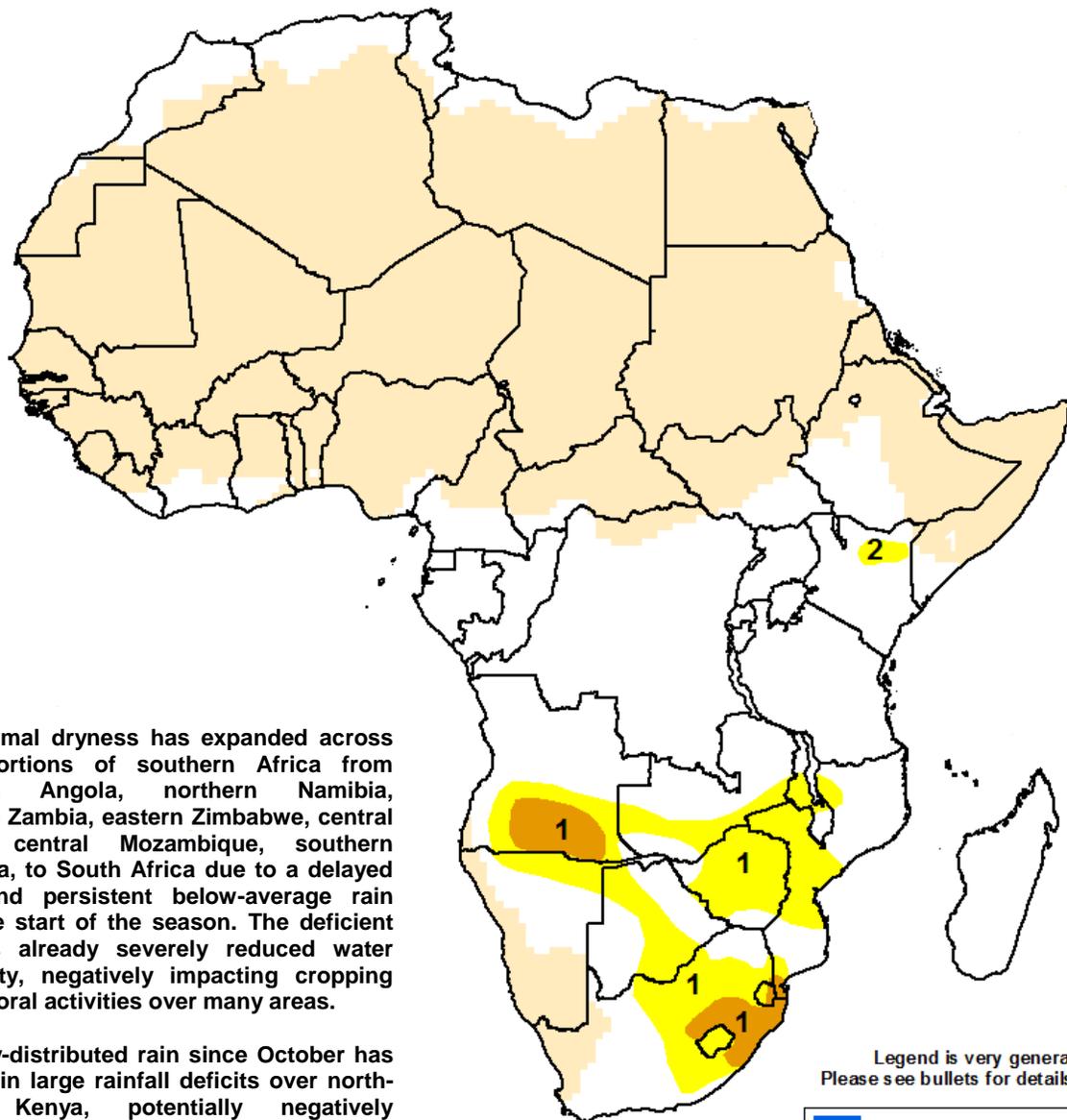




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 10 – 16, 2015

- Dryness has worsened in Southern Africa.
- Favorable seasonal rainfall performance observed in Eastern Africa.



1) Abnormal dryness has expanded across many portions of southern Africa from southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, eastern Zimbabwe, central Malawi, central Mozambique, southern Botswana, to South Africa due to a delayed onset and persistent below-average rain since the start of the season. The deficient rain has already severely reduced water availability, negatively impacting cropping and pastoral activities over many areas.

2) Poorly-distributed rain since October has resulted in large rainfall deficits over north-central Kenya, potentially negatively affecting pastoral conditions over the region. The forecast suppressed rain during the next week could further increase moisture deficits in the region.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

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

Widespread dryness persists over Southern Africa.

Since the beginning of October, seasonal rainfall has performed well below-average across most countries of Southern Africa. The Southern African monsoon was characterized by a delayed onset to rainfall season, which was followed by a poor temporal and spatial rainfall distribution over many areas of the sub-region. The delayed onset to the season even exceeded forty days over some areas such as southern Angola and eastern South Africa. The delayed onsets to the season and uneven distribution in rain have resulted in strengthening moisture deficits throughout Southern Africa. An analysis of the accumulated rain since October has indicated widespread large deficits between 50-100 mm extending from Angola, Botswana, South Africa, to Mozambique (**Figure 1**). Following a poor rainfall performance during the season prior, the ongoing, insufficient rain has already substantially reduced water availability and negatively impacted cropping and pastoral activities over many areas. Reports have indicated livestock deaths over many countries due to lack of pastures. During the past week, enhanced, with moderate to heavy rain was observed over Angola, western Zambia, and northeastern South Africa, while reduced, with rainfall amounts below 25 mm were received elsewhere. Over the eastern portions of Southern Africa, suppressed rain was observed over eastern Zimbabwe and the southern half of Mozambique, which led to growing thirty-day rainfall deficits across the region. If poor rain continues over the upcoming weeks, seasonal moisture deficits will continue to grow, which could reduce water availability further and result in widespread, stressed crops and more livestock deaths.

For next week, an increase in rain is forecast over the southeastern parts of Southern Africa. Heavy rain is expected in northern and eastern South Africa and southern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Farther north, abundant rain is expected in western Angola and Tanzania, while moderate rain is forecast over Zambia and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, light to no rain is forecast elsewhere.

Above-average rain was observed in Eastern Africa since the beginning of the October-December rainfall season.

Well above-average rainfall has been observed over Eastern Africa since the beginning of October. Rainfall surpluses in excess of 100 mm were observed over Uganda, southern Kenya, northwestern Tanzania, southern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia (**Figure 3**). Though, the season had started late over many areas, Tropical disturbances and wet spells brought ample moisture during November. During the past week, reduced rain was recorded over Eastern Africa relative to that of the week prior. However, locally moderate rain continued over localized areas of southern Kenya and southern Somalia. For next week, a return to an increased rain is forecast over Tanzania and southern Kenya, while scattered, light rain is expected in north-central Kenya and Somalia.

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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