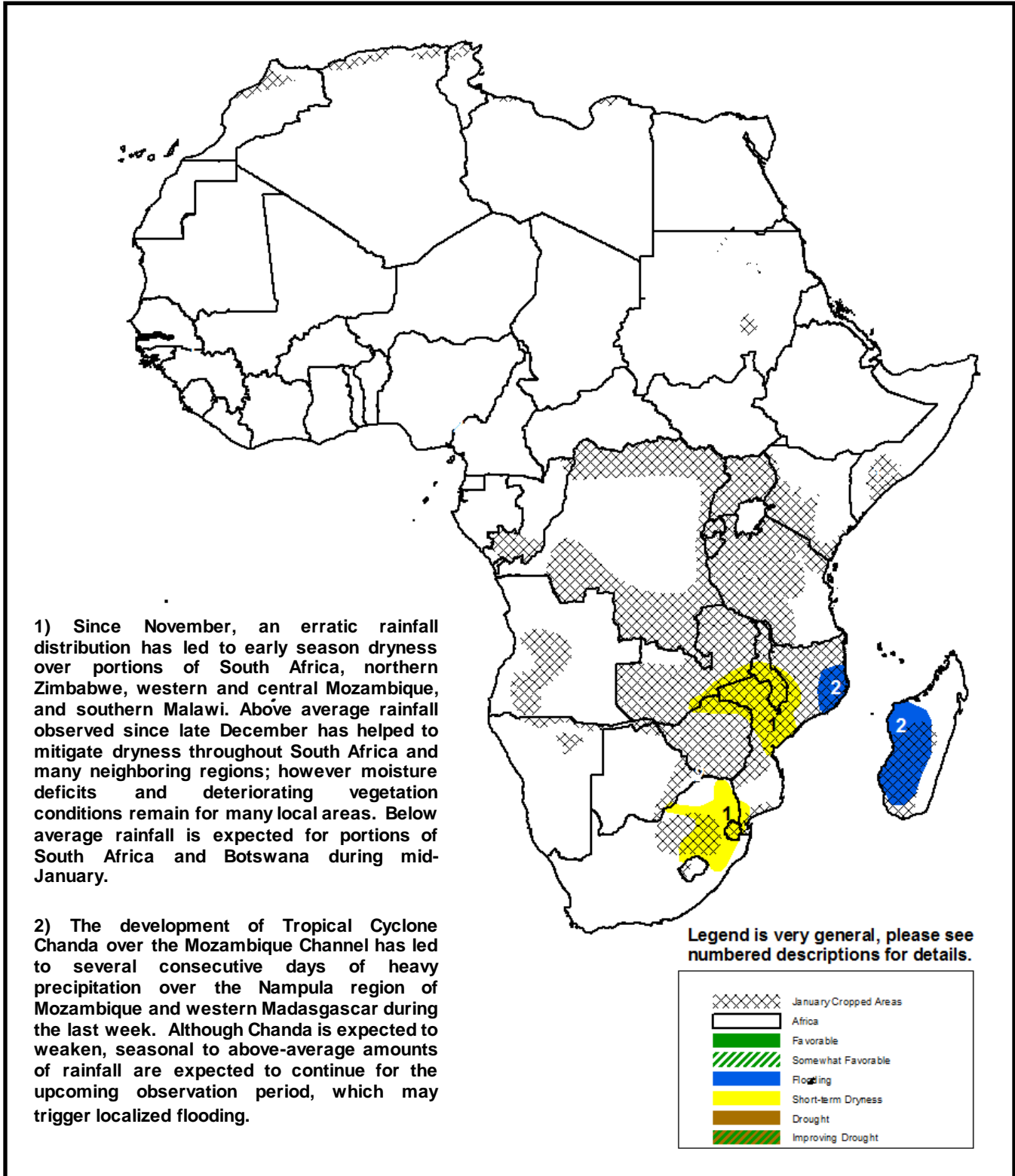


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 12, 2012 – January 18, 2012

- Significantly heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Chanda may lead in localized flooding for many coastal areas in Mozambique and Madagascar.



**Enhanced rains result in improving ground conditions across many parts of southern Africa.**

During the first week of January, significantly heavy amounts of precipitation were observed in southern Africa. The heaviest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were received throughout northern Mozambique and western Madagascar, with locally heavier amounts in excess of 150mm were observed along the coastlines of the Nampula province of Mozambique and in the Mahajanga and Toliara provinces of Madagascar (Figure 1). These rains were associated with the slow development of Tropical Cyclone Changa during the last week. Further south, rainfall was considerably less across southern Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. In southwestern Africa, fair to moderate amounts of rainfall (5-30mm) were observed across Angola, northern Namibia, with locally higher totals observed in southern Zambia.

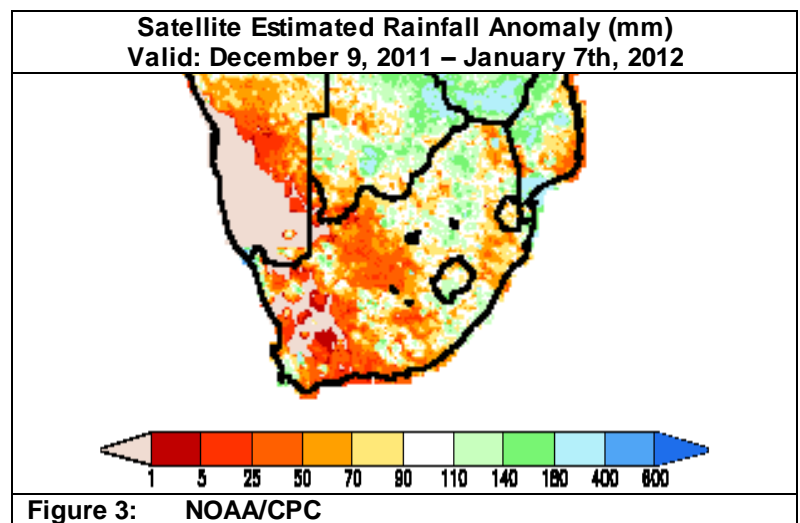
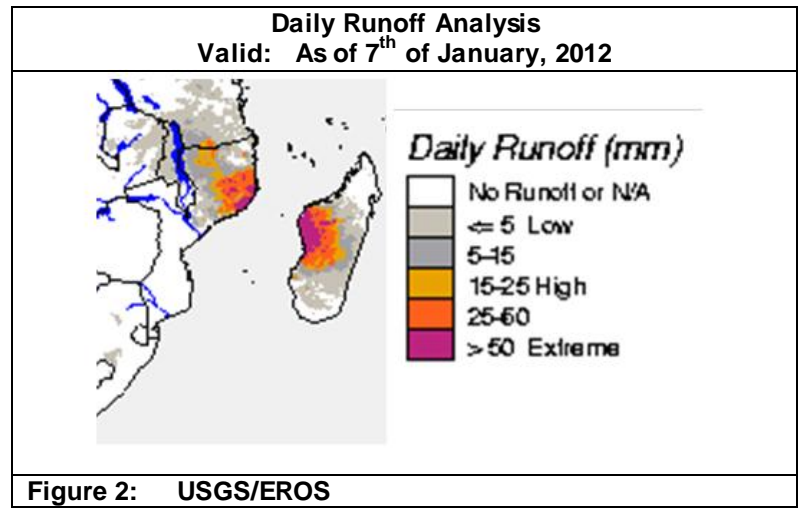
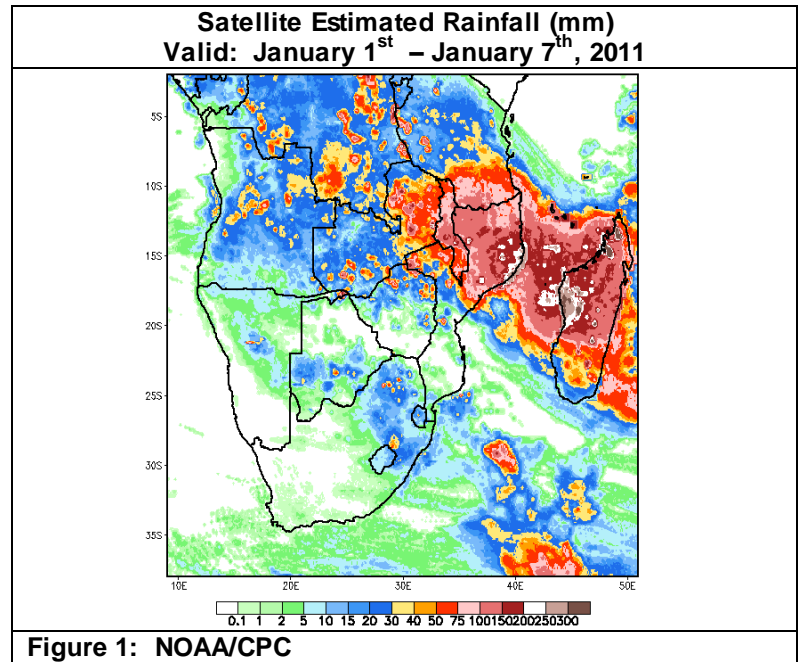
The enhanced rainfall observed in early January over northern Mozambique and Madagascar has helped to relieve seasonal moisture deficits. Many local areas along the Mozambique and Madagascar that had been experiencing nearly half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the season are currently above average after this past week. However, the abrupt increase in rainfall has also led to excessive saturated ground conditions, as high water runoff has been observed particularly along the coastlines of northeastern Mozambique and western Madagascar (Figure 2).

Although Tropical Cyclone Changa is expected to dissipate at the start of the observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of average to above average rainfall over the Mozambique and other neighboring areas during the next week. Any additional rainfall over high runoff areas is expected to produce localized flooding, and may possibly damage crops in development due to overly saturated soils.

**Despite moderate rainfall, many portions of South Africa still experiencing lingering moisture deficits.**

After a delayed start of the seasonal rains in South Africa, the return of more frequent rainfall has helped to offset some early season moisture deficits during December. However, many local areas still remain below average in precipitation over the last 30 days. Throughout many local areas in northeastern South Africa, rainfall deficits still range between 50 to 90 percent of average (Figure 3), as a shortage of moisture is expected to further degrade crop and pastoral conditions.

Rainfall forecasts indicate suppressed rainfall over much of continental southern Africa during the next week. A reduction of rainfall and available moisture is expected to strengthen both short term and seasonal rainfall deficits throughout South Africa and portions of Botswana in mid-January.



**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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