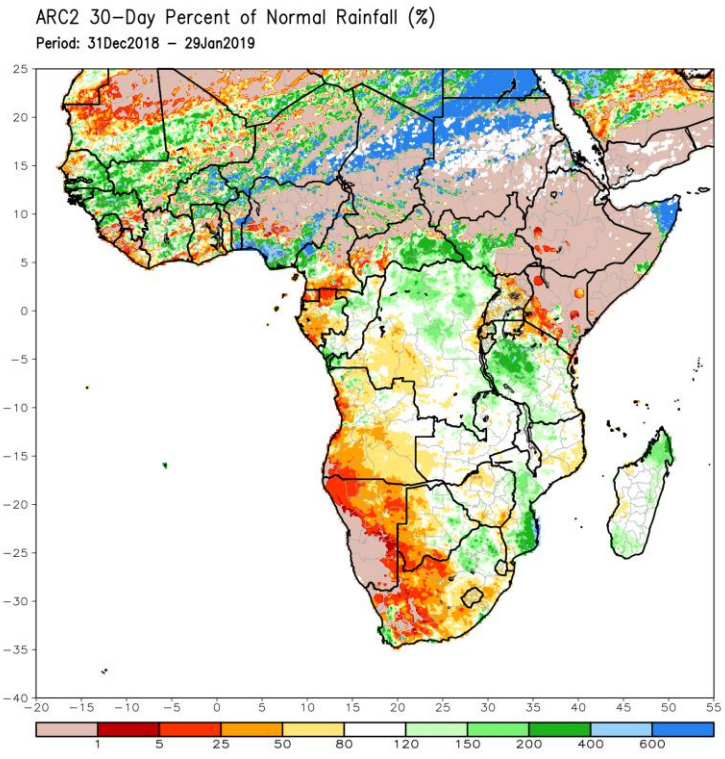



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**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.