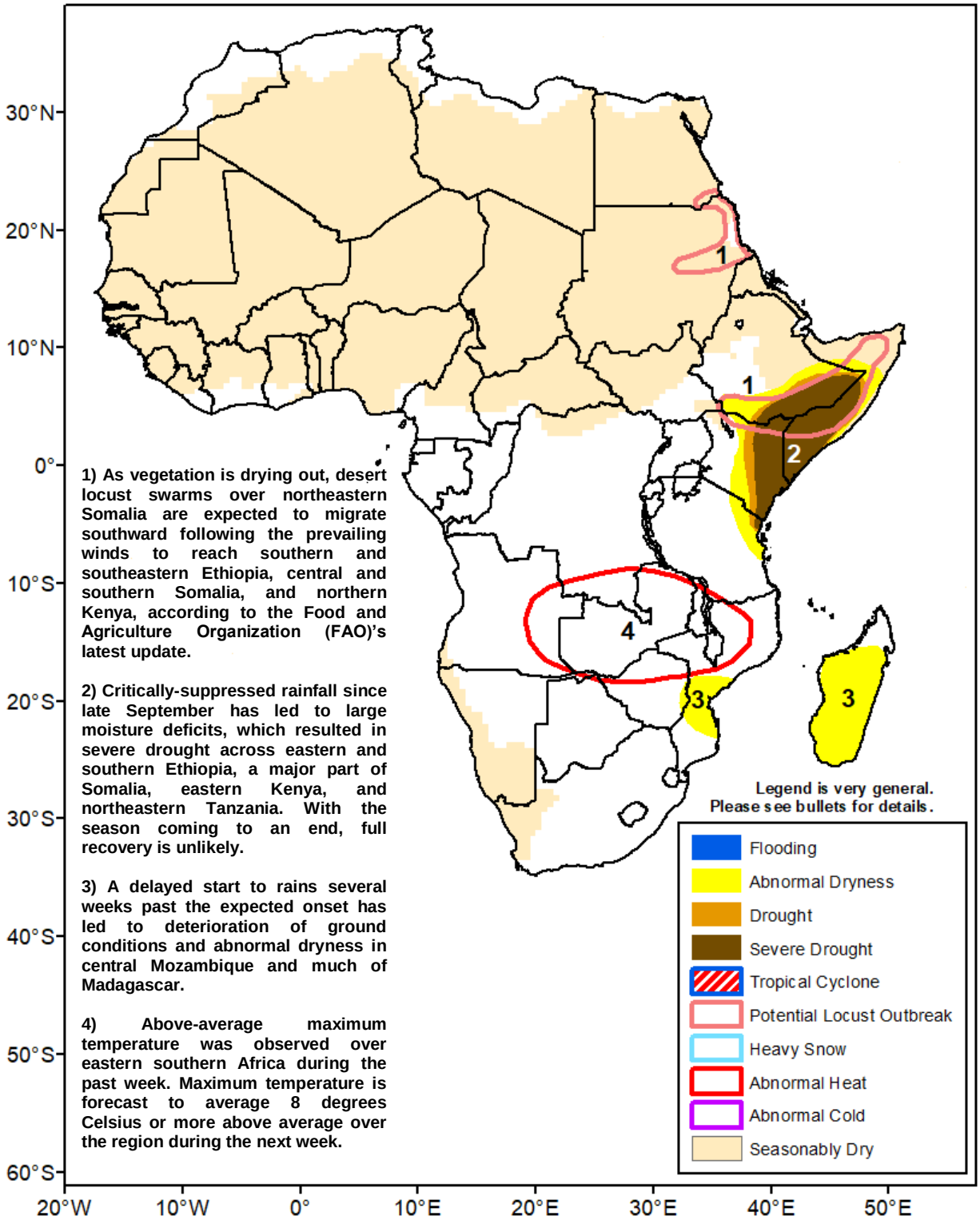
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
16 – 22 December 2021

- **Persistent deficient rain has led to severe drought in the Horn of Africa.**
- **Poor rain and abnormally hot weather hit central and eastern southern Africa.**



1) As vegetation is drying out, desert locust swarms over northeastern Somalia are expected to migrate southward following the prevailing winds to reach southern and southeastern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia, and northern Kenya, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest update.

2) Critically-suppressed rainfall since late September has led to large moisture deficits, which resulted in severe drought across eastern and southern Ethiopia, a major part of Somalia, eastern Kenya, and northeastern Tanzania. With the season coming to an end, full recovery is unlikely.

3) A delayed start to rains several weeks past the expected onset has led to deterioration of ground conditions and abnormal dryness in central Mozambique and much of Madagascar.

4) Above-average maximum temperature was observed over eastern southern Africa during the past week. Maximum temperature is forecast to average 8 degrees Celsius or more above average over the region during the next week.

The October – December rainfall season is quickly coming to an end in the Horn of Africa.

During the past week, suppressed rainfall prevailed over much of eastern Africa. However, scattered moderate to heavy rains were observed over southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). This past week's rainfall totals were below-average over southwestern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and southern Somalia. Despite enhanced rains that fell over parts of eastern Kenya over the recent weeks, moderate to large deficits persisted over much of the sub-region. As the *Short-Rains*, October – December, rainfall season is swiftly approaching to an end, less and less rain is expected over many areas, leaving no chance for drought recovery.

The most recent vegetation products showed that well below-average and degraded vegetation conditions spread across southern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, and southern Somalia due to a delayed onset and acute dryness since the beginning of the season. Reports have already indicated negative impacts on the agricultural and pastoral sectors. The current drought is likely to substantially reduce crop yields and exacerbate food insecurity for many people.

For next week, a dry weather pattern with suppressed rainfall is forecast over the Horn of Africa. The forecast limited amounts will maintain drought in the region. However, moderate rains are expected to continue over parts of eastern Kenya, which may maintain localized moisture surpluses over some areas.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 08 December – 14 December, 2021

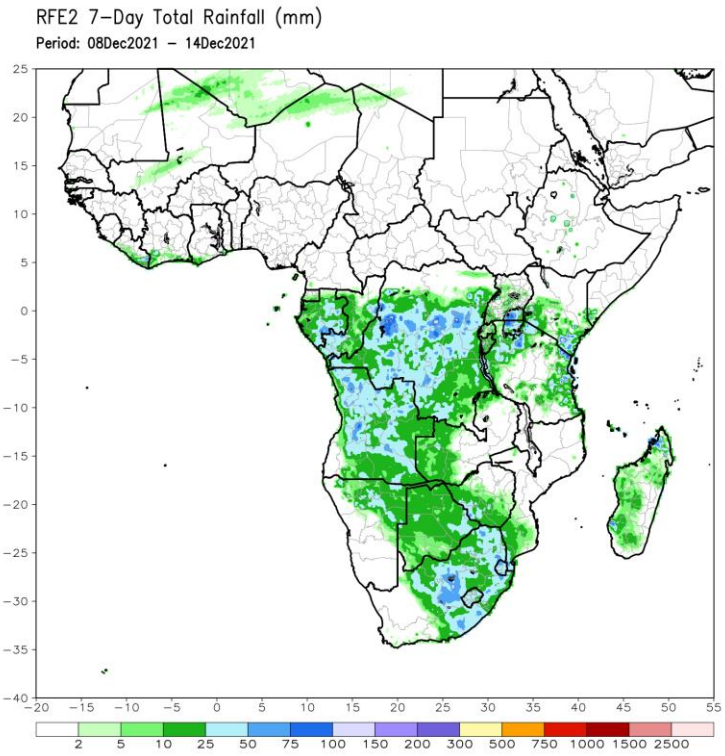


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Dryness continues across central and eastern southern Africa.

Since mid-November to present, insufficient rain amounts were received over a wide area of southern Africa. Negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies were registered throughout the central and eastern parts of the sub-region. Deficits ranged between 50 – 200 mm over Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar (**Figure 2**). Over the recent weeks, suppressed rainfall affected Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and parts of Zimbabwe, strengthening thirty-day moisture deficits. Moreover, abnormally hot weather with maximum temperature averaging 4 – 8 degrees Celsius above average was recorded over the region. The compound effect of inconsistent rainfall and higher temperatures exacerbated ground conditions over many local areas.

According to the most recent vegetation products, stressed and poor vegetation conditions were depicted over central and eastern Zambia, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Further degradation is likely to ensue if favorable rainfall distribution does not return over the upcoming weeks.

For next week, a dry weather pattern with suppressed rainfall is again forecast over eastern southern Africa, encompassing Zambia, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Across the Channel of Mozambique, although light to moderate rains are expected over western Madagascar, rainfall amounts will still likely fall below-average throughout much of the Island. The forecast continued lack of rain would exacerbate dryness over many areas. In contrast, heavy rains are expected over western Angola, central and eastern South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini, potentially triggering flash flood over localized areas.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 15 November – 14 December, 2021

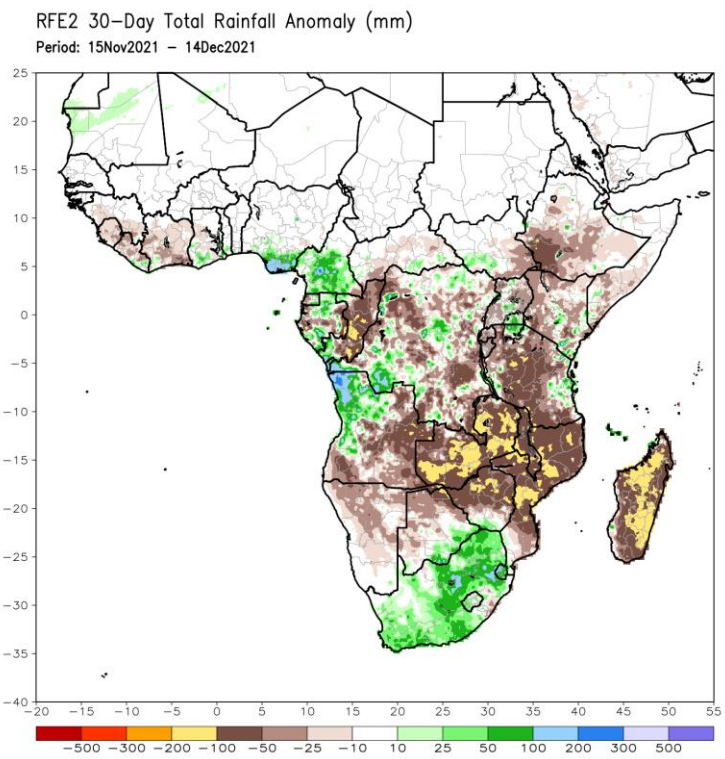


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

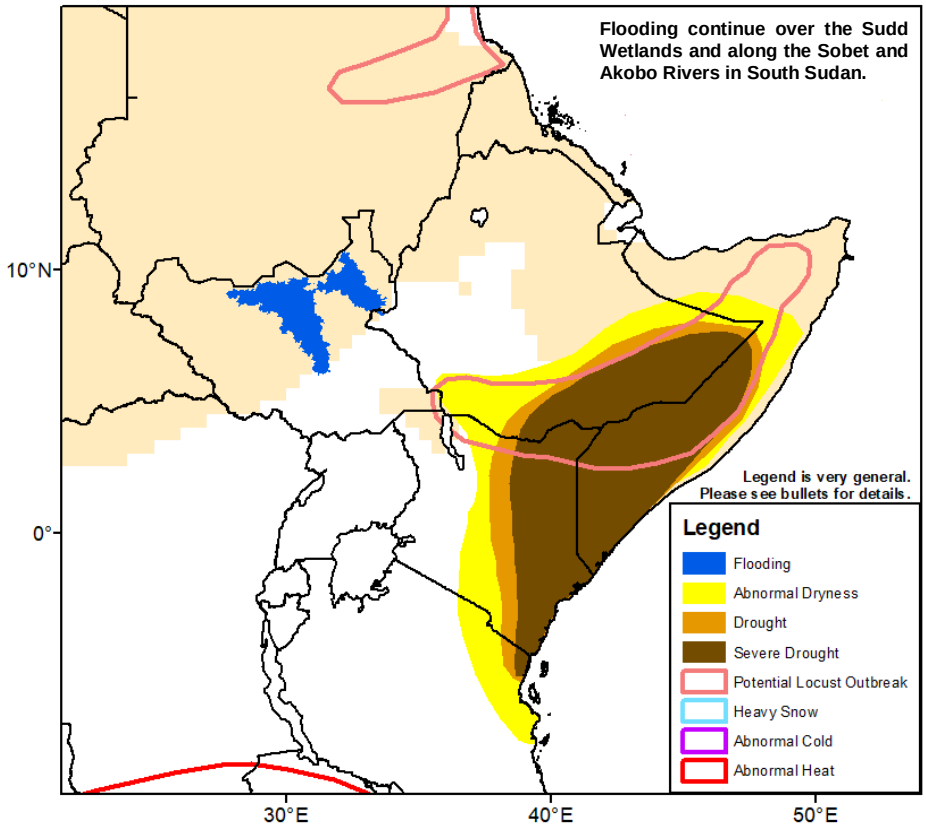


Figure 3: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa

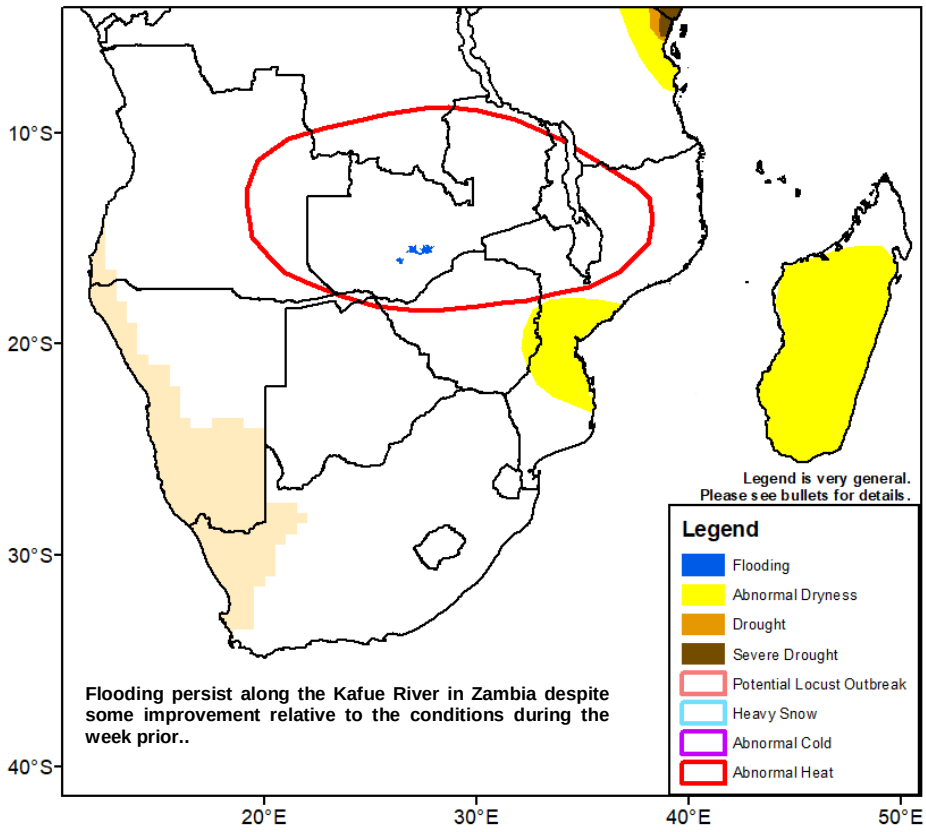


Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa