

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 25 November – 1 December 2021

 An entrenched dry pattern continues to build drought in the Horn of Africa, while abnormal dryness is now present in southwest Madagascar



Rains continued to be sparse across the Greater Horn.

During the past 7 days, rain was light and widely scattered through the greater Horn of Africa. The continuing dry pattern is worsening conditions on the ground. Some localized rains (10-50mm total) were observed in central Kenya, eastern Kenya, far-southern Somalia, and southwestern Ethiopia (Figure 1). More widespread rainfall was observed in Uganda and southern portions of South Sudan. Some slightly heavier rainfall, exceeding 50mm, was observed in northwestern DRC. The East Africa region, including Uganda, saw broadly suppressed rainfall totals. Deficits ranging from 10mm to 50mm were recorded in southern Kenya, southern Somalia, southwestern Ethiopia, parts of Uganda, and parts of Tanzania. After the first 5 dekads of the October-December season, anomalous dryness throughout the Greater Horn of Africa has been significant. With seasonal rainfall climatologically expected to rapidly diminish within the next few weeks, particularly over Ethiopia and Somalia, it has reached a point where recovery is very doubtful (Figure 2). This abnormal dryness and drought is also becoming increasingly evident further south across southern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania, where poorly distributed rains from late October to now have led to a deterioration of ground conditions. Adverse agriculture impacts appear imminent.

The normalized difference vegetation index reveals a progressed deterioration of ground conditions across southern and eastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and northeastern Tanzania during the middle of November.

During the coming outlook period, below-normal rainfall is expected across Uganda, Tanzania, and western Kenya. The Horn should see seasonable conditions. The forecast reduces the chances for possible moisture recovery across the area.

Some early-season deficits are developing in eastern South Africa and Madagascar.

During the past week, between 10-50mm of rain prevailed over Angola, much of Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and Namibia's Caprivi Strip. Portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and Eswatini received larger totals exceeding 50mm and even 100mm. Much of Malawi, northern Mozambigue and many portions of Namibia remained dry (Figure 1). Central parts of Madagascar received moderate rains, but southern portions of the country received little rainfall. Deficits have steadily increased there over the past month or so. Since 01 October, conditions have been mixed across Angola with interspersed negative and positive anomalies. Positive 2-month rainfall anomalies are observed in western South Africa. In contrast, negative rainfall anomalies (10-50mm) were present over the Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, Lesotho, and central Mozambique. Looking at vegetation health, poor conditions prevailed across western Angola, parts of Mozambique, and much of Madagascar. Some of this pattern may be due to current rainfall conditions and some may be holdover from last season.

During the outlook period, above-average rainfall is expected in eastern South Africa, and northern Madagascar. More than 50mm is likely to fall in South Africa. Below-normal rainfall is expected across southern Madagascar, northern Mozambique, Malawi, eastern Zambia, Namibia, northwest Botswana, southwest Zambia, and southern Angola.





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.



Figure 3: Hazards, focused over West Africa



Figure 4: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa



Figure 5: Hazards, focused over southern Africa

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