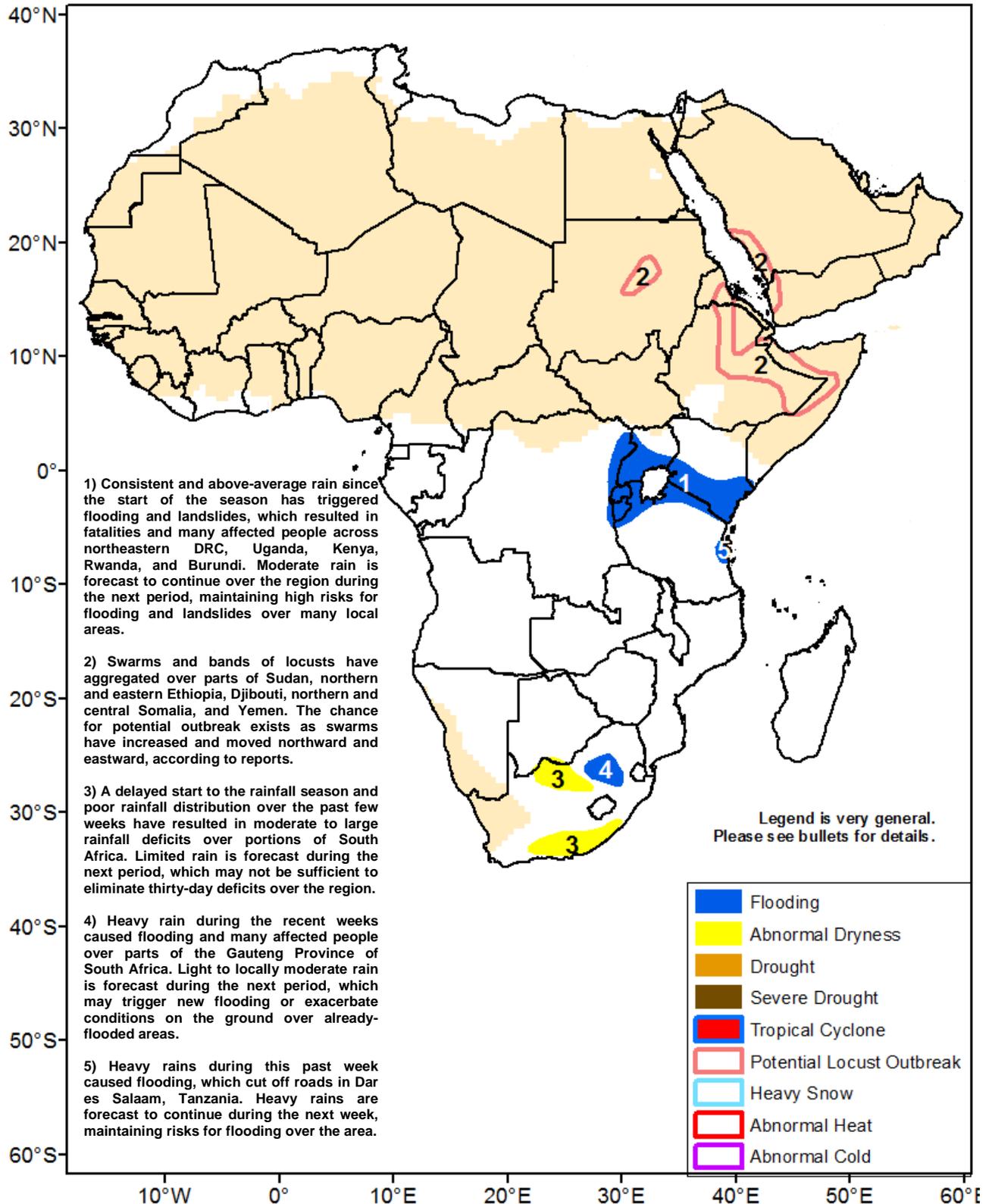




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 19 – 25, 2019

- Flooding risks remain across many areas of eastern Africa as additional moderate rain is forecast in the region.
- Drier-than-average conditions have persisted over parts of southern Africa despite a recent increase in rainfall.



Widespread moderate to heavy rain continued to cause deadly landslides and flooding in eastern Africa.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain was observed over a wide area of eastern Africa. The heaviest (> 50 mm) rain fell over central and eastern Kenya, parts of southwestern Ethiopia, and portions of southern Uganda (Figure 1). Widespread, light rain was registered elsewhere. Consistent and above-average rain since the start of the *short rains*, October-December, rainfall season has oversaturated the grounds throughout the region. The accumulated rains ranged between twice to 6-times the average over many areas. The excess moisture has likely contributed to numerous flooding and landslides over many local areas. In DRC, landslides were reported to kill more than two dozen people over the Ituri region to the north east. In Uganda, reports have indicated that flash floods resulted in fatalities in Kampala. In Kenya, floods also killed many people in Kitui, according to reports. A reduction in rainfall is much needed over the upcoming few weeks to help ease wetness and reduce risks for flooding and landslides in the region.

During the outlook period, scattered moderate rain is forecast to continue across northeastern DRC, Uganda, southwestern Ethiopia, and Kenya, which maintains elevated risks for flooding and landslides or aggravation of conditions on the ground over many previously-impacted areas of eastern Africa.

Despite a recent increase in rainfall, seasonal deficits have persisted over many areas of southern Africa.

Over the past two weeks, an increase in rainfall was observed over southern Africa. This enhancement in rainfall helped reduce short-term (thirty-day) rainfall deficits over many local areas. However, the accumulated rains since the beginning of October remained mostly below-average throughout the region, with the largest (> 100 mm) seasonal deficits over Angola and parts of southern South Africa (Figure 2). The onset of the seasonal rainfall was delayed by at least 4 weeks over many areas. The spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall was uneven, which has led to abnormal dryness over parts of southern Africa. Conversely, heavy and above-average rain since December has contributed to eliminate deficits and result in seasonal surpluses over parts of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and northern South Africa. A continuation of wet weather patterns is needed over the upcoming weeks to further reduce rainfall deficits and help improve ground conditions in the region.

Recent vegetation products indicated that below-average conditions persisted over the southern parts of South Africa. Degradation in conditions was also detected over parts of northern Namibia. However, parts of Namibia might have benefited from the recent increase in rainfall.

During the outlook period, heavy rain is forecast over Angola, southern DRC, eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar. Light to moderate rain is expected over Namibia and western Botswana, while moderate to heavy rain is forecast over eastern South Africa. In contrast, suppressed rain is forecast across eastern Botswana, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique.

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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