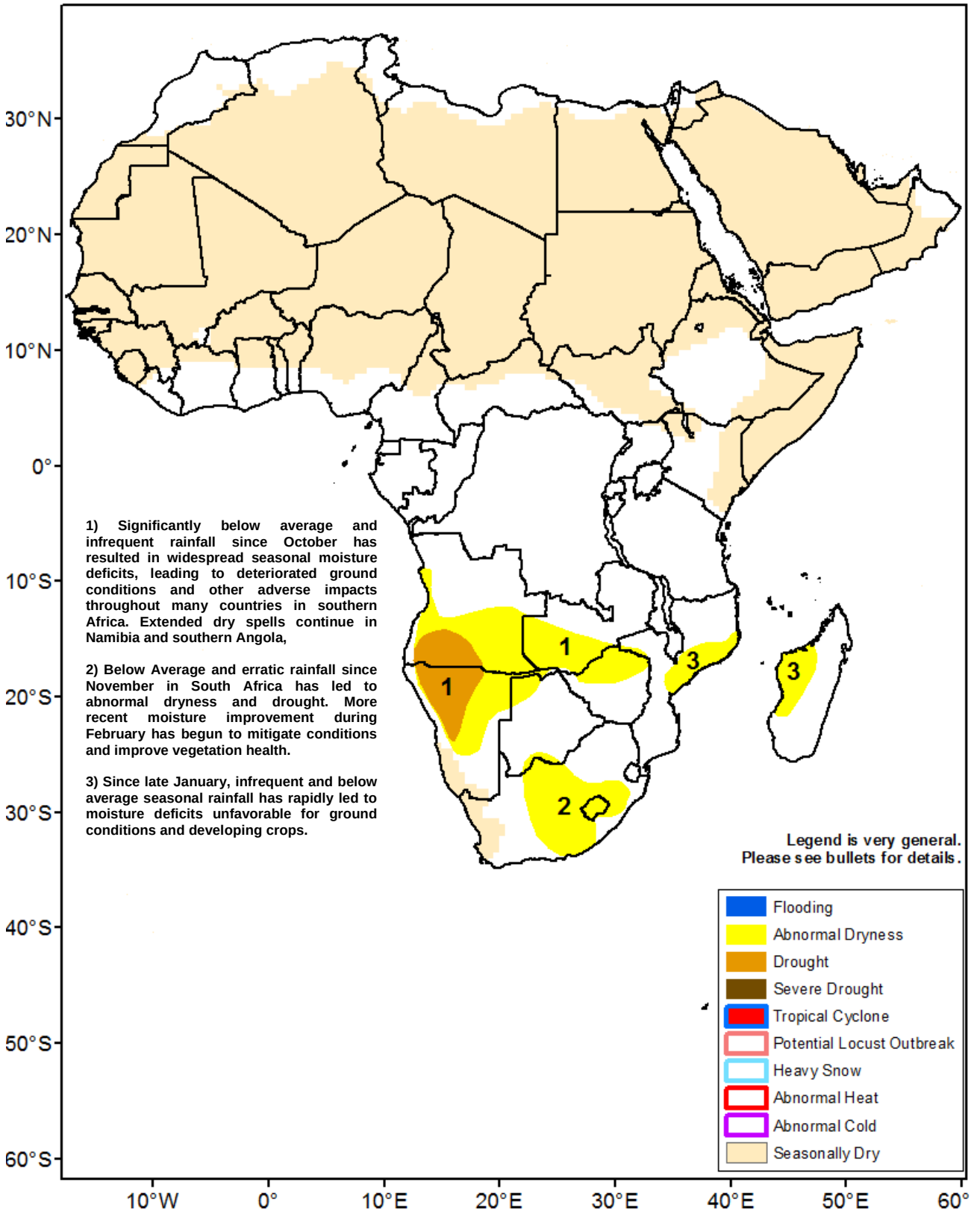
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 28 – March 6, 2019

- **Poor rainfall since late January has led to strengthening dryness in parts of southeastern Africa.**
- **Early season favorable rainfall received across parts of Ethiopia.**



Broadly suppressed southern African rains strengthen anomalous dryness over many areas.

An anomalously northward shift in the monsoonal convergence left many southern African countries without seasonal precipitation during the last week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the heaviest weekly rainfall accumulations were received over parts of eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, Tanzania and the Lake Victoria region, where several local areas registered amounts in excess of 100mm. There were reports of fatalities and property loss due to flooding in Homa Bay, along the Kenyan banks of Lake Victoria. Lesser, but well distributed rainfall (25-50mm) was observed further west across much of DRC, northern Angola and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. However, a broad area of little to no rainfall was observed across southern Angola, Namibia, southern Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and central Mozambique (**Figure 1**).

The large scale lack of seasonal precipitation during the last week was quite unfavorable and has led to a strengthening of anomalous dryness over several southern African regions. From November to February, persistently absent rainfall over southern Angola and Namibia has resulted in drought like conditions with little opportunity for adequate moisture recovery before the end of season. In many parts of western Zambia and Zimbabwe, increased rainfall during early January helped to relieve early season dryness, however, seasonal rainfall has since been suppressed, resulting in a re-strengthening of anomalous dryness. Further east, a prolonged dry spell since mid-January has also led a rapid development of moisture deficits, as several local areas in the Sofala, Zambezia, and Nampula provinces of Mozambique have experienced more than 100mm deficits in precipitation since late January (**Figure 2**). Similar conditions have also been observed across parts of western Madagascar.

For the upcoming outlook period, models generally suggest a continuation of last week's anomalous monsoonal pattern with broadly suppressed rainfall over much of southern Africa, and the potential for enhanced rainfall further north. Light to locally moderate rainfall amounts (5-25mm) are expected over southern Angola, Namibia, western Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, with moderate to locally heavy precipitation amounts (50-75mm) forecast for parts of Tanzania, northern Angola, and southern Kenya. Heavy rainfall is also forecast for many parts of Madagascar over the course of the week.

Parts of Ethiopia received favorable early season rainfall.

As the southern Africa monsoon has begun its seasonal transition towards the north, increased amounts of rainfall have been observed across eastern equatorial Africa and in parts of the Greater Horn. Satellite rainfall estimates during the last week show a favorable, average to above-average distribution of accumulated rainfall over Ethiopia, with amounts ranging between 25-75mm over the SNNP and western Oromia region, with lesser amounts across the higher elevations of the Amhara and Tigray. For the upcoming outlook period, models indicate a continuation of seasonable moisture amounts into early March.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: February 20 – February 26, 2019

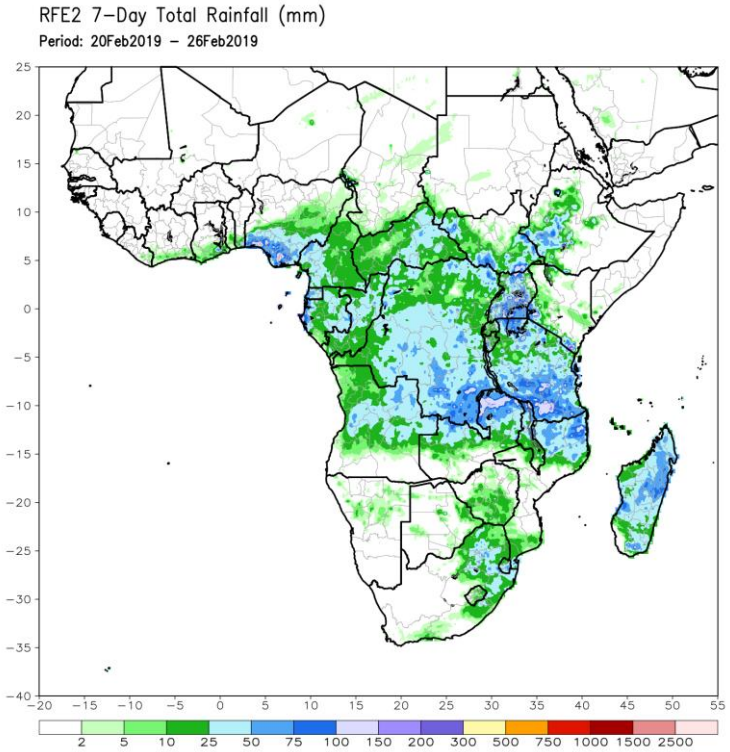


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 27, 2019 – February 25, 2019

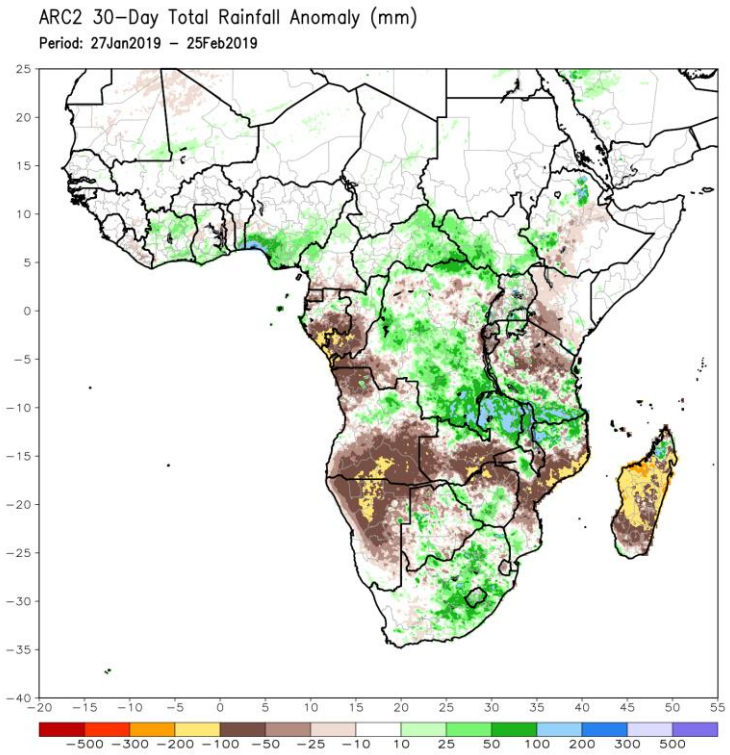


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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