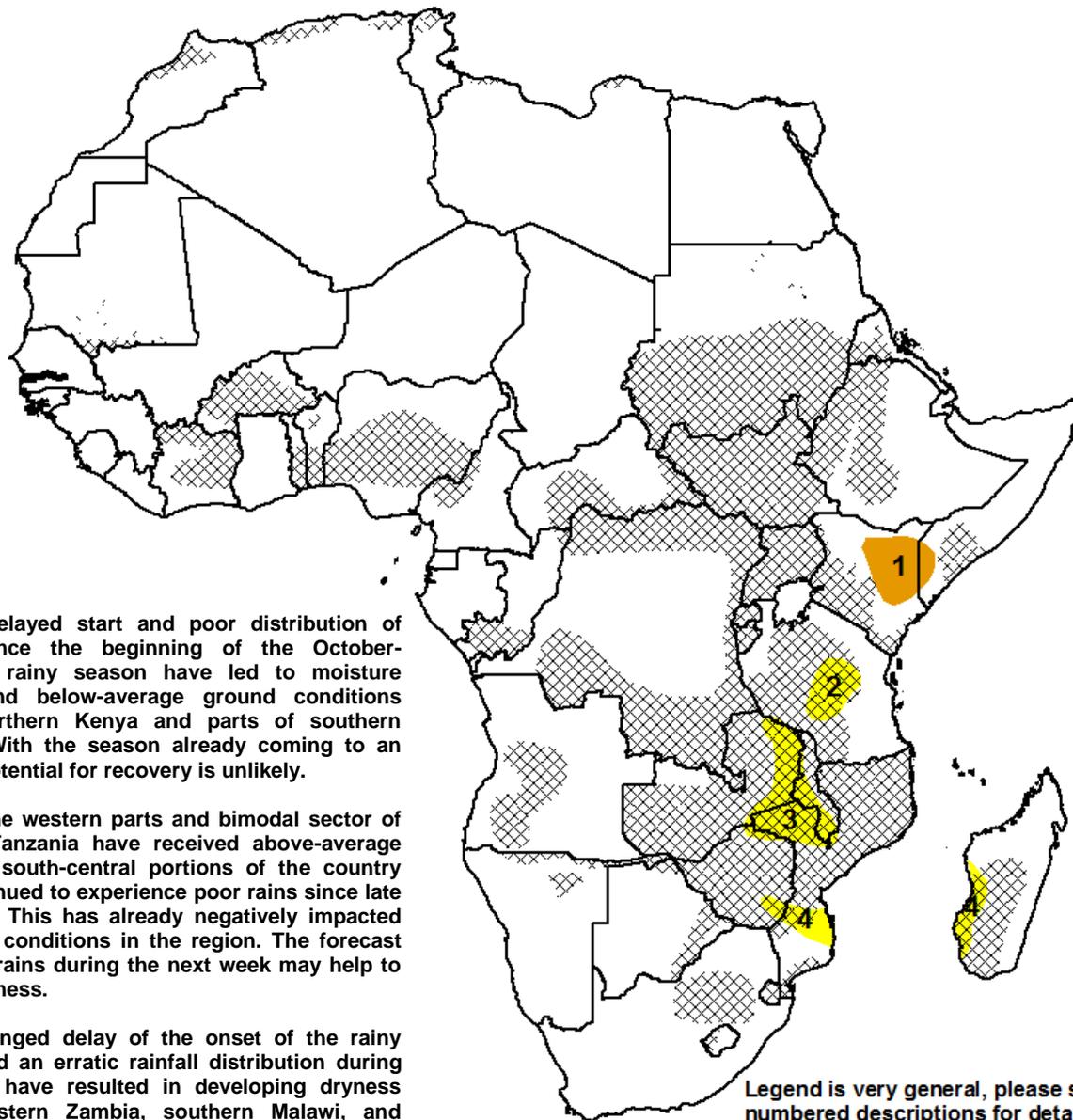




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 26, 2013 – January 1, 2013

- Enhanced rains were observed across Southern Africa during the past observation period.



1) Both delayed start and poor distribution of rainfall since the beginning of the October-December rainy season have led to moisture deficits and below-average ground conditions across northern Kenya and parts of southern Somalia. With the season already coming to an end, the potential for recovery is unlikely.

2) While the western parts and bimodal sector of northern Tanzania have received above-average rains, the south-central portions of the country have continued to experience poor rains since late November. This has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions in the region. The forecast enhanced 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. Moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast to continue and are expected to improve conditions on the grounds.

4) Insufficient rains since mid-November has resulted in large rainfall deficits, likely negatively impacting cropping activities across southeastern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and along coastal southwestern Madagascar. The forecast light rains during the next seven days could potentially worsen ground conditions.

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

## Increased rains helped to provide partial relieve to dryness in eastern Southern Africa.

Enhanced rainfall was observed over the central and eastern portions of Southern Africa during the past seven days. Heavy rains spread west-east throughout eastern Angola, northeastern Namibia, Zambia, northern Botswana, northern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and the northern two-thirds of Mozambique and Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, light to moderate rains were also recorded over South Africa. Over the dry portions of Southern Africa, this past week's above-average rains have reduced and eliminated thirty-day rainfall deficits over many local areas of southern Malawi and the western and northern parts of Mozambique. This has contributed to ease dryness in the region. In contrast, reduced rainfall amounts were registered over southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and coastal areas of western Madagascar, where accumulated rainfall since mid-November have been among the driest in records over the past thirty years.

An analysis of the rainfall percentile over the past thirty days showed cumulative rainfall below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile over localized areas of southeastern Zimbabwe, the Gaza and Inhambane provinces of southern Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar (**Figure 2**). The dryness was mainly due to sporadic and light rainfall since the second dekad (a 10-day period) of November. Moreover, vegetation conditions from remote sensing technology showed signs of degradation across these regions. During the next outlook period, seasonal rainfall is forecast to continue across Southern Africa, with heavy rains over northern Namibia, eastern Angola, Zambia, and localized areas of western and northern Mozambique. Reduced rains are, however, expected over southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar, which could worsen ground conditions over many local areas of the region.

## Rainy season is coming to an end in Eastern Africa.

During the past week, a marked reduction in rainfall was observed over Eastern Africa relative to that during the prior week. Light to locally moderate rains were recorded over southern Kenya and along the border with Tanzania, whereas suppressed rains were recorded farther north (**Figure 3**). The continued average to above-average rains over southern Kenya over the past few weeks have sustained rainfall surpluses in the region, while average to below-average rains since mid-December have maintained seasonal rainfall deficits, with accumulated rainfall accounting for only less than 25 percent of the average over portions of northern Kenya and southern Somalia. The persistent rainfall deficits over the dry portions of Kenya and Somalia were attributed to a delayed onset and poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall since the beginning of October. During the next week, as the rainy season is approaching its end, limited rains are expected over Eastern Africa, with little to light rains over localized areas of southern and central Kenya. Suppressed rains are forecast 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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