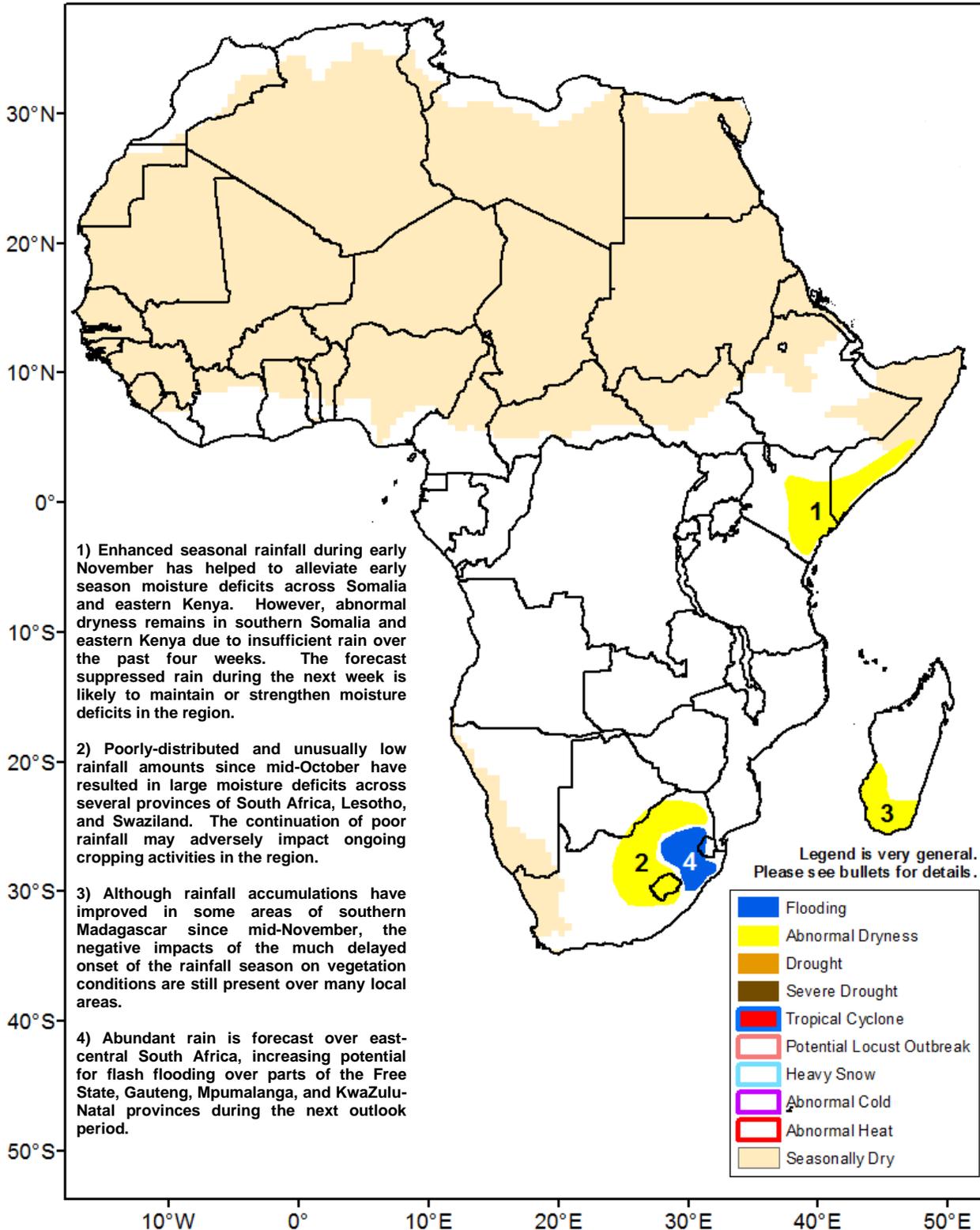




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 7 – 13, 2017

- Insufficient rain over the recent weeks maintained moisture deficits in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia.
- Abnormal dryness persisted over parts of South Africa and Madagascar despite recent increase in rain.



Seasonal rainfall is ending in the Greater Horn of Africa.

From late November to early December, a widespread suppression in rainfall was observed over the Greater Horn of Africa. While little to light rain was only scattered over western Ethiopia, central and eastern Kenya, no rainfall was recorded elsewhere (**Figure 1**). In Kenya, this past weeks' total rainfall was below-average and contributed to maintain or even strengthen thirty-day moisture deficits across the eastern portions of the country (**Figure 2**). Despite some increase in rainfall over central Kenya during mid-November, the erratic distribution of rainfall over the past several weeks has already negatively impacted ground conditions in the region. An analysis of recent vegetation conditions, estimated from remote sensing system indicated widespread below-average and unfavorable conditions across the eastern two-thirds of Kenya and portions of southern Somalia. With the rainfall season, nearing its end, the likelihood for recovery is minimal over many local areas of the region.

During the next seven days, rainfall forecasts suggest another week, with suppressed rain over the Horn of Africa. However, light to locally moderate rain is possible in southern Kenya and along the border with Tanzania. The forecast continued drier weather conditions may further increase moisture deficits and negatively impact agricultural and pastoral activities over the region.

Rainfall deficits remain over parts of Southern Africa.

During November, the northern and eastern parts of Southern Africa received above-average rainfall. These included eastern Angola, much of Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, central South Africa, and Madagascar. For South Africa and Madagascar, the thirty-day surpluses resulted from recent heavy and above-average rain over the recent few weeks, which helped to eliminate previous rainfall deficits over the dry portions of each region. In contrast, northwestern and southern Angola, north-central Namibia, Botswana, west-central and northern South-Africa, southern Mozambique, and northern Zimbabwe experienced moderate to large thirty-day rainfall deficits (**Figure 2**) due to a delayed onset and erratic rainfall distribution. For South Africa, while the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces now received rainfall surpluses, parts of the Free State, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces experienced moderate to large moisture deficits. An analysis of recent vegetation health index showed favorable conditions over most parts of Southern Africa. However, negative and below-average conditions were observed over portions of central and northern South Africa. A favorable distribution of rainfall is needed over the upcoming weeks to help offset rainfall deficits over the dry portions of the sub-region.

During the next outlook period, widespread heavy rain is forecast throughout Angola, southern DRC, western Tanzania, and northern Zambia. Heavy rain is also expected in east-central South Africa and south-central Madagascar. Over South Africa, the forecast enhanced rain elevates the risks for flash flooding over many local areas. Little to light rain is expected 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.

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

