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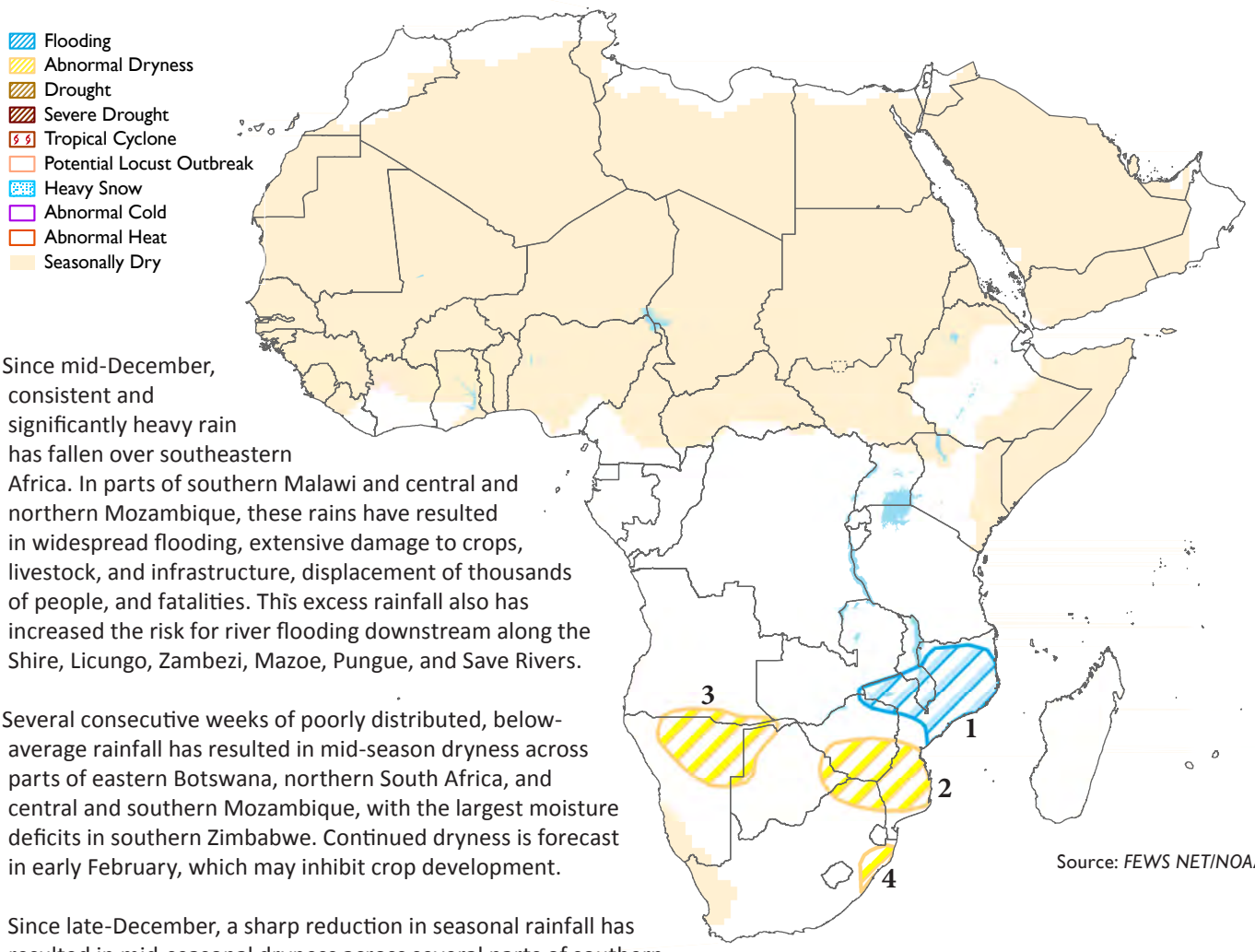
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Global Weather Hazards Summary

January 30 - February 5, 2015

Additional rainfall expected in flood-affected parts of southeastern Africa, dryness continues in Angola

Africa Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Since mid-December, consistent and significantly heavy rain has fallen over southeastern Africa. In parts of southern Malawi and central and northern Mozambique, these rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock, and infrastructure, displacement of thousands of people, and fatalities. This excess rainfall also has increased the risk for river flooding downstream along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers.

2 Several consecutive weeks of poorly distributed, below-average rainfall has resulted in mid-season dryness across parts of eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, and central and southern Mozambique, with the largest moisture deficits in southern Zimbabwe. Continued dryness is forecast in early February, which may inhibit crop development.

3. Since late-December, a sharp reduction in seasonal rainfall has resulted in mid-seasonal dryness across several parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, and the Caprivi Strip region. The continuation of below-average rainfall is expected to inhibit crop development.

4. While much of South Africa has received adequate rainfall since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, the eastern parts of the country have accumulated rainfall deficits, affecting agricultural conditions in the region.

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Africa Overview

Moderate to heavy rainfall expected in flood-affected areas

In late January, rainfall in southern Africa shifted northward, with a welcome reduction in seasonal rainfall further south in the flood-affected parts of southeastern Africa. The highest weekly rainfall (>75 mm) was received in parts of southwestern Angola, Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, and southern Tanzania. Lighter rainfall (<25 mm) was received across several saturated areas in Zimbabwe, western Mozambique, and southern Malawi (Figure 1). Little to no rain fell in northern South Africa, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar.

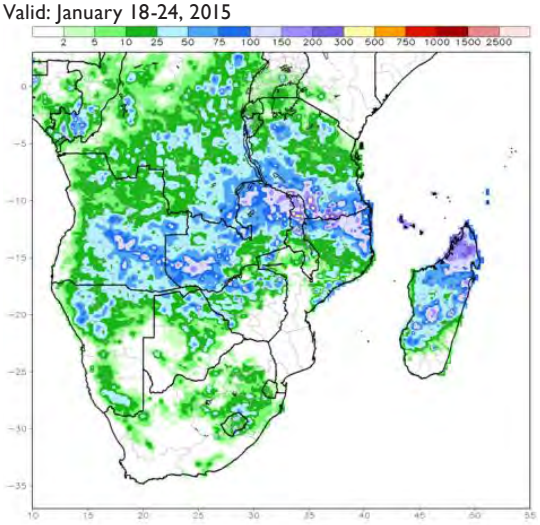
Between mid-December and mid-January, the behavior of the Southern Africa monsoon changed significantly. Parts of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar have experienced persistent and flood-inducing rainfall. This has led to thousands of displaced people, damage to crops, livestock, infrastructure, and fatalities in recent weeks. Malawi and Mozambique declared states of emergencies/red alerts due to the heavy rains and adverse ground impacts, as there remains an increased risk for continued downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers. However, reduced rainfall is expected to help mitigate saturated ground conditions (Figure 2).

For the next week, precipitation models do not suggest much change in the distribution and quantity of seasonal rainfall from this past week. Heavy amounts are expected for much of Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique, with a moderate potential for heavy rains to return further south across the flood-affected regions. This is expected to sustain the risk of flooding into early February.

Mid-seasonal dryness affects southern Angola, northern Namibia

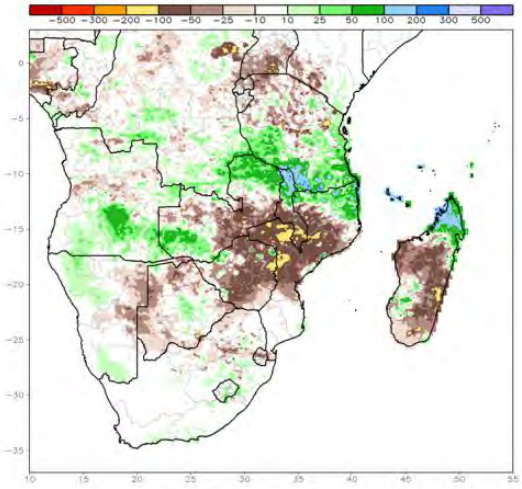
In contrast to the atypically wet conditions across southeastern Africa, mid-seasonal dryness continues to develop across many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, northwestern Botswana, and the Caprivi Strip. Since late December, several local areas have recorded precipitation below the 10th percentile (Figure 3). The developing moisture deficits have been associated with both low and infrequent rainfall during a time in the season where precipitation is climatologically at its maximum. The continuation of below-average rainfall into February is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 18-24, 2015



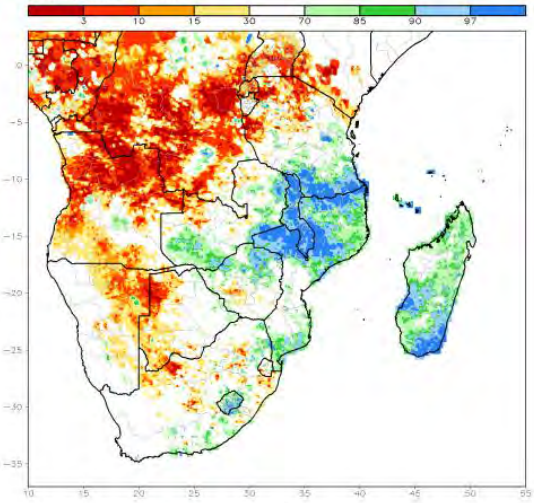
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Difference in 30-Day Rainfall Anomaly
Valid: January 24, 2015



Source: NOAA/CPC

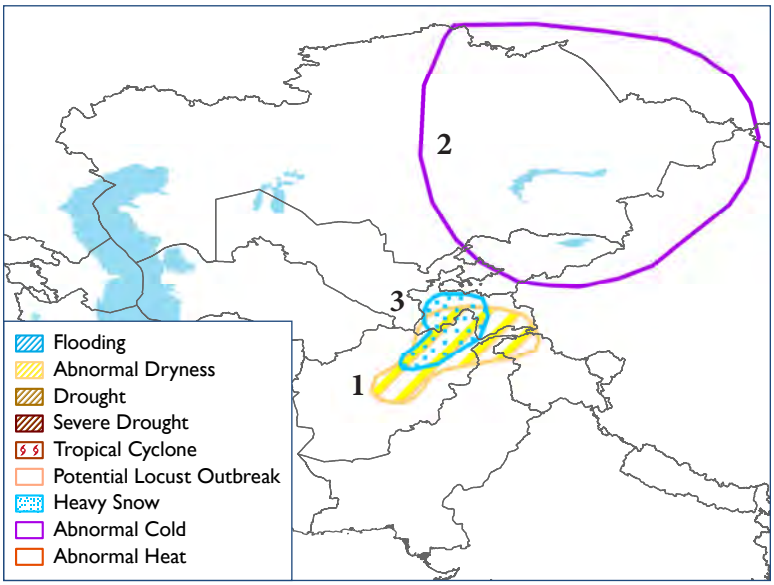
Figure 3: 30-Day Rainfall Percentile (mm)
Valid: December 26, 2014-January 24, 2015



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

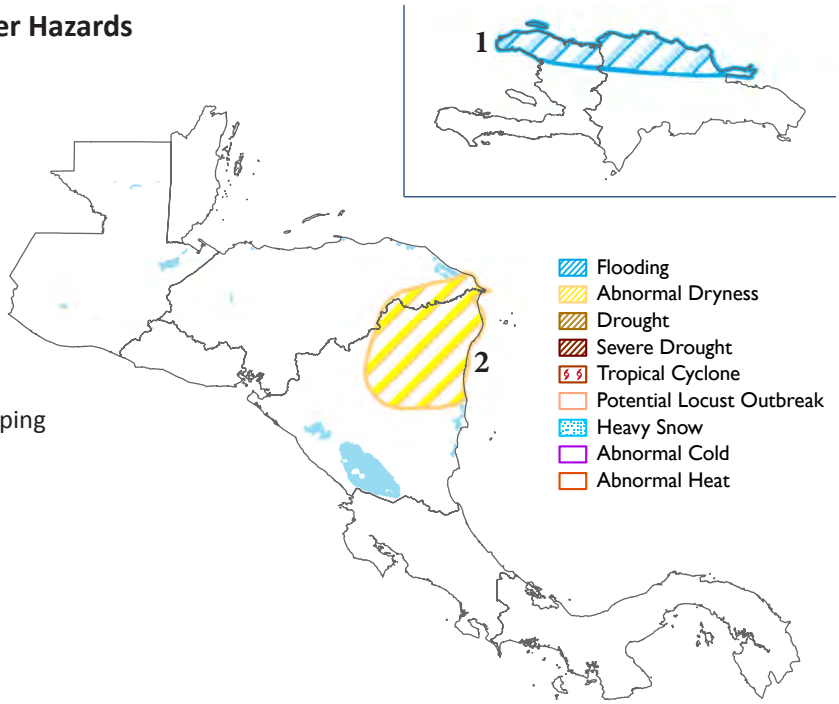
1. Below-average snowfall has caused abnormal dryness in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, which may lead to below-average soil moisture later during the agricultural season.
2. Temperatures are expected to be well below average in northern Kazakhstan, where minimum temperatures are predicted to average more than 8°C below-normal from January 29-February 4.
3. Heavy snow is expected in northeast Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan during the next week.



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Heavy rains early this week are likely to impact dry portions of northern Haiti and northern Dominican Republic. Due to the expected torrential rain showers, there is a high likelihood for localized flash flooding.
2. A poor start to *Apante* season rainfall across the Atlantic zone of Nicaragua, extending north into Gracias a Dios Department of Honduras, has led to growing rainfall deficits and could negatively impact *Apante* season cropping activities.



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

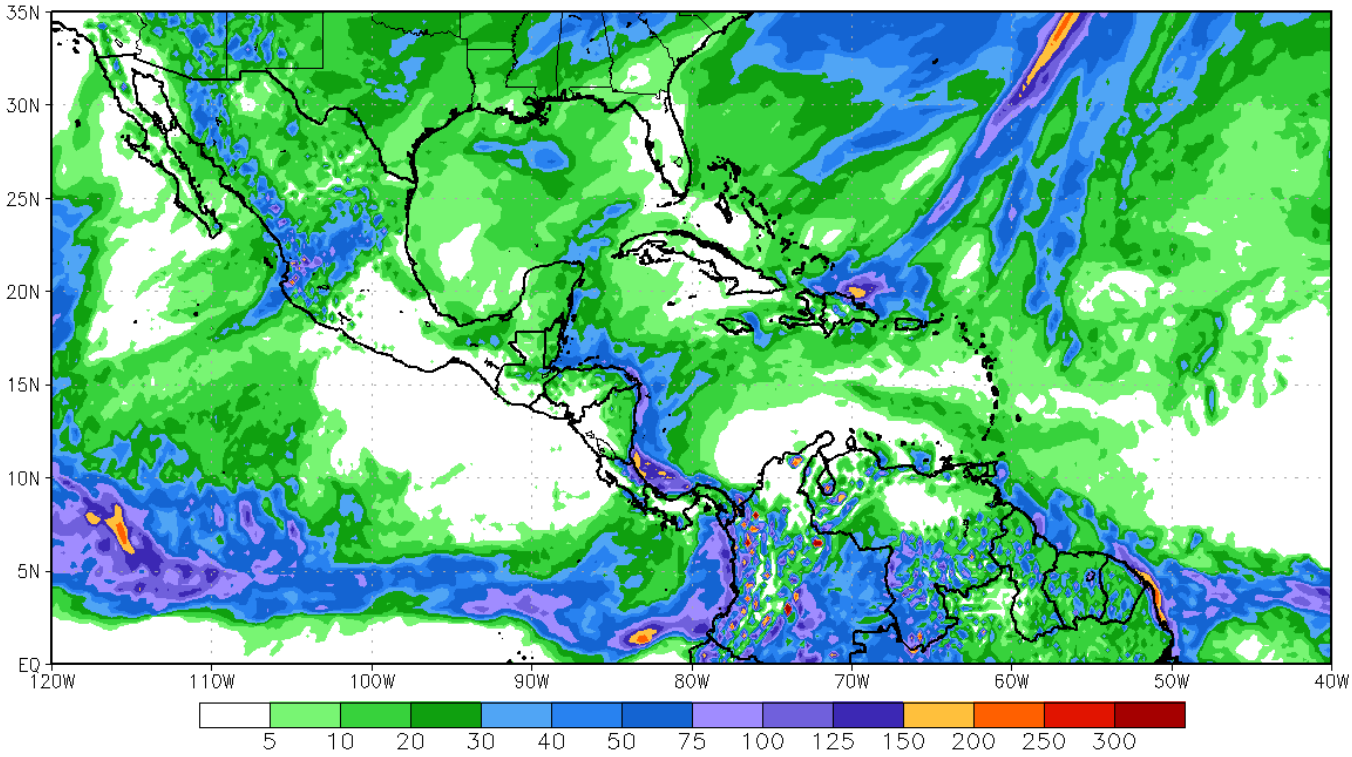
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Moderate rainfall observed along the Gulf of Honduras coastline

During the last week, little rainfall occurred across much of Central America. Rains were focused along the Caribbean coastlines of Central America, with the heaviest rain (>40 mm) falling in southern Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Moderate to locally heavy rain (>30 mm) also fell along the Gulf of Honduras coastline in Honduras. Parts of northern Honduras have received moderate to heavy rainfall for four consecutive weeks. Thirty-day rainfall deficits remain across the Atlantic zone of Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios Department of Honduras, which could negatively impact *Apante* cropping activities. Previous dryness in the Matagalpa Region of Nicaragua delayed planting in December.

For the next week, showers are expected along the Caribbean coastlines of Central America, with the heaviest rains (>40 mm) likely in coastal areas of eastern Costa Rica and locations offshore. Moderate rainfall (10-40mm) is forecast for the Gulf of Honduras coastlines in Honduras for a fifth consecutive week. Elsewhere, light rains (<15 mm) are expected in interior portions of northern Central America. Temperatures are forecast to be below-average across northern Central America, with temperatures below the freezing point in localized, elevated areas in northwestern Guatemala.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 28 - February 4, 2015



Source: NOAA/CPC

Heavy rainfall may cause localized flooding in northern areas of Haiti and the Dominican Republic

During the last week, little rain was observed across most of Hispaniola, although heavy rain (40 mm) fell across parts of the Nord-Ouest Department of Haiti. Elsewhere, moderate rains occurred around the Gulf of Gonaives in Haiti, resulting in showers (5-25 mm) in the Grand'Anse, Sud, Nippes and Sud-Est Departments of Haiti. Light showers (<10mm) were observed elsewhere. The rains provided relief to drier than average conditions. Thirty-day rainfall is 20-50 mm below average across northern Haiti and much of the Dominican Republic. These regions experienced below-average rains during the rainy season and recent vegetative indices continue to show below-average conditions across southern Hispaniola, northwest Haiti and localized areas of northwest Dominican Republic. During the next week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall (10-30 mm, locally >50 mm) is forecast for northern Hispaniola, where localized flash flooding is possible.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.