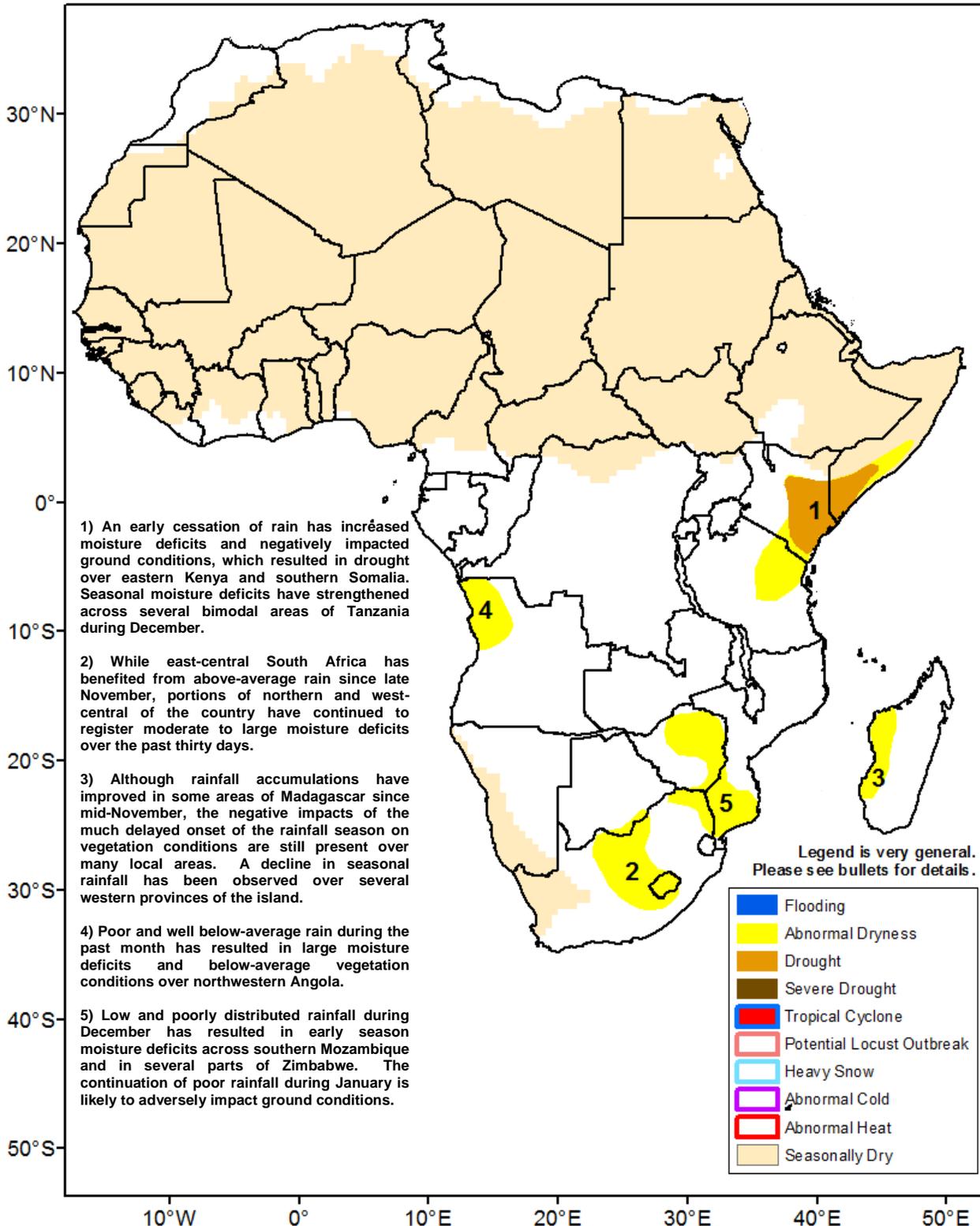




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 28, 2017 – January 3, 2018

- Improved rains help alleviate dryness across southern Angola and northern Namibia.
- Dryness worsens across parts of Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and northern South Africa.



## Poor December rains in East Africa

Similar to the previous week, poorly distributed seasonal rainfall was registered throughout East Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, isolated showers were registered across portions of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and northern Tanzania, with the bulk of the highest rainfall totals received throughout western Tanzania (**Figure 1**). The absence of rainfall in late December marks the fifth consecutive week of suppressed rainfall since mid-November, which already indicated an early cessation of the *Short-Rains*, October-December rainfall season. The lack of rainfall during the month of December has resulted in, widespread moisture deficits, where several regions in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have received much less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**). Since October, the poorly distributed seasonal rainfall has already negatively impacted ground conditions over portions of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, and is likely to adversely affect many bimodal areas in northern Tanzania.

During the next outlook period, drier weather is expected to continue over Eastern Africa. However, little to light rain is possible throughout southern and eastern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

## Moisture relief in southern Angola as dryness worsens in over southeastern Africa.

During the last week, a much needed southward shift in the monsoon circulation brought significantly heavy rainfall accumulations (>100mm) over several parts of southern Angola, Zambia, and Mozambique. Lighter, but well distributed rainfall amounts were also received in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa (**Figure 1**).

The increased rainfall across southern Angola and northern Namibia helped to end a prolonged dry spell in the region, where little to no rainfall had been accumulated since the start of season. The rainfall recovery has now resulted in average to above-average moisture conditions since late November, which is expected to be more favorable for cropping activities and replenishing water availability for pastoral areas in the region (**Figure 2**). Towards the east, however, early season dryness continues to rapidly strengthen due to the lack of rainfall. Several areas in northern South Africa, eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique have been experiencing little rainfall accumulation since late November, with the greatest moisture deficits (< 25percent of normal) concentrated over the Gaza and Inhambane provinces of Mozambique and across the border in the Limpopo province of South Africa (**Figure 2**). In western Madagascar, seasonal moisture deficits have also strengthened increasing concerns on potential crop impacts.

During the next outlook period, little change to the spatial distribution is expected during late December and early January across southern Africa. Models suggest the highest precipitation amounts over western Angola, southern DRC, and northern Zambia. Lesser rainfall amounts are forecast for several areas south of the Zambezi River.

**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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