

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 24 – 30, 2020



Rainfall season comes to an end in the Horn of Africa.

From December 16-22, dry conditions prevailed over eastern Africa. Suppressed rainfall was observed over much of southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya (**Figure 1**). Though, little to light rains fell over localized areas of central Ethiopia, west-central, and eastern Kenya. Since the beginning of December, below-average rainfall was registered over portions of southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, and eastern Tanzania. This reduction in rainfall may have marked an early cessation to the October-December rainfall season.

Due to a delayed start to the season and an unevenly-distributed rainfall, large seasonal moisture deficits have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions over east-central Kenya, based on recent crop performance models and remote sensing products. The chance for recovery is slim as the season is winding down. Additionally, despite ongoing ground and aerial controls, desert locust swarms are expected to migrate southwestward over the upcoming weeks. This movement poses further threats to vegetation and crop yields and, thus, jeopardize the livelihoods of many people.

During the outlook period, drier weather patterns are to continue. Little (< 10 mm) rains are forecast over central and eastern Kenya. Little to light rains are also forecast over northern Tanzania, whereas moderate to locally heavy rains are expected farther south.

An outbreak of African migratory, brown, and red locusts threatens the growing season in parts of southern Africa.

According to recent reports, an outbreak of African Migratory Locust (AML) has infested over 1 million hectares in Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Districts of South Africa, bordering Mozambique, have also been affected. Brown locust outbreak was reported in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, while Red locusts were reported around the Lake Chirua of Mozambique.

Over the past thirty days, rainfall was well above-average across southern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), eastern Angola, Zambia, Botswana, northeastern Namibia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and central Mozambique. Depending on control operation's efficacy, upcoming weather, and other factors, this wetness may lead to environments that are favorable for further breeding, which in turn, may pose a threat to the ongoing growing season over the region. Conversely, below-average rainfall persisted over western Angola, northwestern Namibia, portions of eastern South Africa, Eswatini, southern Madagascar, northeastern Mozambique, and southeastern Tanzania (**Figure 2**). While strengthening thirty-day rainfall deficits could result in abnormal dryness in northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania, consistent and insufficient rainfall would further deteriorate vegetation conditions and deplete water availability in southern Madagascar.

During the outlook period, heavy rains are to continue over southern DRC, Zambia, Angola, Zimbabwe, western Tanzania, and Malawi, which could exacerbate conditions over previously-flooded areas. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast over eastern South Africa, Mozambique, while little to light rains are expected elsewhere. Farther east, a low-pressure system to the northeaster of Mauritius could develop into a Tropical Cyclone and potentially impact northeastern Madagascar with heavy rains and strong winds over the next few days, elevating risks for widespread flooding and destruction.





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.