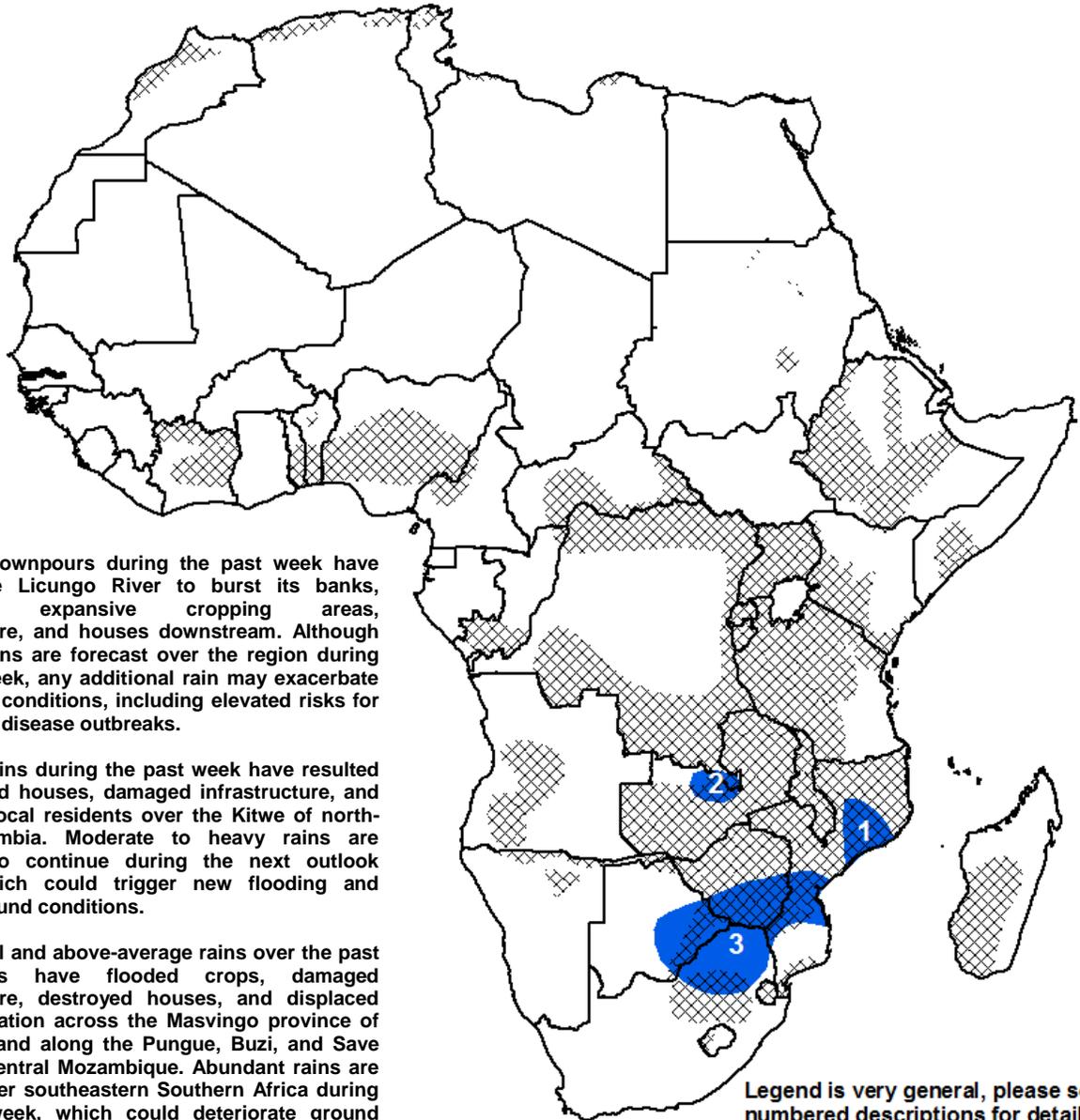




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 6 – March 12, 2014

- Heavy downpours have caused flooding in north-central Zambia, southern Zimbabwe, and northern Mozambique.
- Light to moderate rains were observed over the Greater Horn of Africa during the past observation period.



1) Heavy downpours during the past week have caused the Licungo River to burst its banks, inundating expansive cropping areas, infrastructure, and houses downstream. Although reduced rains are forecast over the region during the next week, any additional rain may exacerbate the ground conditions, including elevated risks for waterborne disease outbreaks.

2) Heavy rains during the past week have resulted in destroyed houses, damaged infrastructure, and displaced local residents over the Kitwe of north-central Zambia. Moderate to heavy rains are expected to continue during the next outlook period, which could trigger new flooding and worsen ground conditions.

3) Torrential and above-average rains over the past few weeks have flooded crops, damaged infrastructure, destroyed houses, and displaced local population across the Masvingo province of Zimbabwe and along the Pungue, Buzi, and Save Rivers of central Mozambique. Abundant rains are forecast over southeastern Southern Africa during the next week, which could deteriorate ground conditions further and lead to new flooding across eastern Botswana and northern South Africa.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

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|--|---------------------------|
| | March Cropped Areas |
| | Flooding |
| | Abnormal Dryness |
| | Drought |
| | Severe Drought |
| | Tropical Cyclone |
| | Potential Locust Outbreak |
| | Heavy Snow |
| | Abnormal Cold |
| | Abnormal Heat |

Widespread and heavy rains observed over the western and northern parts of Southern Africa.

The rainfall distribution during the past week was characterized by an increase and continuation of torrential rains over the western and northern part of Southern Africa, respectively. High (> 50 mm) rainfall amounts were recorded over eastern Namibia, Botswana, eastern Angola, northern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and Madagascar (**Figure 1**). While the increased rains contributed to reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits over the dry portions of western Southern Africa, the abundant rains resulted in flooding and worsening of conditions over already-saturated areas of the central and eastern portions of the region. In Zambia, this past week's heavy rains destroyed several houses and displaced local residents in the Kitwe region. To the east, heavy rains have caused the Licungo River to overflow, flooding cropping areas downstream, including the Namacura and Maganja da Costa districts of the central Zambezia province of northern Mozambique. The inundation across the Licungo Basin has affected the livelihood of several thousands of people in the region.

During the past month, rainfall anomalies revealed a continued dipole pattern, with positive anomalies throughout the eastern two-thirds of Southern Africa and negative anomalies over the much of Angola and northwestern Namibia (**Figure 2**). The thirty-day rainfall surpluses were attributed to anomalous low-level convergence and above-average rainfall frequency near the center and eastern parts of Southern Africa, whereas thirty-day moisture deficits were mostly caused by anomalous low-level divergence and below-average rainfall frequency over its western counterpart. As a result, the most recent vegetation indices exhibited mostly adequate conditions over Southern Africa except below-average conditions observed along coastal western Angola and localized areas of the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, southern Mozambique and Madagascar. A continuation of the seasonal rainfall is expected to sustain favorable soil moisture throughout Southern Africa.

A slow start to the March-May rainy season over the Greater Horn of Africa.

During the past week, suppressed rainfall was observed over much of the Greater Horn of Africa. While light to locally moderate rains fell over western Ethiopia, little to no rainfall was recorded elsewhere (**Figure 3**). In Uganda, light to moderate rains were registered, which helped to partially reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits over the eastern parts of the country. This past week's cumulative rainfall remained mostly average across the Greater Horn of Africa. However, thirty-day rainfall anomalies already indicated small to moderate deficits in eastern Uganda and west-central Ethiopia. For next week, scattered moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast in western Ethiopia, which is expected to benefit cropping activities. In contrast, the forecast little to no rainfall throughout Uganda and Kenya during the next week may sustain moisture deficits in the region.

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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