











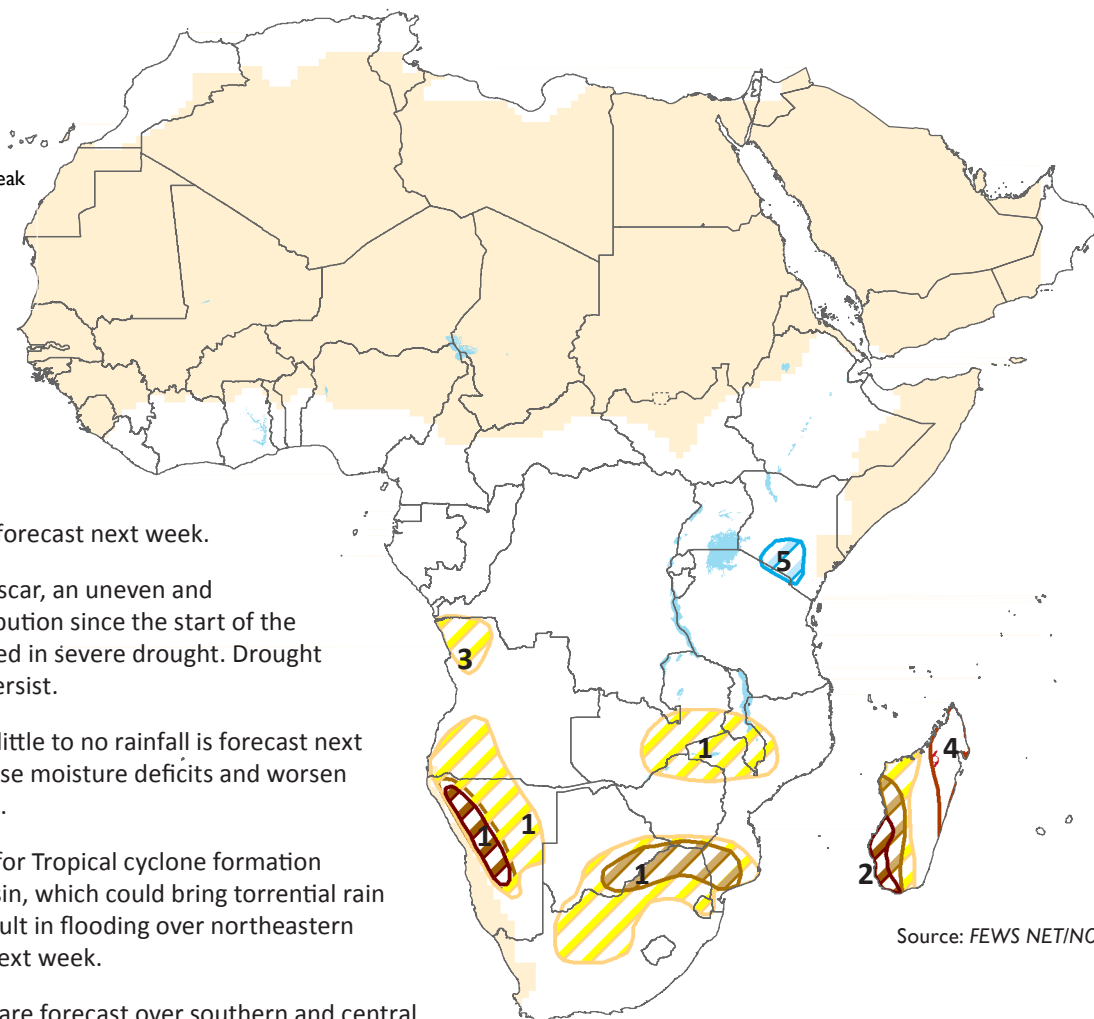
Global Weather Hazards Summary

March 16 - 22, 2018

Drought continues in Southern Africa, while parts of Madagascar and Kenya are on flood watch

Africa Weather Hazards

-  Flooding
-  Abnormal Dryness
-  Drought
-  Severe Drought
-  Tropical Cyclone
-  Potential Locust Outbreak
-  Heavy Snow
-  Abnormal Cold
-  Abnormal Heat
-  Seasonally Dry



1. Due to poor rainfall since November western Namibia is in a severe drought. Conditions may worsen as limited rain is forecast next week.
2. In southwestern Madagascar, an uneven and inadequate rainfall distribution since the start of the rainfall season has resulted in severe drought. Drought conditions are likely to persist.
3. In northwestern Angola, little to no rainfall is forecast next week, which could increase moisture deficits and worsen conditions on the ground.
4. There is a high potential for Tropical cyclone formation over the south Indian basin, which could bring torrential rain and strong winds and result in flooding over northeastern Madagascar during the next week.
5. Copious amounts of rain are forecast over southern and central Kenya during the next week, increasing risks for flash flooding in Nairobi.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Dryness emerges over central Ethiopia

A comparison of the cumulative rain since January to date with climatology has depicted deficits over many areas of Southern Africa, with the largest (>100 mm) over western Angola, western Namibia, southeastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and western Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Over western Madagascar and western Namibia, the large negative departures were mainly attributed to a poor and erratic rainfall during January and February. In contrast, positive rainfall anomalies were recorded across the central portions of Southern Africa, including southwestern Zambia, northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique.

Farther north, over Equatorial Eastern Africa, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over much of Kenya, portions of southern Somalia, and southern Ethiopia. However, negative anomalies began to emerge over the central parts of Ethiopia. In southern Ethiopia and Kenya increased and above-average rain during early March were recorded.

Below-average rainfall continues across Southern Africa

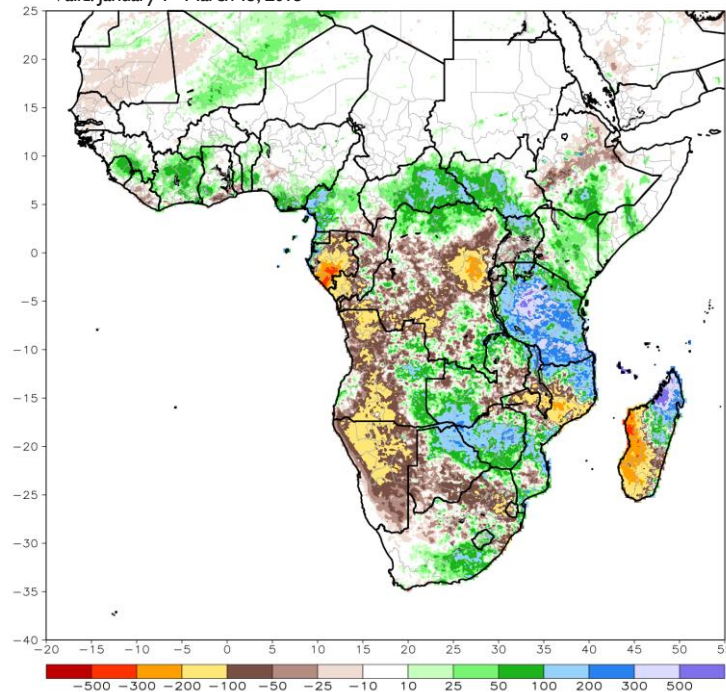
During the second week of March, moderate rain continued across central and eastern Southern Africa, including Zambia, Botswana, eastern Tanzania, and northern Madagascar. However, below-average rainfall continued over western Angola, southern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, southeastern Botswana, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar (**Figure 2**). Over the latter areas, this past week's rainfall totals were below-average and contributed to accumulated moisture deficits in the region.

Ground conditions have worsened over western Namibia and southwestern Madagascar, but have improved over portions of central South Africa. Vegetation conditions also remained below-average in northern South Africa, eastern Botswana, southeastern Zambia, and western Mozambique.

Next week, forecasts suggest torrential rain with a high potential for Tropical cyclone formation, which increases risks for flooding over northeastern Madagascar. Meanwhile, heavy rain is expected from central Angola, southern DRC, northern Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya to southern Ethiopia. In Kenya, the forecast rain could trigger flash flooding, particularly the Nairobi region.

Figure 1: ARC 3-Month Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

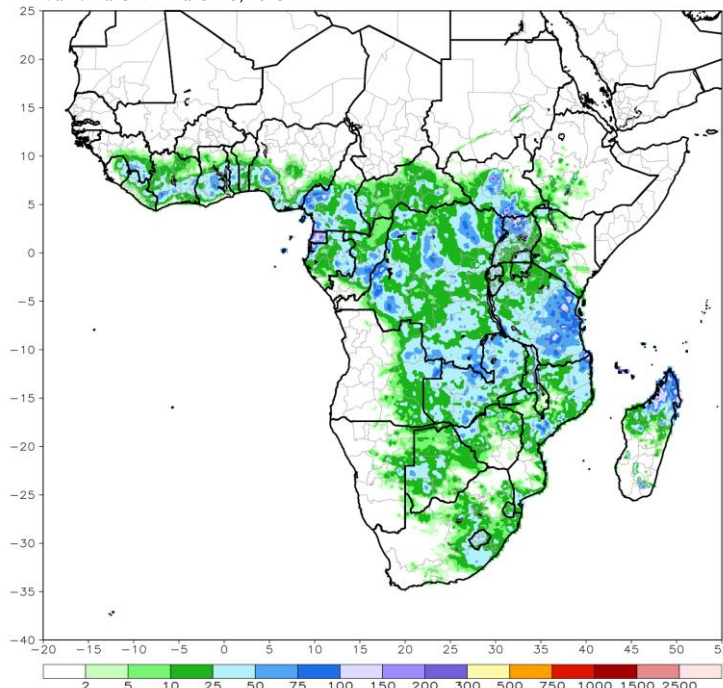
Valid: January 1 - March 13, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: RFE2 Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: March 7 - March 13, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

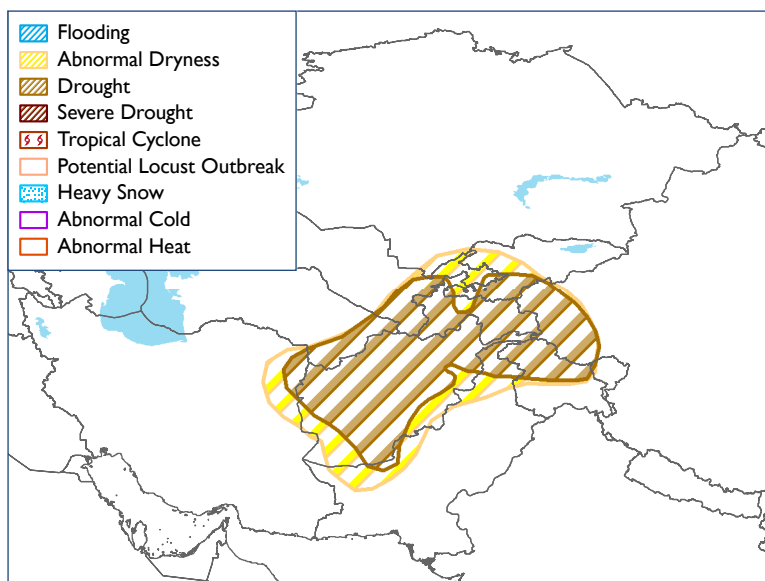
Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures

During the second week of March, average temperatures remained above normal over Central Asia. Northern and western Kazakhstan were the exception, averaging near-normal high temperatures. The largest warm anomalies (+8°C) were observed over southeastern Kazakhstan, southern Uzbekistan, eastern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan. Next week, above normal temperatures are expected to continue in the central portions of Central Asia. High temperatures could peak at 8-15°C above average.

Precipitation

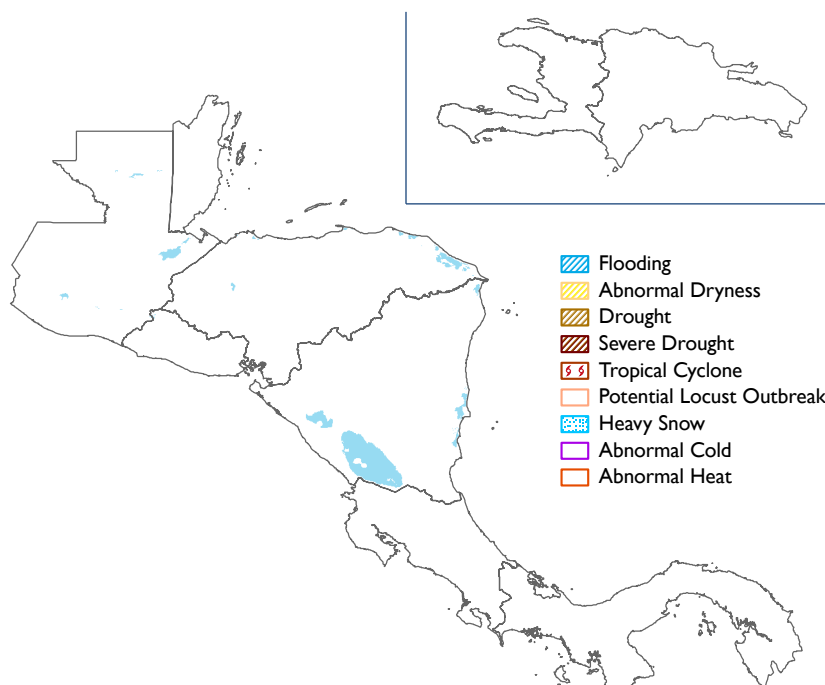
Scattered light to moderate (5-25mm) precipitation fell throughout Kazakhstan last week. Moderate and locally heavy snows (25+mm liquid equivalent) fell over parts of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and eastern Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, moderate precipitation was recorded in northern portions of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Very low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits persist over the dry portions of Central Asia. A drought hazard is posted over much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries. During the next week, scattered light precipitation is forecast. More substantial precipitation (25+mm of liquid) is expected in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and northern Pakistan.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards reported



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

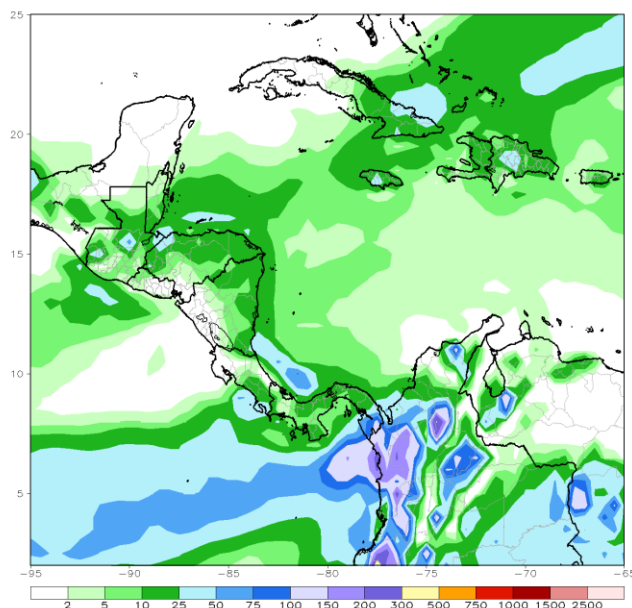
Central America remains dry

Little to no rainfall was received over Central America last week. Despite the lack of rainfall, moisture anomalies generally remain near average. Since early February, several northern departments in Honduras, Guatemala and Belize facing the Atlantic have been dry. Despite this, performance of the *Apante* season has been generally favorable, with many regions experiencing average to above-average rainfall conditions. Satisfactory ground conditions are reported. However, drier weather and minimum soil moisture conditions still maintains an elevated risk for forest fires over many local areas.

Next week, increased rainfall is forecast mainly across the Gulf of Honduras region with the potential for locally heavy rainfall accumulations (>50mm) over northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Elsewhere, seasonable rainfall amounts are expected. Surface temperatures are forecast to be near average with little risk for frost.

Figure 4: GEFS mean total rainfall forecast (mm)

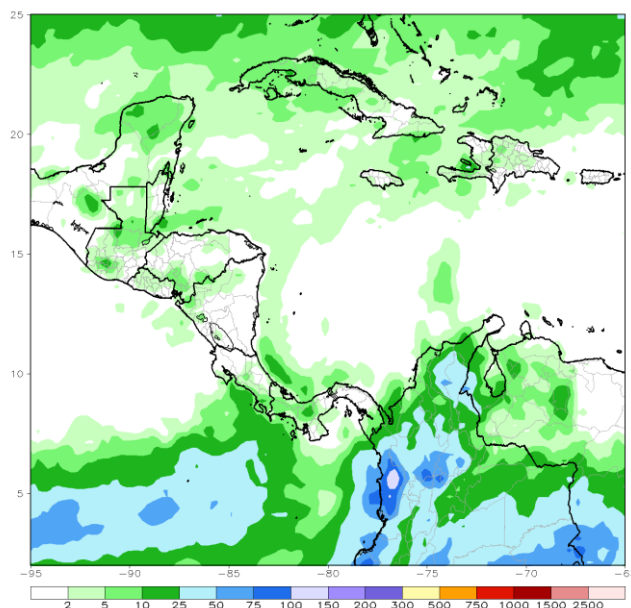
Valid: March 14 - 21, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 5: CMORPH rainfall climatology (mm)

Valid: March 14 - 21, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Increased rains forecast during early March

Last week, light to locally moderate rainfall was recorded over Hispaniola. Well distributed moderate amounts (10-25mm) were recorded in the eastern departments of Dominican Republic, with locally similar amounts over southern Haiti. Over the past thirty days, seasonal rainfall continues to range between average to above-average, with short-term moisture surpluses concentrated over the eastern and southern parts of the island. Above-average vegetation conditions have also been observed over much of Hispaniola.

During the next week, an increased rainfall is forecast throughout the middle of March, with amounts ranging between 10-25mm over much of the island. Locally heavier amounts (>25mm) are expected for central parts of Dominican Republic and northern Haiti.

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.