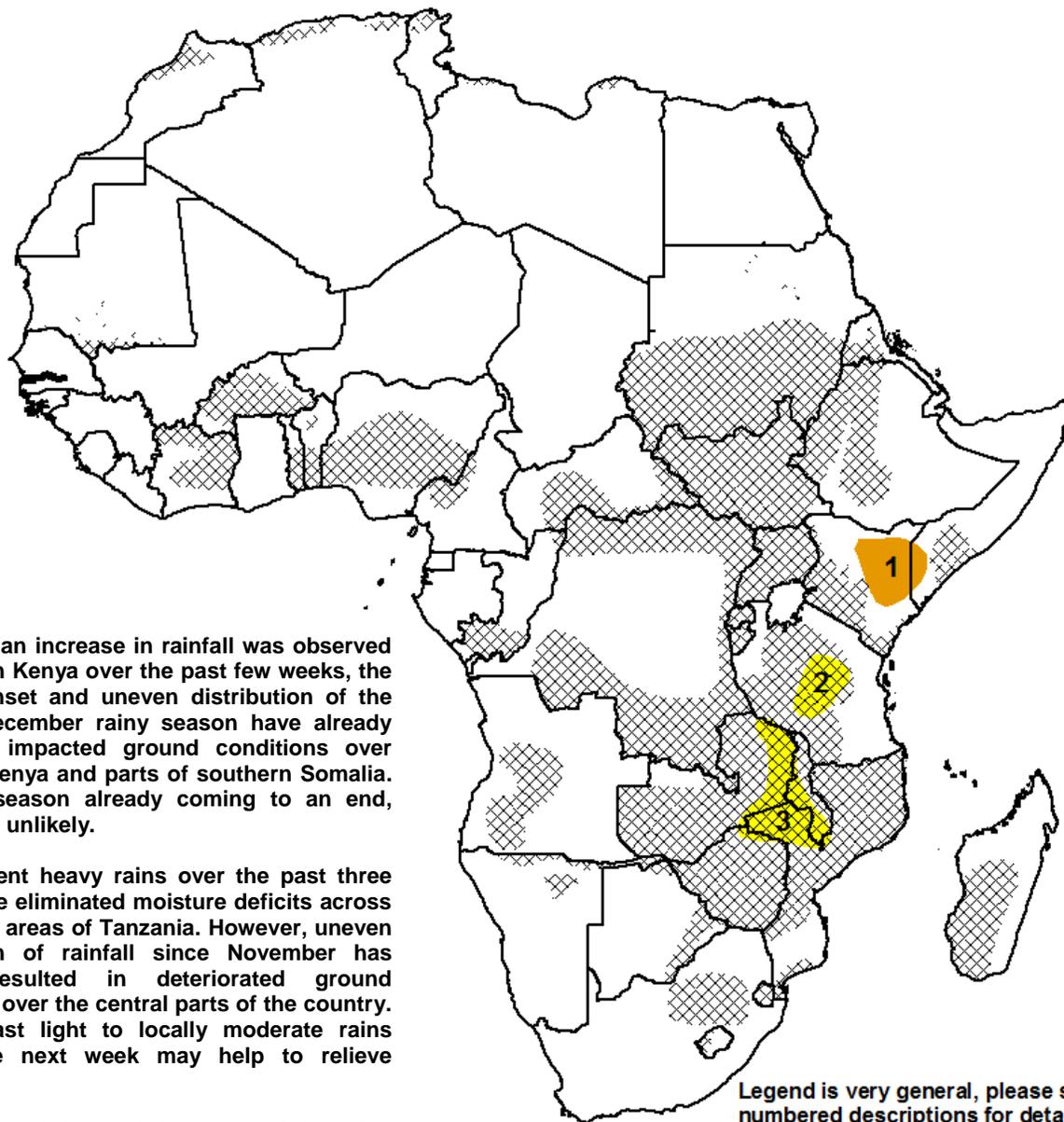




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 19 – December 25, 2013

- Increased rains during the past week have helped to replenish soil moisture in eastern Southern Africa, while limited rains have worsened dryness in northern Kenya and southern Somalia.



1) Though an increase in rainfall was observed in southern Kenya over the past few weeks, the delayed onset and uneven distribution of the October-December rainy season have already negatively impacted ground conditions over northern Kenya and parts of southern Somalia. With the season already coming to an end, recovery is unlikely.

2) Consistent heavy rains over the past three weeks have eliminated moisture deficits across many local areas of Tanzania. However, uneven distribution of rainfall since November has already resulted in deteriorated ground conditions over the central parts of the country. The forecast light to locally moderate rains during the next week may help to relieve dryness.

3) A prolonged delay of the onset of the rainy season and an erratic rainfall distribution during November have resulted in developing dryness across eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and western Mozambique. Heavy and above-average rains are forecast over eastern Southern Africa during the next week, which should help to alleviate dryness.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

	December Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Good rains received in eastern Southern Africa during the past week.

The rainfall distribution during the past seven days was characterized by a shift of the rain-bearing system farther east, bringing moderate to heavy rains across eastern Angola, Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, and the northern half of Mozambique (**Figure 1**). The heaviest (> 75 mm) rains fell over eastern Angola, western Zambia, eastern South Africa, and eastern Madagascar, where rainfall surpluses have exceeded 100 mm over the past thirty days. Moderate to heavy rains were also recorded over the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces of northern South Africa, which helped to increase rainfall surpluses across the Maize Triangle region. Conversely, little to no rainfall was observed across western Angola and Namibia. Over eastern Southern Africa, this past week's enhanced rains marked a break to several consecutive weeks with below-average rainfall, which helped to erode thirty-day rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture over the dry portions of Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. The continuation of increased rains is expected to improve ground conditions in the region.

An analysis of the rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated a dipole, with wetter than average and drier than average conditions over western and eastern Southern Africa, respectively (**Figure 2**). Over eastern Southern Africa, dryness can be attributed to the delayed onset and poor spatial and temporal rainfall distribution since the beginning of the season, in particular, during November. Conversely, favorable rainfall distribution has led to above-average rainfall elsewhere. During the next outlook period, there is an increased chance for above-average rains over eastern Angola, central Namibia, western Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, and the central and northern portions of Mozambique. Light rains are forecast over South Africa, whereas suppressed rainfall is expected throughout southern Botswana, northernmost South Africa, and southern Mozambique.

Poor October-December season performance was observed in Eastern Africa.

Due to delayed onset and irregular rainfall distribution during the October-December rainy season, a wide portion of northern Kenya has experienced seasonal deficits, with accumulated rainfall accounting for only less than 25 percent of the average since the beginning of October (**Figure 3**). This has already negatively impacted pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions over many local areas of the region. Despite an increase in rainfall observed in southern and localized areas of central Kenya over the past few weeks, the heaviest rains remained farther south along the border with Tanzania and coastal areas to the east, which contributed to sustain dryness across northern Kenya. As the rainy season is approaching to its end, the chance for recovery is unlikely. For next week, rainfall is expected to subside over Eastern Africa, with light rains forecast over eastern Kenya, while little to no rainfall is predicted elsewhere.

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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