

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 2 – 8, 2020

- Heavy rains caused flooding in DRC, Kenya, and Burundi; while locust outbreak continued over eastern Africa.
- A lack of rainfall over the past several weeks has led to wilting crops and droughts in eastern southern Africa.



Widespread favorable rains were observed in eastern Africa during the past observation period.

During the past observation period, increased rains continued over eastern Africa. Scattered moderate to heavy rains fell across southern and eastern Ethiopia, much of Somalia, and Kenya (**Figure 1**). Abundant rains were received in Uganda and the southern portions of South Sudan. The persistent wet weather pattern over the past several consecutive weeks has oversaturated the grounds of many areas in the sub-region. As a result, flooding and affected people were reported in eastern DRC, western Kenya, and Burundi, according to reports. Due to the recent increase in rainfall, short term thirty-day rainfall deficits have decreased or been eroded over some dry portions of eastern Africa, including eastern Ethiopia and parts of Somalia, which have experienced a sluggish onset of the March-May season.

An analysis of recent vegetation products indicated that conditions were mostly positive and favorable throughout the Horn of Africa. However, the ongoing widespread desert locust outbreak still represents an alarming situation that could jeopardize the *long rains* March-May growing season, which could lead to many food insecure people in the sub region.

During the outlook period, a decrease in precipitation with light to locally moderate rains is forecast over eastern Africa. However, the forecast additional rains maintains elevated risks for flooding over many previously flooded and oversaturated areas of the region, including the coastal Strip of Kenya and Tanzania.

Absent rainfall during the past several weeks has led to drought over areas of eastern southern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, suppressed rainfall resulted in large moisture deficits over a wide area of eastern southern Africa. Thirty-day rainfall deficits exceeded 100 mm over parts of northern Zimbabwe, western Mozambique, central and southern Malawi, central and northern Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar (Figure 2). The absence of rainfall has already led to wilting for late planted crops over parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi, according to local reports. The drier-than-average conditions were attributable to a broad area of anomalous lowlevel divergence and upper-level convergence, which inhibited convection initiation over the region. Conversely, a persistent anomalous low-level convergence and upper-level divergence helped maintain torrential rainfall patterns farther north across Angola, Zambia, northern Malawi, and Tanzania. During the past observation period, similar weather patterns with wetness to the northern parts of the sub region and eastern South Africa but suppressed rainfall over eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and central Mozambique persisted.

A recent soil water index analysis for maize crops displayed that wilting conditions were depicted along the Zimbabwe-Mozambique frontier, southern Malawi, southern Mozambique, northeastern South Africa, parts of Eswatini, and southern Madagascar.

During the outlook period, suppressed rainfall is again forecast over eastern southern Africa, which is likely to further increase moisture deficits and exacerbate conditions on the grounds. Wet weather patterns are expected over parts of Angola, DRC, Zambia, and Tanzania.





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.