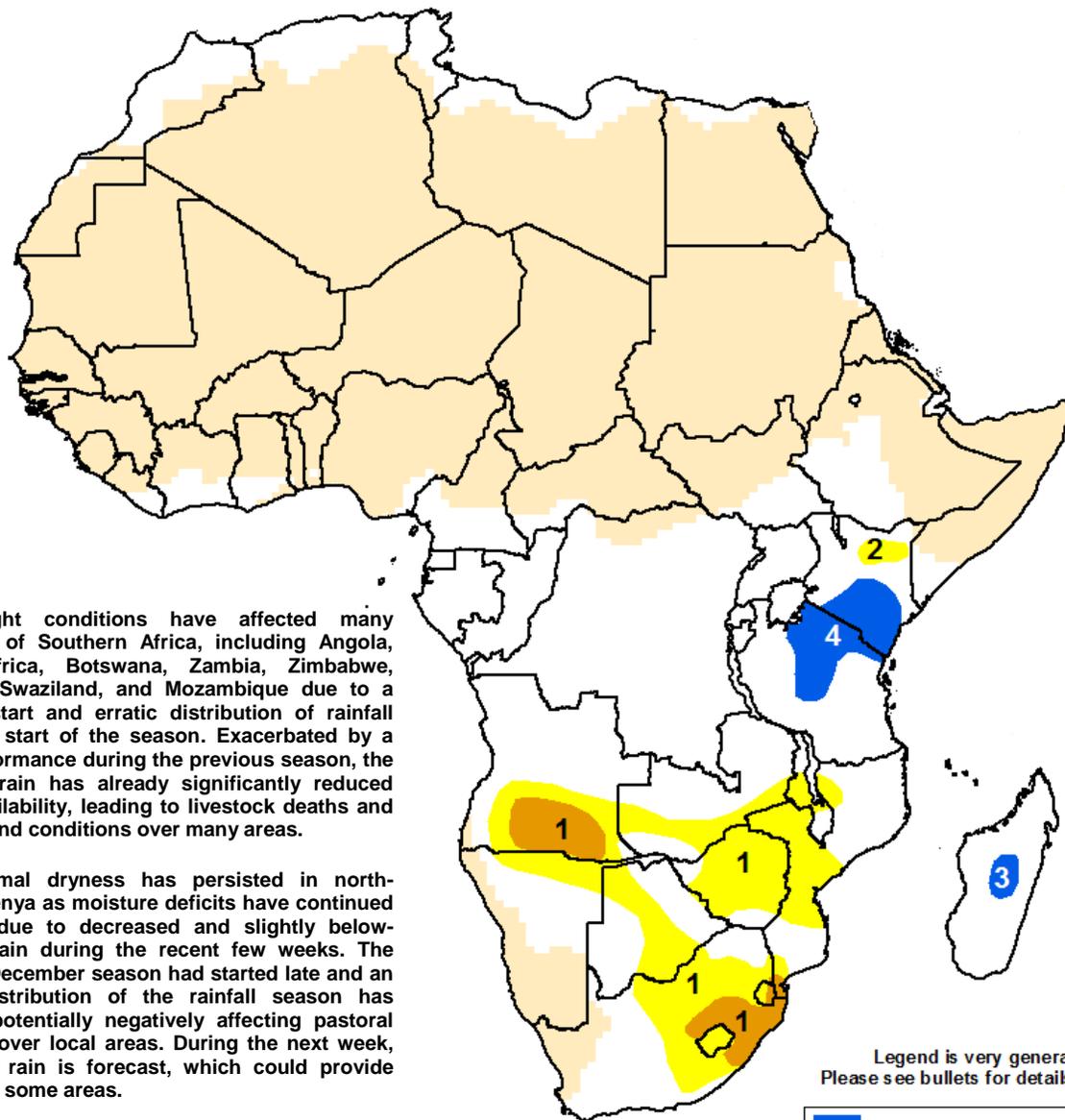




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 17 – 23, 2015

- A substantial increase in rainfall is forecast in eastern Southern Africa during the upcoming outlook period.
- The risks for flooding are high over Eastern Africa as locally heavy rain is expected during the next week.



1) Drought conditions have affected many countries of Southern Africa, including Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique due to a delayed start and erratic distribution of rainfall since the start of the season. Exacerbated by a poor performance during the previous season, the deficient rain has already significantly reduced water availability, leading to livestock deaths and poor ground conditions over many areas.

2) Abnormal dryness has persisted in north-central Kenya as moisture deficits have continued to grow due to decreased and slightly below-average rain during the recent few weeks. The October-December season had started late and an erratic distribution of the rainfall season has ensued, potentially negatively affecting pastoral activities over local areas. During the next week, increased rain is forecast, which could provide relief over some areas.

3) Abundant rain during the past week has led to localized flooding and fatalities over areas of Antananarivo, central Madagascar. Heavy rain is expected to continue during the upcoming week, maintaining elevated risks for flooding and landslides over flood-prone and low-lying areas.

4) Increased risks for flooding exist for southern Kenya and north-central Tanzania as locally heavy downpours are forecast over the region during the next outlook period.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Light Blue	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

Limited and below-average rain continued in eastern Southern Africa.

During the past week, while moderate to locally heavy rain fell over central Angola, Zambia, eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, parts of southern Mozambique, northern South Africa, and central Madagascar, reduced rain was recorded in southeastern Angola, southern Zambia, western and central Mozambique, and western Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Over Madagascar, the enhanced rain has triggered localized flooding and fatalities over areas of Antananarivo in the central parts of the Island. In contrast, reduced and below-average rain has increased moisture deficits in eastern Southern Africa, particularly, southeastern Zambia and the western and central parts of Mozambique.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies since mid-November to present has indicated below-average rain over south-central Angola, extending to central South Africa, eastern Zambia, Malawi, western and central Mozambique, and western Madagascar (**Figure 2**). Negative rainfall anomalies ranging between 50-100 mm were now observed and were comparable in magnitude between Angola, where the rainfall season starts earlier in October, and central Mozambique, where seasonal rain begins in November, a month later. This could indicate a rapid drying over eastern Southern Africa during the past few weeks. During the next week, rainfall forecasts call for a significant increase in rainfall over the northern and eastern portions of Southern Africa. Heavy and above-average rain is expected from northern Angola, northern and eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, the northern half of Mozambique, and Madagascar. In contrast, light and below-average rain is forecast to the south, including South Africa, eastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. The delay in the onset of consistent rain could lead to a significant reduction in planted areas over many areas of the sub-region, including South Africa.

Potential for flooding is high over Eastern Africa.

During the past week, a slight decrease in rainfall was observed over Eastern Africa, with suppressed rain over eastern Kenya and southern Somalia (**Figure 3**). In contrast, abundant and above-average rain fell farther south over southern Kenya and Tanzania, with amounts exceeding 75 mm over some areas. The continued seasonal rain has provided favorable soil moisture for crops over the bimodal region in the north and much of Tanzania. Over the past thirty days, above-average rain has persisted over southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda, southern Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and much of Tanzania, except the southeastern parts of the country, where moderate deficits were observed. For next week, a return to a wet weather pattern is forecast over Eastern Africa, with locally heavy rain over eastern DRC, Burundi, Tanzania, and Kenya. The forecast, widespread and enhanced rain could lead to overflowing of rivers and localized flooding over many areas.

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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