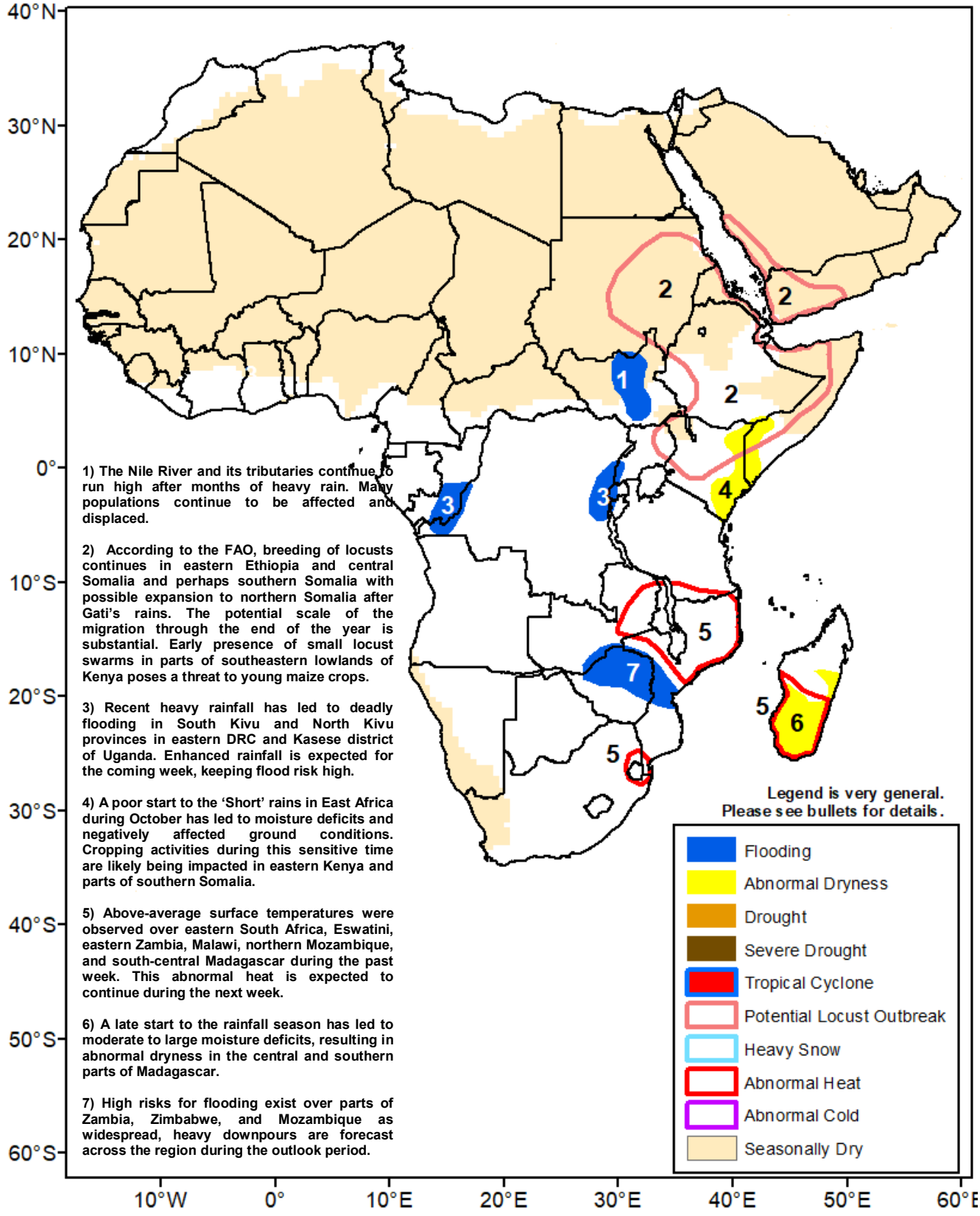
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
December 3 – 9, 2020

- **A sluggish start to the rainfall season has resulted in abnormal dryness over Madagascar.**



1) The Nile River and its tributaries continue to run high after months of heavy rain. Many populations continue to be affected and displaced.

2) According to the FAO, breeding of locusts continues in eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia and perhaps southern Somalia with possible expansion to northern Somalia after Gati's rains. The potential scale of the migration through the end of the year is substantial. Early presence of small locust swarms in parts of southeastern lowlands of Kenya poses a threat to young maize crops.

3) Recent heavy rainfall has led to deadly flooding in South Kivu and North Kivu provinces in eastern DRC and Kasese district of Uganda. Enhanced rainfall is expected for the coming week, keeping flood risk high.

4) A poor start to the 'Short' rains in East Africa during October has led to moisture deficits and negatively affected ground conditions. Cropping activities during this sensitive time are likely being impacted in eastern Kenya and parts of southern Somalia.

5) Above-average surface temperatures were observed over eastern South Africa, Eswatini, eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and south-central Madagascar during the past week. This abnormal heat is expected to continue during the next week.

6) A late start to the rainfall season has led to moderate to large moisture deficits, resulting in abnormal dryness in the central and southern parts of Madagascar.

7) High risks for flooding exist over parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique as widespread, heavy downpours are forecast across the region during the outlook period.

An unevenly-distributed rainfall continued over equatorial eastern Africa.

During late November, scattered moderate rains fell across the southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, Uganda, and parts of Kenya. Heavy rains were received over southeastern South Sudan, the Lake Victoria region and central Kenya, eastern DRC, and northwestern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). In Uganda, this past week's heavy rains led to the bursting of the Kuruhe River, leading to flooding in the Buhuhira and Bwesumbu sub-counties of the Kasese District, according to reports. While many areas registered near to above-average rainfall, northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia continued to record below-average rainfall during the past week.

On the performance of the *Short-Rains*, October-December, season, above-average rainfall was observed over portions of southern Ethiopia, western and north-central Kenya, and south-central Somalia due to some increase in rainfall during November. However, the late start to the rainfall season in October and an unevenly-distributed rainfall during November has resulted in persisting moisture deficits across eastern Kenya and portions of southern Somalia.

For next week, a stark decrease in rainfall, with suppressed precipitation, is expected over the northern parts of the Horn of Africa, including southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northern Kenya. This could strengthen deficits and intensify dryness in the region. In contrast, moderate to locally heavy rains are expected in central and southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 25 – December 01, 2020

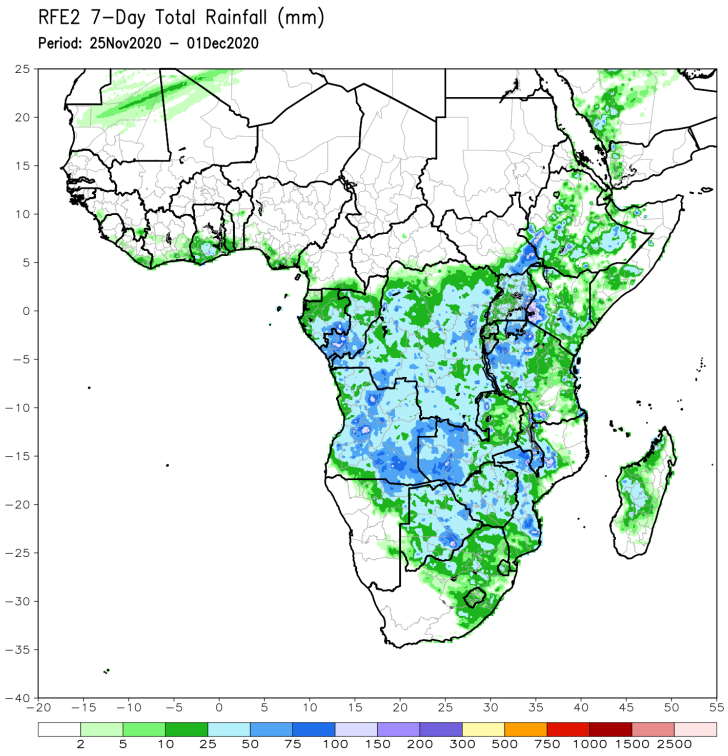


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Dryness has settled in over parts of southern Africa.

An analysis of the cumulative rainfall since the beginning of October has indicated that below-average rainfall was received over the western and eastern portions of southern Africa. Deficits ranged between 50-200 mm over southwestern Angola and northwestern Namibia to the west and eastern South Africa, Eswatini, southern Mozambique, and the southern two-thirds of Madagascar to the east (**Figure 2**). Conversely, above-average rainfall was observed over the central and northern parts of the sub-region.

During the past week, heavy rains fell over the northern and central portions of the sub-region, while suppressed rainfall was observed over Namibia, northern Mozambique, and much of Madagascar.

Over southeastern Africa and Madagascar, the effect of insufficient rainfall was compounded by above-average temperatures during the recent period, which likely contributed to further depletion of moisture and drying out on the ground.

Recent vegetation health index already indicated that stress was present across portions of southern Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, and the western and southern parts of Madagascar.

For next week, heavy downpours are forecast over Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, eastern South Africa, and central Madagascar. This, therefore, increases the risks for flooding over many local areas. In contrast, little to no rainfall is expected in southwestern Madagascar. Moreover, maximum temperature could exceed 6 degrees Celsius above-average over eastern South Africa, northern Mozambique, Malawi, and eastern Zambia, and Madagascar. The combined effect of insufficient rain and above-average temperatures may exacerbate dryness in the region.

3-month Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 01 – December 01, 2020

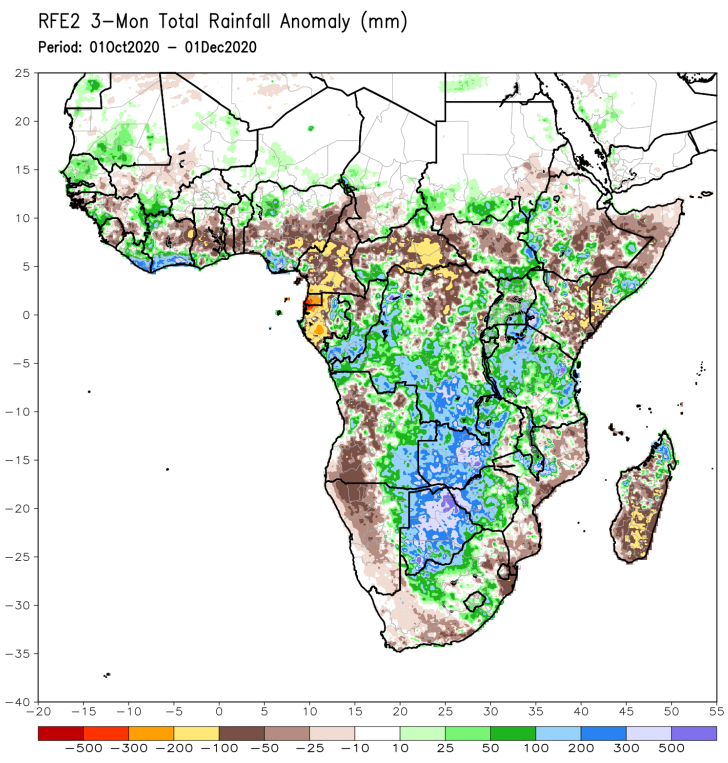


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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