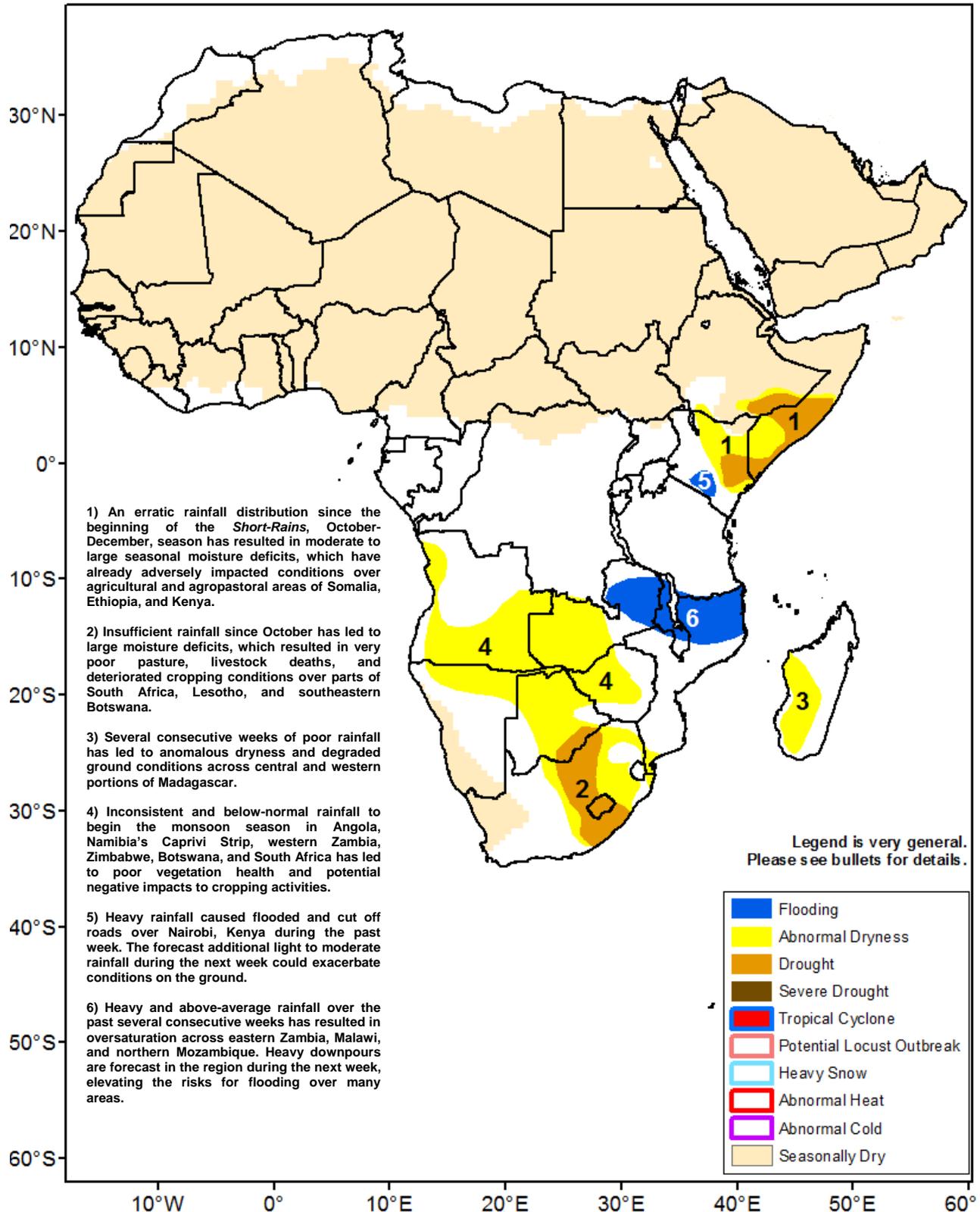




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 20 – 26, 2018

- A delayed onset and erratic seasonal rainfall distribution resulted in drought over parts of Kenya and Somalia.
- A lack of rainfall since the beginning of the season has led to drought over portions of southern Africa.



Above-average rainfall over the recent weeks caused flooding in Kenya.

While the October-December rainfall season is quickly ending in eastern Africa, increased rainfall was recorded, which resulted in flooding over areas of Kenya over the recent weeks. During the past observation period, moderate to heavy rainfall fell over central Kenya (**Figure 1**), leading to flooding and cut off roads over Nairobi and the low lying areas, including the Zimmerman, River Bank, Garden Estate, Thome, Roysambu, and Kahawa West counties, according to media report. During the antecedent week, heavy downpours triggered flooding and many displaced people over the Nyando region of western Kenya. The enhancement in rainfall over the recent weeks was partially attributed to low-level convergence of moist westerly and easterly flows and the influence of the Madden-Julian-Oscillation, which propagated eastward off of the African continent during the past week. Farther north, rainfall has, however, already started to subside as little to no rainfall was registered throughout southern Somalia and southern Ethiopia.

Over the past thirty days, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over south-central Kenya, while negative anomalies persisted over northern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and southernmost Somalia. Despite an increase in rainfall over southern and central Kenya since December, poor temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall since October has already adversely impacted agricultural and agropastoral activities over many areas of eastern Africa. An analysis of the tendency in Vegetation Health Index over the recent weeks indicated further biomass deterioration over western Kenya, southern and southeastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia. As the rainfall season is ending, there is little to no chance for recovery for already-impacted areas. Conversely, the continuation of wetter weather patterns could exacerbate ground conditions or trigger new flooding over previously-flooded areas.

For next week, drier weather, with mostly suppressed rainfall is expected over eastern Africa. However, light to moderate rainfall is forecast over southern and central Kenya, which elevates risks for flooding in the areas.

Dryness continues across much of southern Africa.

From mid-November to present, below-average rainfall continued over a wide area of southern Africa from much of Angola, western Zambia, northern Namibia, Botswana, western Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, southernmost Mozambique, to western Madagascar (**Figure 2**). The largest (> 50 mm) deficits were observed over southern Angola, western Zambia, and western Madagascar. The drier than average conditions were partially attributed to a broad anomalous upper-level cyclonic circulation, which suppressed rainfall over central southern Africa over the past thirty days. In contrast, above-average rainfall was recorded over west-central Angola, and from eastern Zambia, Malawi, to western and central Mozambique, and north west-central Madagascar. During the past week, heavy and above-average rainfall was received over eastern southern Africa, including eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and western Madagascar. Light to moderate rainfall was recorded in northern Angola and eastern South Africa. Suppressed rainfall was observed elsewhere.

Since October, insufficient seasonal rainfall has been observed over the western and central parts of southern Africa. Cumulative rainfall dropped below 50 percent of the average in southern Angola, western Zambia, northern Namibia, western Zimbabwe, southern Botswana, west-central South Africa, and coastal western Madagascar. As a result, very poor pasture, livestock mortalities, and degraded cropping conditions were reported over areas of South Africa, Lesotho, and Botswana. Ground conditions are likely to worsen, further negatively impacting pastoral and agricultural activities, should poor rains continue over the upcoming weeks.

During the next week, torrential rainfall is forecast to continue over eastern Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique, which could result in flooding over the region. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over eastern South Africa and northern Madagascar. In contrast, little to light and potentially below-average rainfall 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.

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