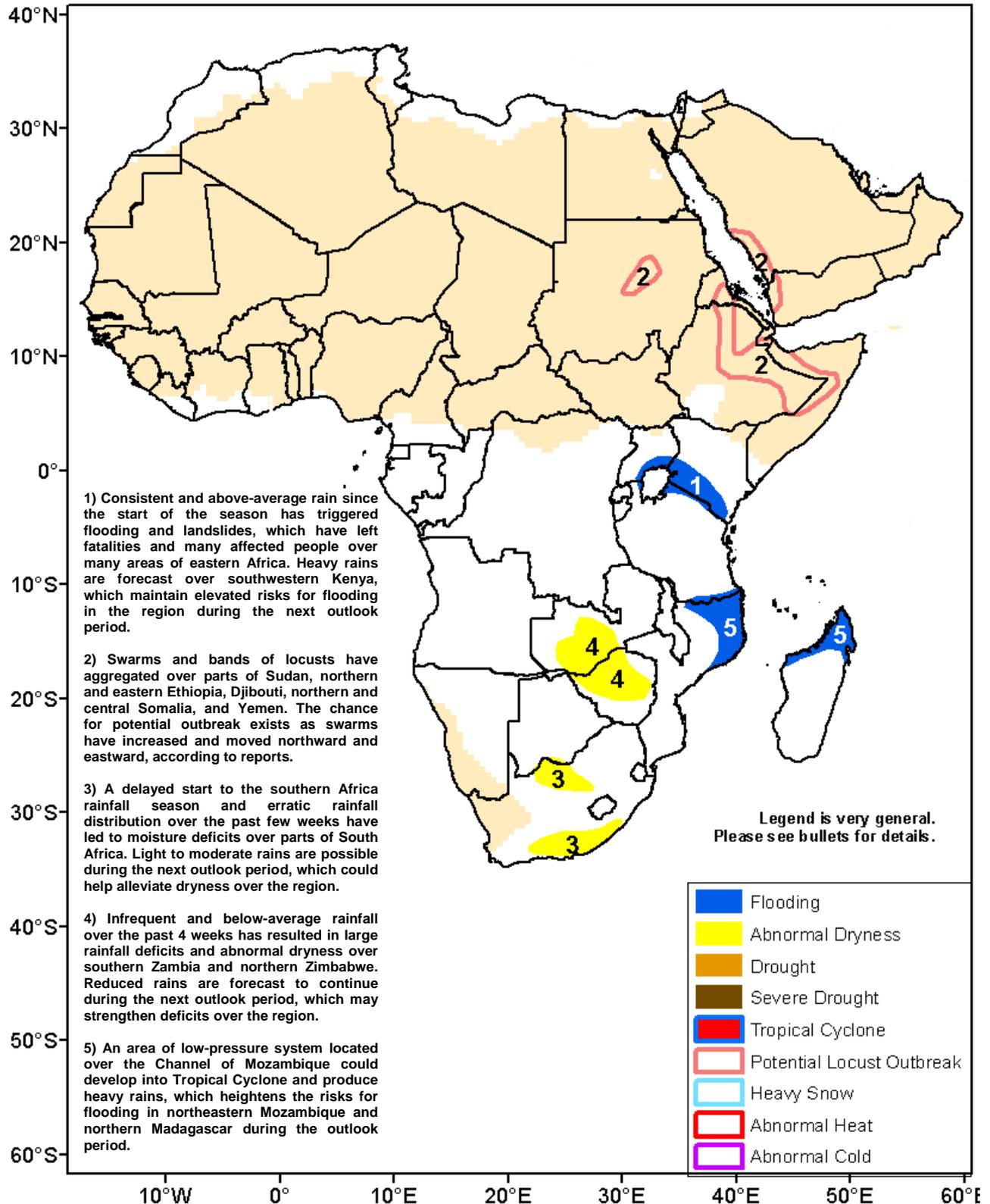




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 26, 2019 – January 1, 2020

- Locust breeding continues and threatens many areas of the Horn of Africa, according to reports.
- An uneven rainfall distribution over the recent weeks has led to abnormal dryness in Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Well above-average October-December rainfall season observed in eastern Africa

Figure 1 shows the departures of cumulative rainfall since October 1 to present from the long-term average. In eastern Africa, very large (> 200 mm) positive anomalies were observed over southern and eastern Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan, southeastern Uganda, central and eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia. The large seasonal surpluses could largely be attributed to a positive Indian Ocean Dipole phenomenon, which tends to favor above-average rainfall over the Horn of Africa. Above-average rainfall was successively observed across the region during October, November, and December.

Consequently, flooding and landslides have been reported to have resulted in many fatalities, destroyed infrastructures, and affected people over many areas. Recent heavy rains killed more than a dozen people in Bujumbura, Burundi, based on media reports. Wetness also caused the Nyando River in Kisumu County of Kenya to overflow its banks and displaced many people, according to reports.

During the next outlook period, moderate to heavy rains are forecast in southern Kenya. The forecast additional rains maintain elevated risks for flooding over local areas. Light rains are expected over Uganda and southwestern Ethiopia, while little to no rainfall is forecast elsewhere.

Erratic rainfall distribution continued to negatively affect moisture conditions in eastern southern Africa.

During the past observation period, suppressed rainfall was observed over a wide area of eastern southern Africa, including southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, western and southern Mozambique, and northernmost South Africa (Figure 2). In contrast, the bulk of the rainfall was received farther north over eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar. In northeastern Madagascar, heavy rains triggered flooding over Mananara Nord and Antalaha, according to reports. Meanwhile, widespread light to locally moderate rains were registered over Angola, northern Namibia, parts of Botswana, and eastern South Africa. Despite a recent increase in rainfall over parts of southern Africa, an erratic rainfall distribution since the start of the season has maintained drier-than-average conditions across most areas. Reports indicated that the lack of rains has already led to crop moisture stress and negative crop germination in southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique.

Moreover, remotely-sensed vegetation products showed that unfavorable conditions were present in southern Angola, northern Namibia, parts of southern Botswana, southern Zambia, southeastern Zimbabwe, parts of southern Mozambique, and southern South Africa. These grounds mostly coincided with areas that experienced moderate to large accumulated rainfall deficits.

Next week, reduced rains are forecast over Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique. However, heavy rains are expected across northern southern Africa. The potential development of Tropical Cyclone over the Channel of Mozambique could result in substantial floods in northern Mozambique and along northwestern coasts of 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.

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