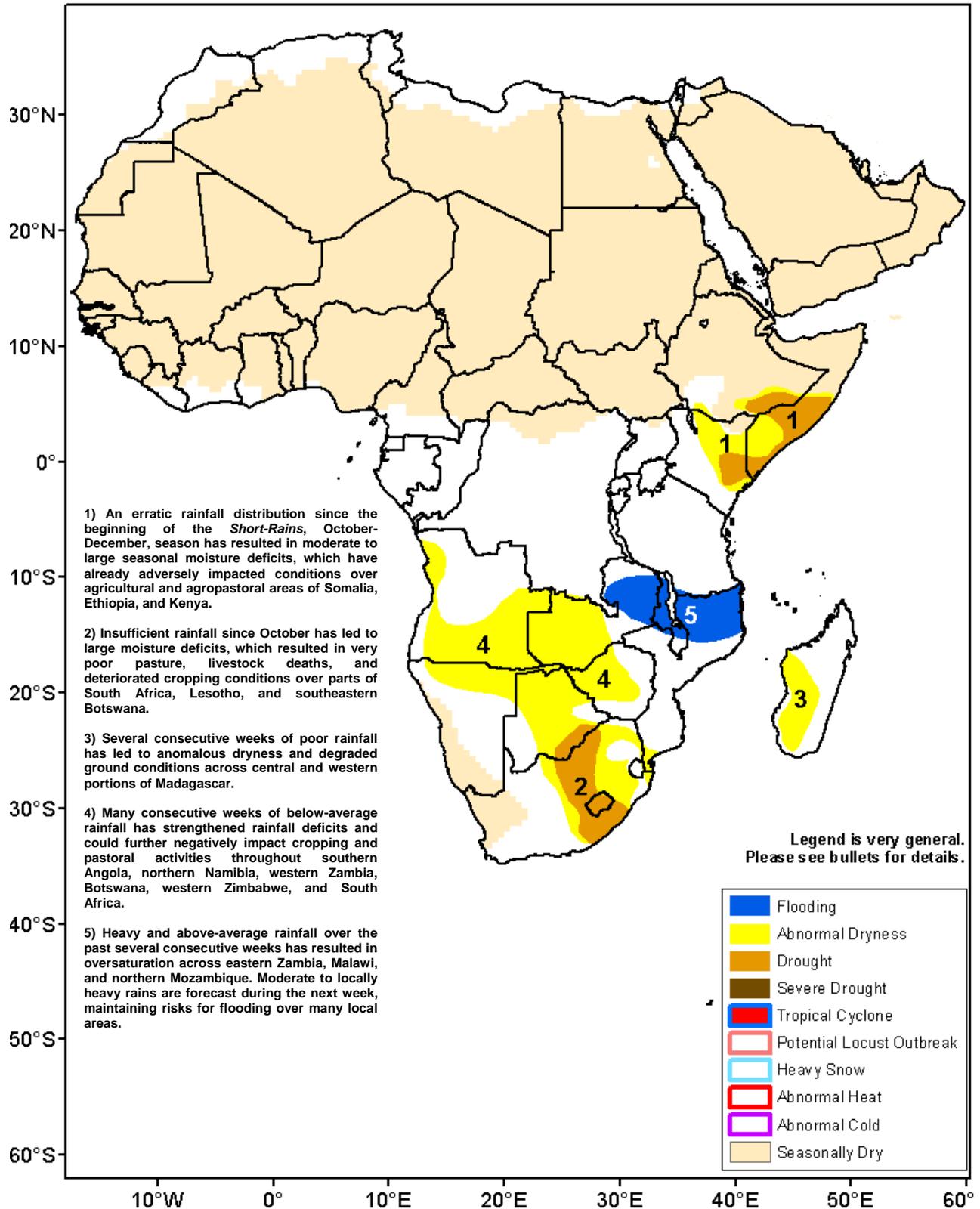




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 27, 2018 – January 2, 2019

- A poor performance of the October-December rainfall season has resulted in drought in eastern Africa.
- Deficient rainfall since the beginning of the season has strengthened dryness across southern Africa.

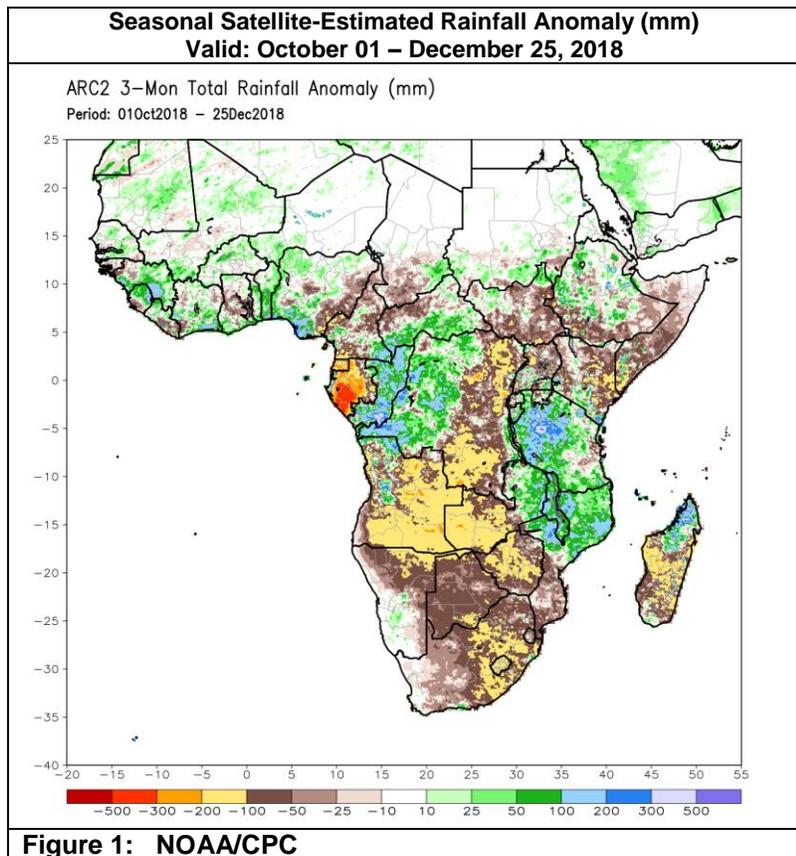


The October-December rainfall season has ended up with a poor performance in eastern Africa.

A comparison of the accumulated rainfall since October to present with the long-term average during the same period has indicated that seasonal rainfall was below-average throughout most areas of eastern Africa. Negative rainfall anomalies were registered over northern Uganda, southern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, southern and central Somalia, where deficits ranged between 50-200 mm (Figure 1). This reflected a poor performance of the *Short-Rains*, October-December, rainfall season. This season was characterized by a delayed onset to the rainfall over many areas during October. During November, insufficient rainfall continued and deficits strengthened over the southern portions of the sub-region, particularly Kenya, despite some erratic rainfall improvement over the Mendera Triangle of northern Kenya and parts of southern Somalia. Since the beginning of December, rainfall has substantially increased across central and southern Kenya but slightly below-average rainfall persisted farther north. During the past week, suppressed rainfall was mostly observed over eastern Africa, which was typical during this time of the year, as the season is ending.

The poorly-distributed seasonal rainfall and resulting drought has already negatively impacted agropastoral and agricultural activities over areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. An analysis of recent remote sensing products showed that below-average and poor vegetation conditions were recorded over east-central Kenya and localized areas of southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. Ground reports have already indicated that a substantial reduction in crop production was expected over many areas of the dry portions of the Horn of Africa.

During the next week, little to light and near-average rainfall is forecast over eastern Africa. The forecast limited rain may provide relief to excess moisture and benefit previously-flooded localized areas of south-central Kenya.

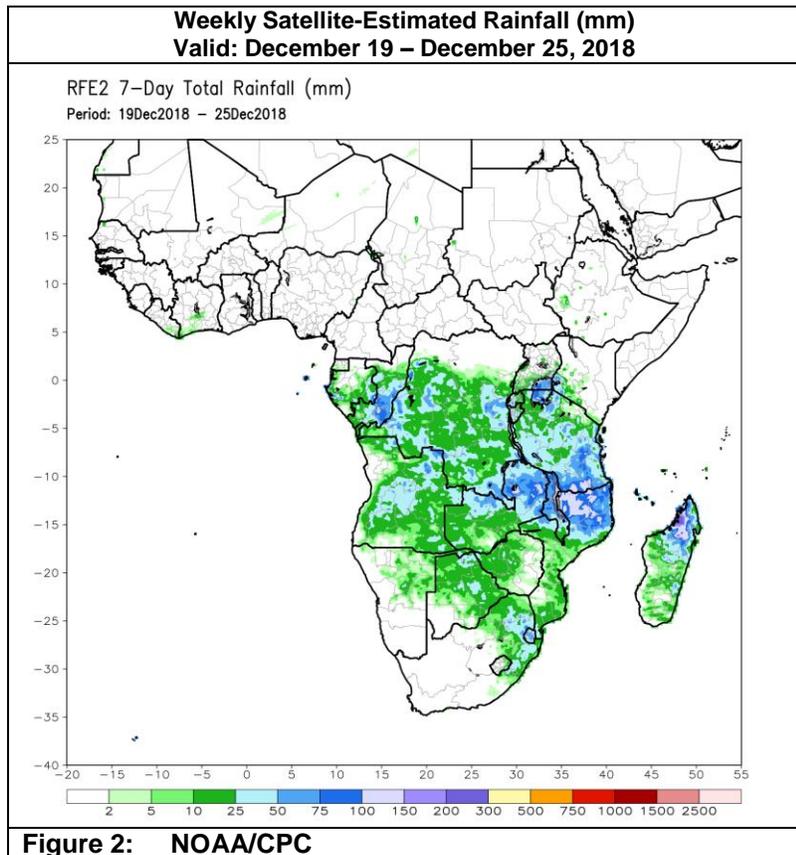


A consistent and unevenly-distributed rainfall has amplified seasonal moisture deficits in southern Africa.

Over the past consecutive several weeks, heavy and above-average rainfall was concentrated over the eastern portions of southern Africa from eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania, Malawi, to northern Mozambique, while reduced and below-average rainfall was observed over its western counterparts. During the past week, a relatively similar pattern (Figure 2), which resulted in flooding over areas of Malawi and drier than average conditions across southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, and central South Africa, was again observed. The continued unevenly-distributed rainfall has strengthened seasonal rainfall deficits over southern Africa. Large (> 100 mm) deficits were registered across eastern and southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, eastern South Africa, and western Madagascar. Over the past thirty days, near to above-average rainfall was recorded over northeastern South Africa and southwestern Madagascar; however, below-average rainfall persisted over the remainders of the sub-region. This was partly attributable to a broad upper-level, anomalous low-pressure system, centered over central southern Africa, which contributed to suppress rainfall over a wide area of the region.

The lack of rainfall since the beginning of the southern African monsoon has led to drought and has already negatively affected ground conditions over many areas, including central South Africa, Lesotho, and southeastern Botswana. Poor pasture conditions, livestock deaths, and poor ground conditions were reported over areas of South Africa. An analysis of recent remote sensing products has indicated that biomass conditions were unfavorable and even worsened over southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and eastern South Africa.

During the next week, wetter weather pattern is forecast across Angola, Zambia, northern Namibia, Botswana, and eastern South Africa, which should help erode short-term rainfall deficits over local areas. In contrast, limited, with little to light rainfall is expected over eastern Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and southern Madagascar.



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.