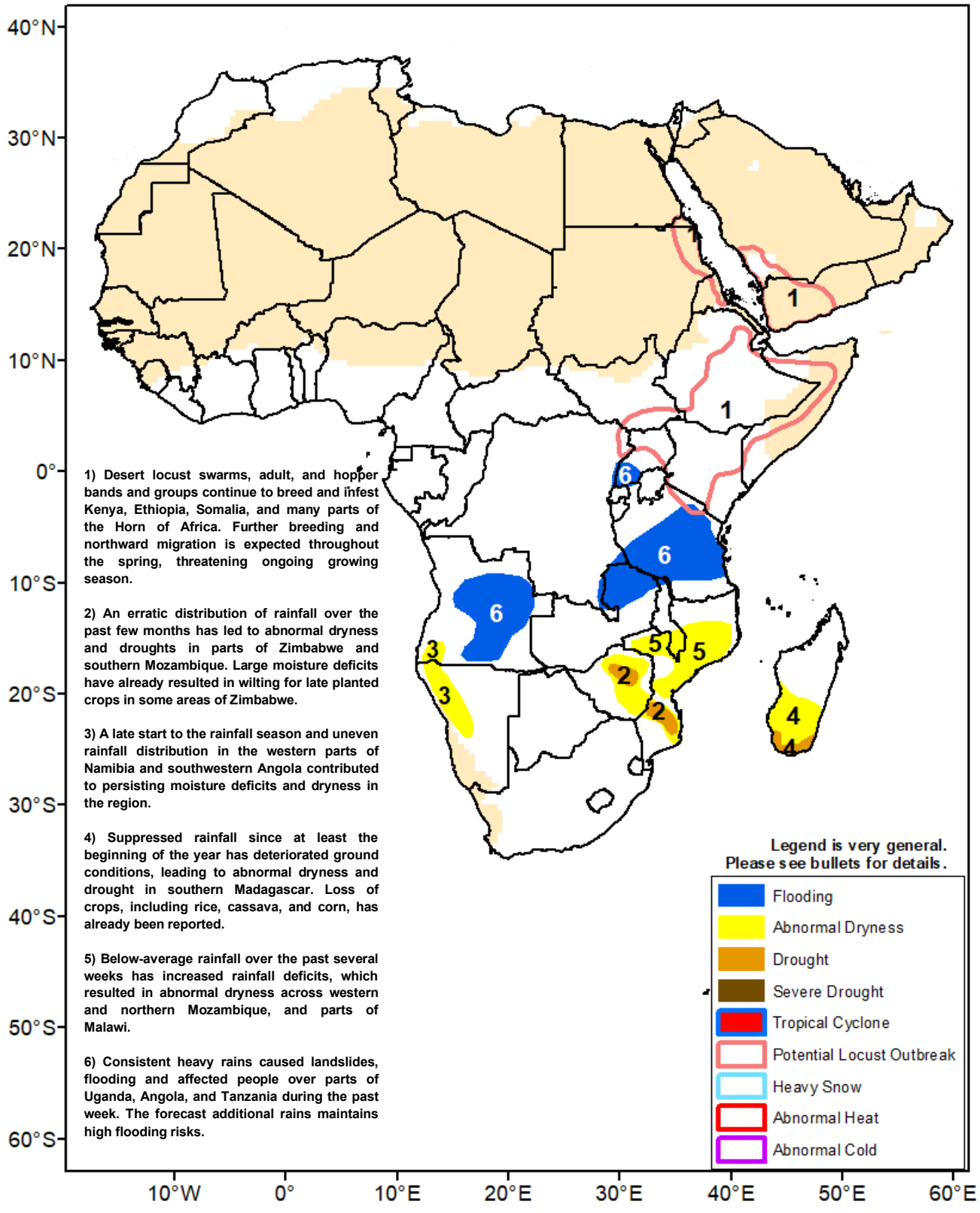
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 26 – April 1, 2020

- **Ongoing desert locust outbreak threatens the Horn of Africa March-May season despite recent favorable rains.**
- **Consistent rains triggered flooding and affected people over many local areas of southern and eastern Africa.**



1) Desert locust swarms, adult, and hopper bands and groups continue to breed and infest Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and many parts of the Horn of Africa. Further breeding and northward migration is expected throughout the spring, threatening ongoing growing season.

2) An erratic distribution of rainfall over the past few months has led to abnormal dryness and droughts in parts of Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. Large moisture deficits have already resulted in wilting for late planted crops in some areas of Zimbabwe.

3) A late start to the rainfall season and uneven rainfall distribution in the western parts of Namibia and southwestern Angola contributed to persisting moisture deficits and dryness in the region.

4) Suppressed rainfall since at least the beginning of the year has deteriorated ground conditions, leading to abnormal dryness and drought in southern Madagascar. Loss of crops, including rice, cassava, and corn, has already been reported.

5) Below-average rainfall over the past several weeks has increased rainfall deficits, which resulted in abnormal dryness across western and northern Mozambique, and parts of Malawi.

6) Consistent heavy rains caused landslides, flooding and affected people over parts of Uganda, Angola, and Tanzania during the past week. The forecast additional rains maintains high flooding risks.

Wetter-than-average conditions observed over much of the Horn of Africa

Since January 1 to present, a favorable rainfall distribution has resulted in wetter-than-average conditions, with positive rainfall anomalies exceeding 50 mm across much of the Horn of Africa. Above-average rainfall was recorded in many parts, including eastern South Sudan, southwestern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, Uganda, and much of Kenya (**Figure 1**).During the past week, enhanced with moderate to locally heavy rains fell over much of those above-mentioned areas, which contributed to partially erode rainfall deficits in parts of eastern Ethiopia. In contrast, small deficits persisted over the northeastern and southern parts of Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and southern Somalia.

Despite widespread near to above-average vegetation conditions, which were depicted in recent vegetation products, the ongoing widespread desert locust outbreak and continued breeding and swarm formation poses a substantial threat to the March-May growing season and thus, also to food security and livelihoods of people in the region.

During the outlook period, heavy and abundant rains are forecast to continue over the Horn of Africa. Copious amounts of rain are expected over eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, which could even result in localized flooding over some areas. The forecast rains should, however, help reduce and remove short-term deficits over the dry portions of the sub region.

3-Month Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 01 – March 24, 2020

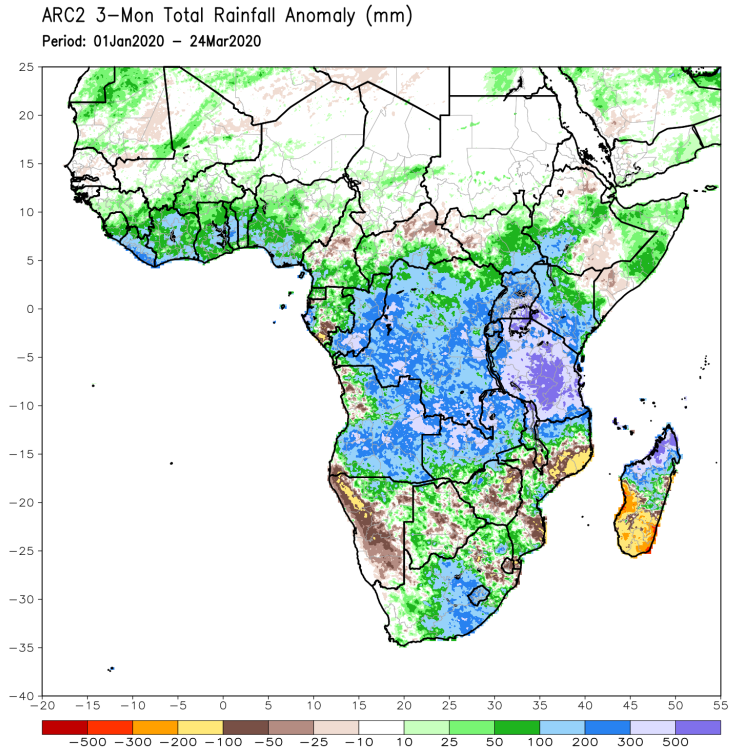


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Consistent rains caused flooding in northern southern Africa, while dryness persisted over the eastern parts.

Following consistent torrential rains over the past several weeks, heavy downpours continued across the northern parts of southern Africa, including eastern and central Angola, northern Zambia, southern DRC, and Tanzania (**Figure 2**). Flooding and affected people were reported in many Provinces of east-central Angola, northern Zambia, and eastern Tanzania during the past week. Moderate to locally heavy rains were also registered over central South Africa, central Namibia, and central Madagascar. The persistent wet weather patterns in northern southern Africa were associated with a broad area of anomalous low-level convergence and upper-level divergence. Conversely, an area of anomalous low-level divergence and upper-level convergence suppressed rainfall across eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, southern Malawi, Mozambique, and parts of western and southern Madagascar.

As a result, wetness prevailed across Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, and northern Madagascar since the beginning of January. Moisture surpluses were also recorded over much of South Africa. In contrast, moderate to large deficits were registered over the central and eastern parts of southern Africa. In the central and southern parts of Malawi, ongoing dryness could adversely impact maize crops.

During the outlook period, heavy rains are forecast to continue across Angola, northern Zambia, and Tanzania, which maintain high risks for flooding over many local areas. Moderate to heavy rains are expected in eastern South Africa and eastern coasts of Madagascar. Yet, suppressed rainfall is forecast to persist in Zimbabwe and western Mozambique, likely to increase deficits in the region.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Totals (mm)
Valid: March 18 – March 24, 2020

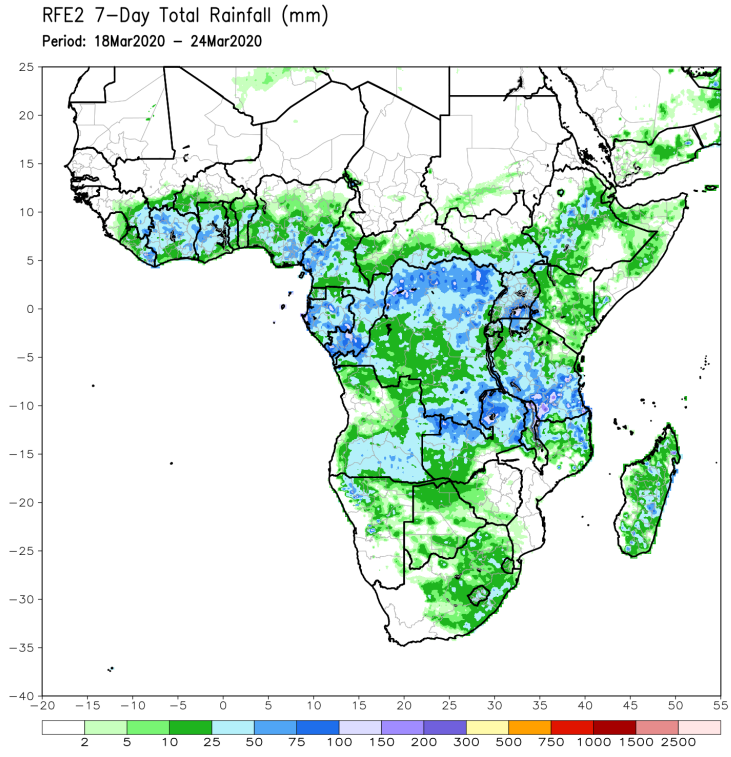


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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