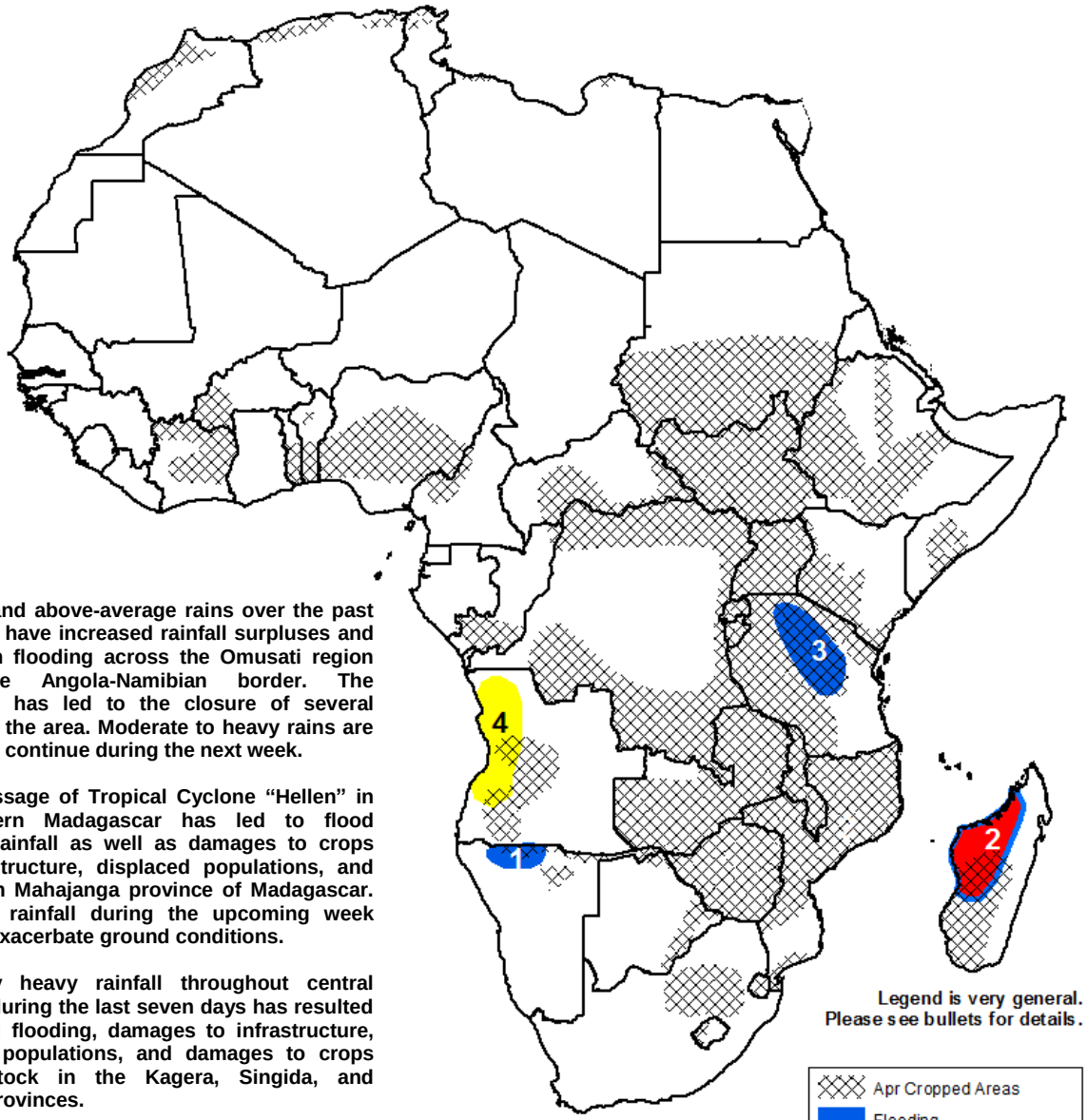
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 3 – April 9, 2014

- **The continued suppression of rainfall suggests an early cessation of the monsoon over parts of southern Africa.**
- **Increased rains observed over the Afar and highland regions of Ethiopia during late March.**



1) Heavy and above-average rains over the past few weeks have increased rainfall surpluses and resulted in flooding across the Omusati region along the Angola-Namibian border. The inundation has led to the closure of several schools in the area. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week.

2) The passage of Tropical Cyclone "Hellen" in northwestern Madagascar has led to flood inducing rainfall as well as damages to crops and infrastructure, displaced populations, and fatalities in Mahajanga province of Madagascar. Additional rainfall during the upcoming week may also exacerbate ground conditions.

3) Locally heavy rainfall throughout central Tanzania during the last seven days has resulted in isolated flooding, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations, and damages to crops and livestock in the Kagera, Singida, and Dodoma provinces.

4) Poorly distributed rainfall over both the short-term and season have led to deteriorating ground conditions in western Angola. These moisture deficits may negatively impact developing crops and pastoral areas.

Reduced rainfall continues throughout southeastern Africa.

During the last seven days, moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation were received throughout many regions of southern Africa. The highest weekly accumulations were observed along the coastlines of eastern Tanzania and northeastern Mozambique. Well-distributed precipitation was also observed across many countries north of Zambia, with moderate to locally heavy totals extending into parts of southern Angola and throughout Namibia. However, an evident reduction of rains was observed in the southeastern region of the continent, as locally moderate rains were limited to parts of the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. Elsewhere, little to no rainfall was again received throughout many parts of eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Zambia, southern Malawi and most of Mozambique (**Figure 1**).

The abrupt reduction of rainfall in southeastern Africa marks the second consecutive week where rains were considerably suppressed. As the core of the monsoonal rains have begun its equatorward withdraw during late March, the recent trend of below-average rainfall near the end of the season may signal an early departure of the monsoon, as there is less opportunity for recovery in regions heading into April. Over the last 30 days, the greatest moisture deficits remain over parts of central Mozambique, Malawi, and eastern Zambia. An early cessation of the monsoon may adversely impact the development of crops and ground conditions in these areas.

For the third consecutive week, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of reduced rainfall across southeastern Africa, which is expected to both sustain and strengthen the anomalously dry conditions in the region. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall is once again forecast over parts of eastern Angola, DRC, and southwestern Tanzania during the next seven days.

Increased seasonal rains observed in parts of Ethiopia.

Since the beginning of February, most regions in the Greater Horn of Africa have received average to above-average rainfall. The wettest areas have been observed throughout south-central Kenya and western Ethiopia, as moisture surpluses have far exceeded 200 percent of normal during the last 30 days. While the distribution of precipitation in East Africa has not been as wet across the *Belg*-producing and Afar regions of Ethiopia, satellite estimated rainfall anomaly differences depict an eastward shift of the seasonal rains during the last two weeks (**Figure 2**). Above-average rainfall in the SNNP, eastern Oromia and Amhara regions of Ethiopia is expected to be favorable for any areas affected by a delayed start to the *Belg* rains. However, some local areas may continue to experience below-average rainfall since February. Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of average to above-average rainfall throughout much of Ethiopia during early April. Locally heavy rainfall amounts in excess of 50mm may be expected for the SNNP, Oromia, and Amhara regions during the next week (**Figure 3**).

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 23 – March 29, 2014

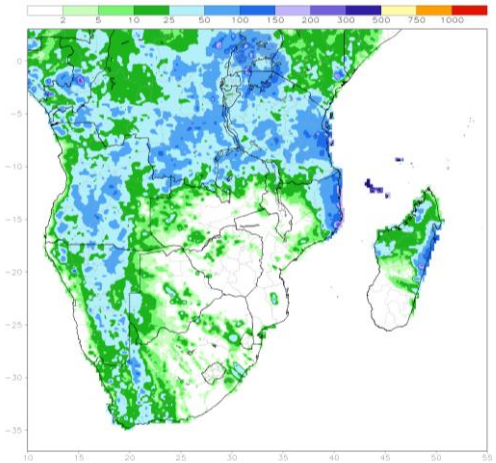


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated 30-Day Rainfall Anomaly Difference (mm)
Valid: February 28 – March 29, 2014

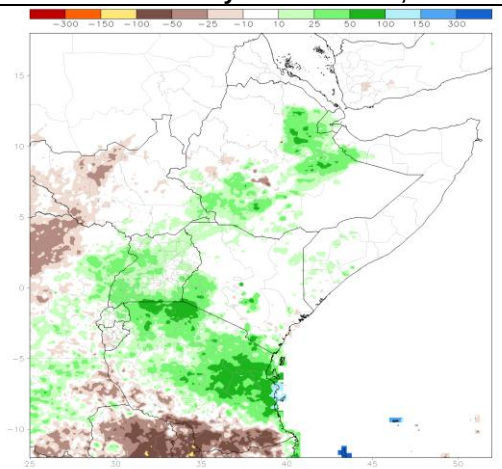


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

GFS Forecast Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 2 – April 9, 2014

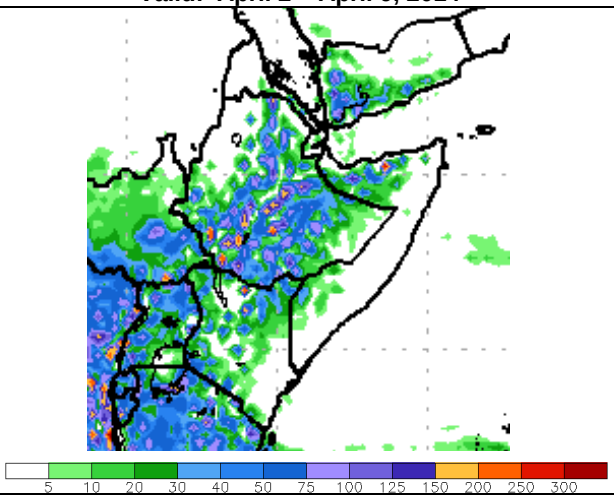


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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