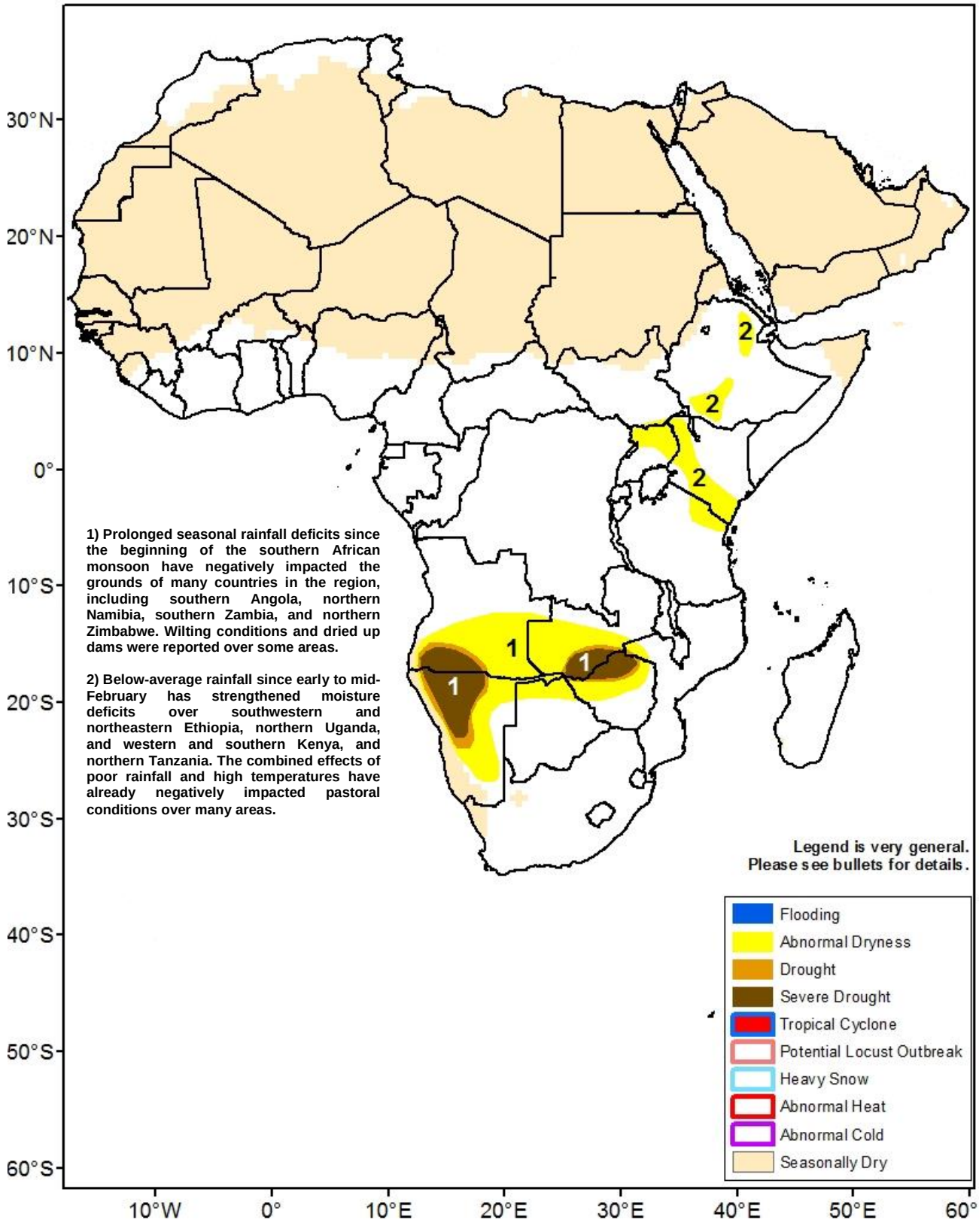
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 4 – 10, 2019

- **Short-term moisture deficits increased over the dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa.**
- **Enhanced rainfall fell over Namibia during the past week, but long-term droughts have remained.**



Increased rainfall observed over equatorial eastern Africa

During late March, an increase in rainfall distribution was observed over the Horn of Africa relative to that of the previous observation period. While widespread light to locally moderate rainfall fell throughout central and northern Kenya, southern Somalia, western and central Ethiopia, little to no rainfall was received over northern Tanzania, southern Kenya, and coastal areas of southern Somalia (**Figure 1**). Despite this past week's enhanced rainfall, the four-consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall has led to strengthening moisture deficits over Uganda, southern South Sudan, western and southern Kenya, northern Tanzania, southern and northeastern Ethiopia.

Over Kenya, the recent increase in moisture might have helped replenish moisture over the central areas of the country, thus benefiting pastoral activities in the region. In Ethiopia, according to ground reports, areas to the south west and north east of the Belg, March-May, rainfall season have received favorable moisture, whereas below-average and dry conditions have prevailed elsewhere during the second dekad (10-day period) of March. A continuation of favorable, seasonal rainfall distribution is needed over the upcoming weeks to provide relief over the dry portions and sustain adequate soil moisture for cropping activities of eastern Africa. During the next outlook period, the passage of mid-latitude systems is expected to bring moderate to locally heavy rainfall over a wide area of southern and central Ethiopia. In contrast, little to suppressed rainfall is forecast to return over Kenya, northern Uganda, and northern Tanzania.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: March 27 – April 2, 2019

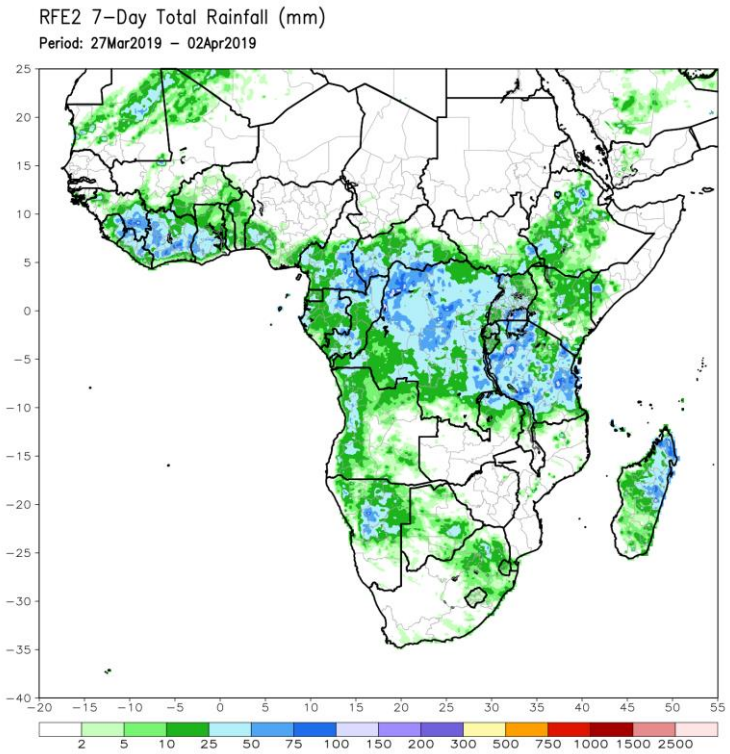


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Dry conditions observed and expected to continue over a wide area of southern Africa

During March, dry conditions persisted across the northern and central portions of southern Africa. Significant (> 50 mm) rainfall deficits extended from Angola, Zambia, northern Namibia, northern Botswana, to northern Zimbabwe over the past thirty days (**Figure 2**). In contrast, wetness, which resulted from the passage of Tropical cyclone Idai, affected central and northern Mozambique, southern Malawi, and western Madagascar. During late March, while suppressed rainfall continued over a wide area of southern Africa, including southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the southern thirds of Mozambique, enhanced and heavy rainfall was received over central Namibia. This has helped to reduce or eliminate thirty-day rainfall deficits over central Namibia, but long-term moisture deficits have remained across much of the country. As the Inter-tropical convergence zone, main rain-bearing system, continues its northward movement, rainfall is expected to gradually subside over the sub-region and recovery is highly unlikely.

An analysis of biomass conditions from recent remote sensing products has showed further deterioration over southern Angola and Namibia, indicating acute dryness and droughts resulting from an uneven and poor seasonal rainfall distribution. During the next outlook period, widespread moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast over central South Africa, which could trigger flash flood. Heavy rainfall is also expected to continue over southern and coastal areas of Tanzania. Little to suppressed rainfall is forecast elsewhere.

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 4 – April 2, 2019

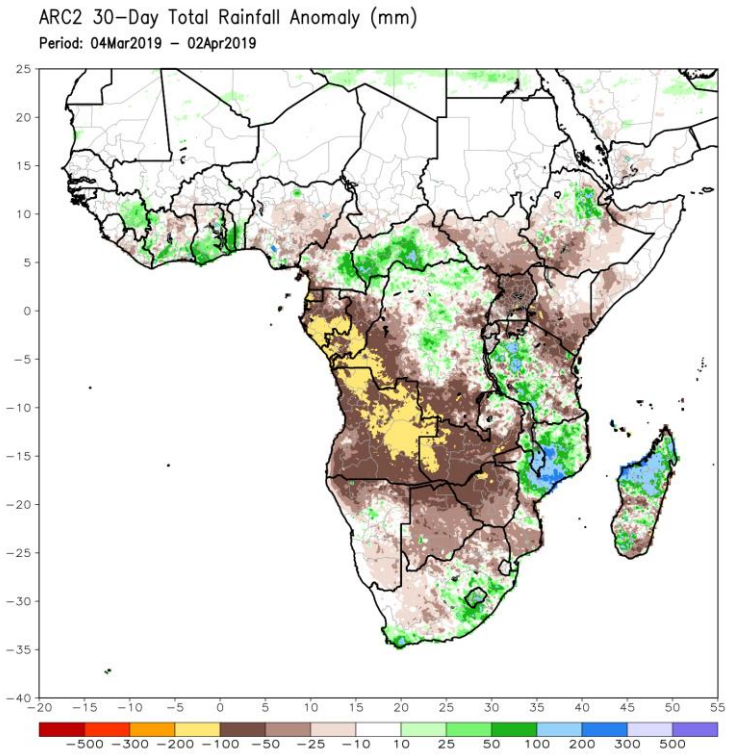


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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