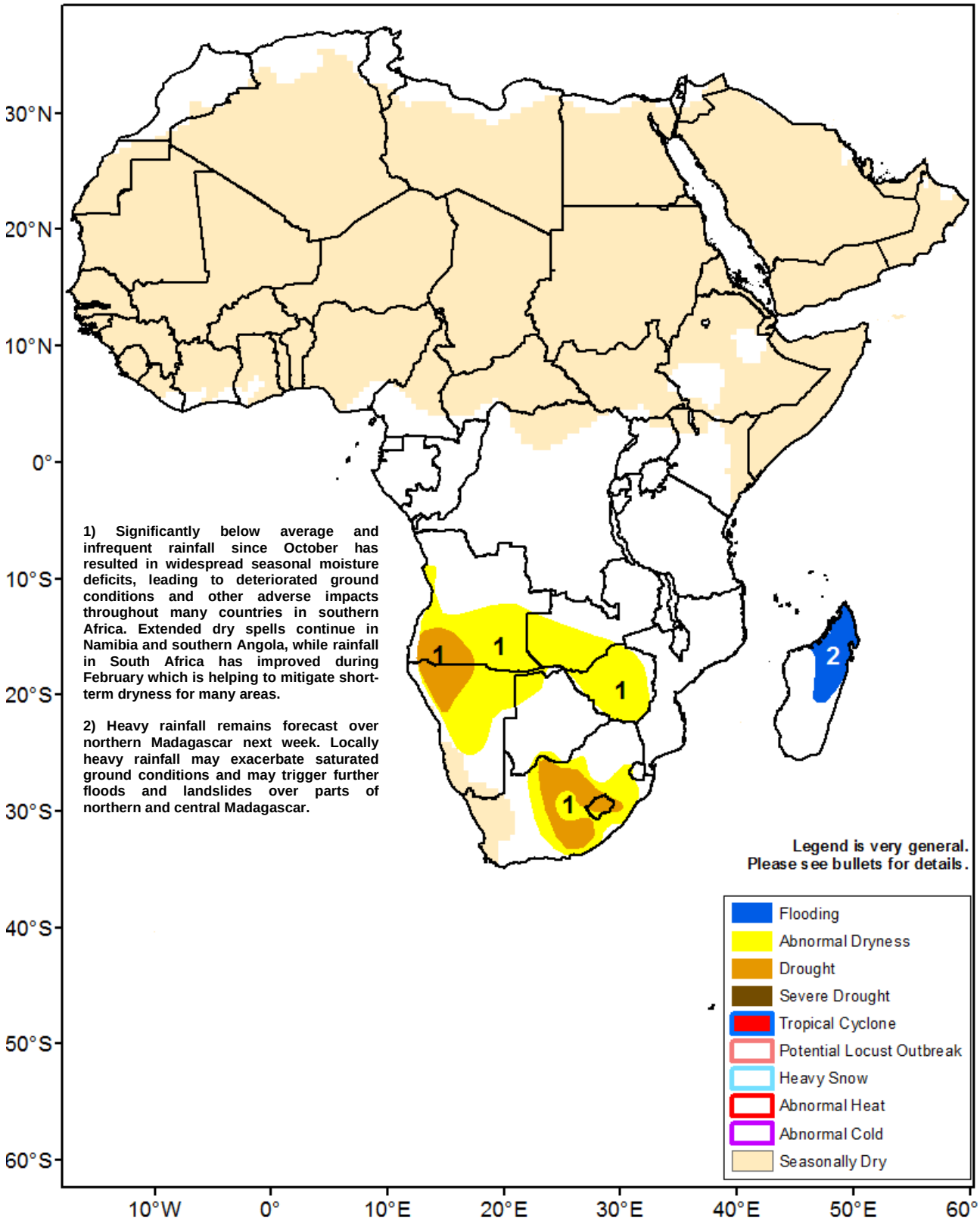
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 14 - 20, 2019

- **Enhanced rainfall continues over parts of Malawi, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar.**
- **Abnormal dryness and drought strengthens over parts of Angola and Namibia.**



Heavy rains received over northern Mozambique, Malawi, and Madagascar for another week.

Similar to the previous week, many portions of Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Madagascar received heavy rainfall. According to satellite rainfall estimates, weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm were registered over northern Madagascar, Zambia, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, with increased amounts (>50mm) also received over northern Angola, and central Botswana (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, lesser and suppressed accumulations were observed over many parts of Namibia, southern Angola, southern Zambia, eastern Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Many areas of Mozambique and southern Madagascar received no rainfall at all.

With a large increase in seasonal rains over the past 30 days, wetter than normal precipitation conditions are observed throughout parts of Zambia, northern Mozambique, northern Tanzania, and Malawi. Torrential rains are blamed for recent flooding issues in Antananarivo, Madagascar, but nothing has been reported recently on the mainland, despite continued heavy rainfall. Besides favorably above-average moisture conditions in those regions, moisture surpluses are also evident in southeastern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, and a few local areas in South Africa (**Figure 2**). Local surpluses in South Africa are reflective of recent increases in rainfall over the past 2 weeks. Despite short-term recovery, deficits persist over the longer 90-day period.

However, much of southwestern Africa has not experienced any favorable increase in moisture, which has resulted in extremely poor percent of normal values over southern Angola, Namibia, western South Africa, and western Botswana. Many of these areas experiencing dryness over the past 30 days are also registering below-average precipitation amounts since early November. Namely, many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, western South Africa, and northern Zimbabwe have received near-record lows in precipitation quantities for the last 90 days. Here, season to date rainfall also remains less than a quarter of normal. With little increase in moisture during early February, drought conditions have strengthened and are likely to continue to for many of these regions. Ground impacts from extended dry spells and low totals are strongly reflected by poor values in vegetation health indices.

Madagascar experienced an uneven beginning to the precipitation season during late 2018. This was followed by a wet period during January and broad moisture recovery. The pattern has switched again, with a few weeks of suppressed rainfall in southern and central areas now reflected by negative 30 and 90-day anomalies.

A pattern shift is expected for the upcoming outlook period with weather models showing monsoon convergence moving farther south. This will bring increased rainfall to areas that have been unseasonably dry for the past few weeks. Many areas in southern Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, central/southern Mozambique, and eastern South Africa are forecast to receive weekly amounts in excess of 50mm, with well more than 100mm possible. Meanwhile southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique should receive a welcome reprieve to the heavy rains. Elsewhere, dry conditions are expected to remain in Namibia and Southern Angola, extending dry spells in that region. Madagascar is forecast to experience seasonably wet conditions with favorable moisture returning to southern parts of the country.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: February 6 – February 12, 2019

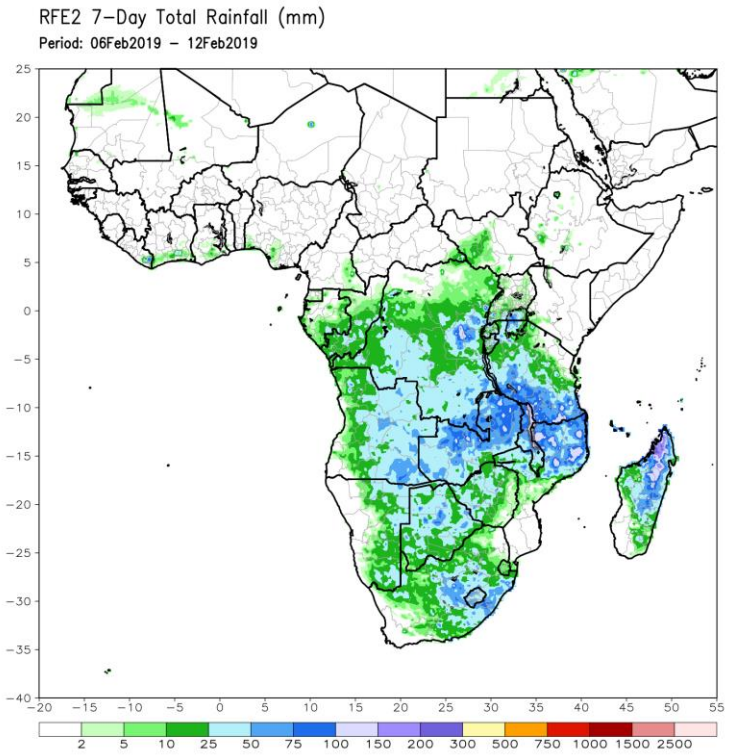


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: January 14, 2018 – February 12, 2019

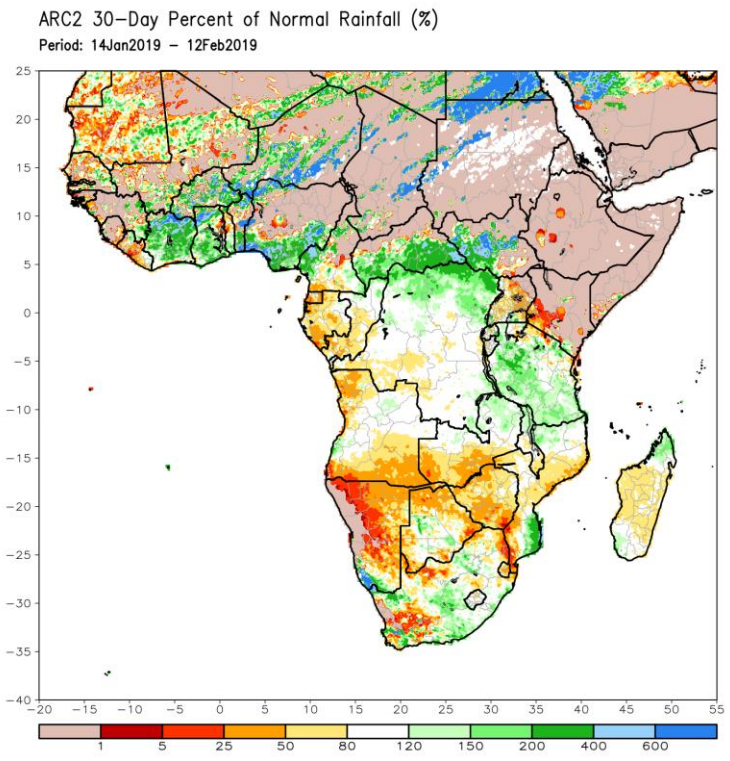


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.