

# Africa Weather Hazards Benefits Assessment

for

**January 4 – 10, 2007**

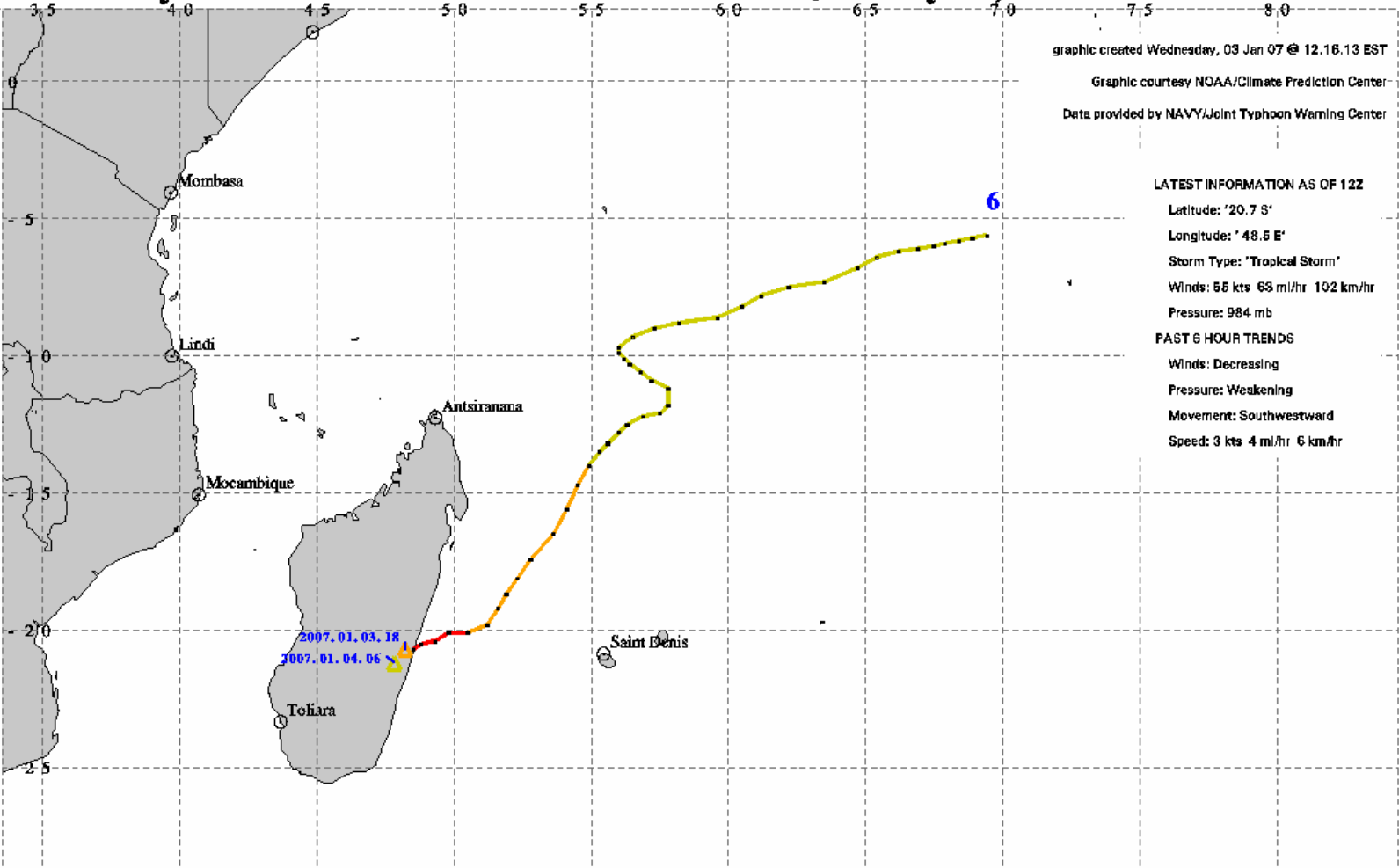
## Weekly Introduction:

### Tropical Cyclone Clovis

Tropical Cyclone Clovis has been slowly developing over the last week. The storm is currently at its peak intensity and will likely make landfall on Madagascar during the early part of the next week.

The latest forecast is below.

### Cyclone 06 Track and Latest Position on January 03, 2007 at 12 GMT



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1) Rainfall is below normal in western and southern Mozambique. Below normal rainfall in this area continues to be of particular concern because of ENSO conditions. (See #2)

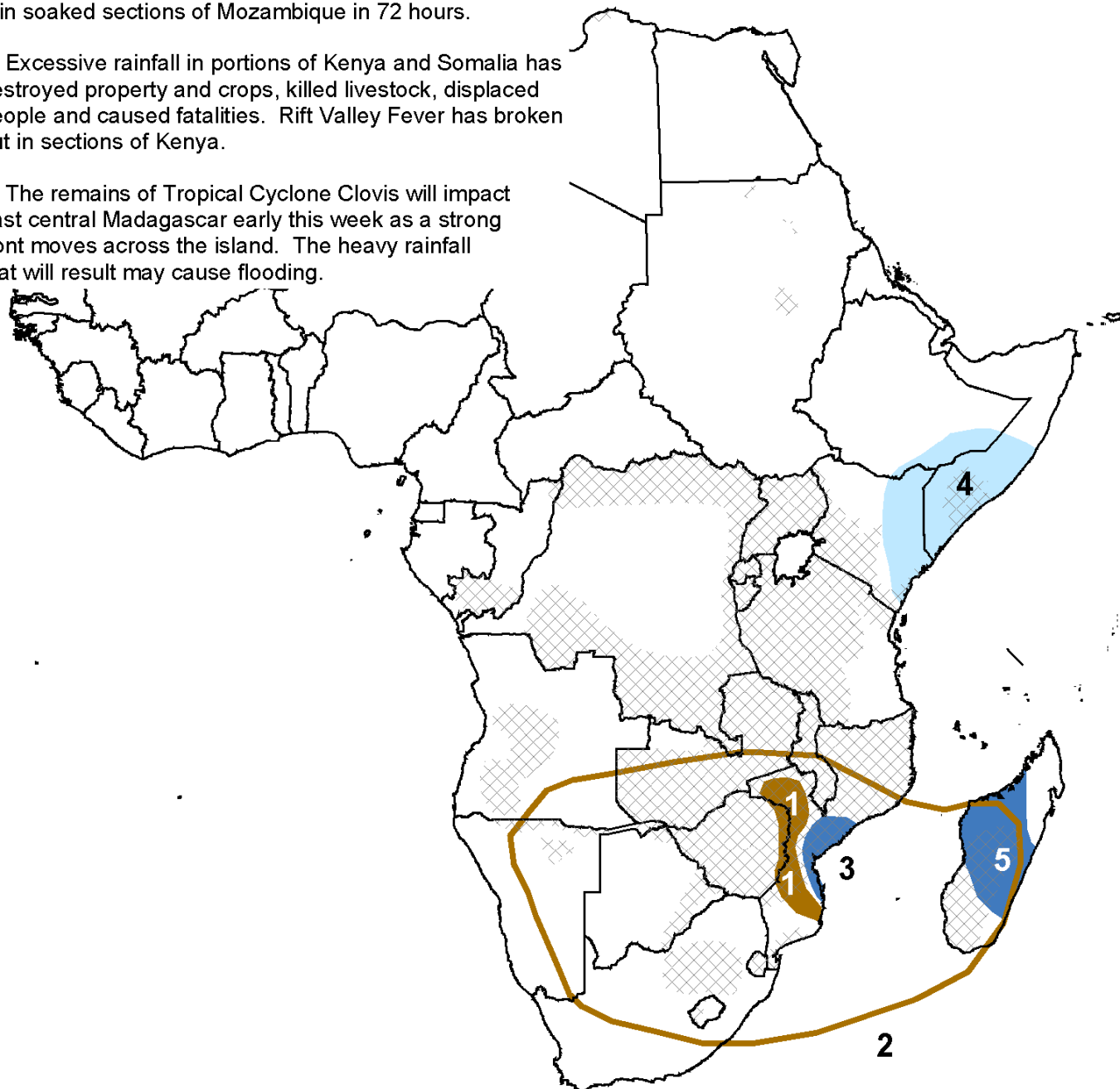
2) ENSO-positive (El Nino) conditions may lead to drier than normal conditions in early this year in southern Africa.

3) Flooding remains a possibility after as much as 250 mm of rain soaked sections of Mozambique in 72 hours.

4) Excessive rainfall in portions of Kenya and Somalia has destroyed property and crops, killed livestock, displaced people and caused fatalities. Rift Valley Fever has broken out in sections of Kenya.

5) The remains of Tropical Cyclone Clovis will impact east central Madagascar early this week as a strong front moves across the island. The heavy rainfall that will result may cause flooding.

NOTE: Black hatched regions depict combined wheat, maize, sorghum, and millet crop zones which are active (sowing to harvest) during the current month. (from FAO)



**Valid: January 4 - 10, 2007**

## ***Weather Hazards Text Explanation:***

1) Poor rainfall totals across western and southern Mozambique have led to a delayed start of the season. Compounding this, in the south, temperatures have reached 40 degrees Celsius several times during the past few weeks and may exceed 35 degrees during the coming week. According to a local agronomist, Mozambican farmers have developed a good system of replanting. Therefore it is still possible for the area to recover, should moisture become more evenly distributed. Precipitation during the last week was heavy exceeding 50 mm over the entire region.

2) Positive ENSO conditions are occurring and are expected to continue through early 2007. Sea surface temperatures in the main index area of the Pacific Ocean are running 1.5 degrees Celsius above normal. Other areas are seeing anomalies as high as 2 degrees Celsius above normal. Therefore moderate El Nino conditions are currently being experienced. Based on climatological patterns in southern Africa during El Nino seasons, there is a link between positive ENSO conditions and dryness in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar during the January to March portion of the wet season. Additionally positive rainfall anomalies during October to December are common during ENSO events. Usually the entire region is not impacted. There is no guarantee that dry conditions will materialize anywhere as it is not known what impacts the sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans will have in Southern Africa.

3) Central Mozambique during the last week saw a start to its season. Significant rainfall was a month and a half late in the area, but the season started with a deluge. In excess of 250 mm of rainfall soaked the central areas during the first three days of 2007. Flooding is likely throughout the region and damage to property is likely. Precipitation landing on dry fields likely washed away seeds. There is a good reseeded program in the area and so long as moisture does not remain excessive, nor drop off, it will be possible to have a normal crop.

4) The excessive moisture in the Somali region of Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia and eastern Kenya has caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The rainfall has also allowed an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Kenya, and threatens to spread in southern Somalia as well. The outbreak in Kenya has already cause fatalities. The precipitation has displaced people both locally and internationally with Somali refugees arriving in rain soaked portions of Kenya. Rainfall over the region has been so excessive this season that two to four times normal since October is common throughout the region. Although most precipitation tapered off, additional light showers are still possible.

5) Madagascar, which still has saturated soils from Tropical Cyclone Bondo making land fall in late December, currently has the remnants of Clovis spinning over its central east coast. Heavy rainfall from the system will continue to cause flooding and possibly landslides. In the western areas of the country, the front that brought flooding to Mozambique will make its way across the island. The cold front will move Clovis out to sea, but not before bring its own round of heavy rains to Madagascar.

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Questions or comments about this product may be directed to [Chet.Schmitt@noaa.gov](mailto:Chet.Schmitt@noaa.gov) or 1-301-763-8000 x7519

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