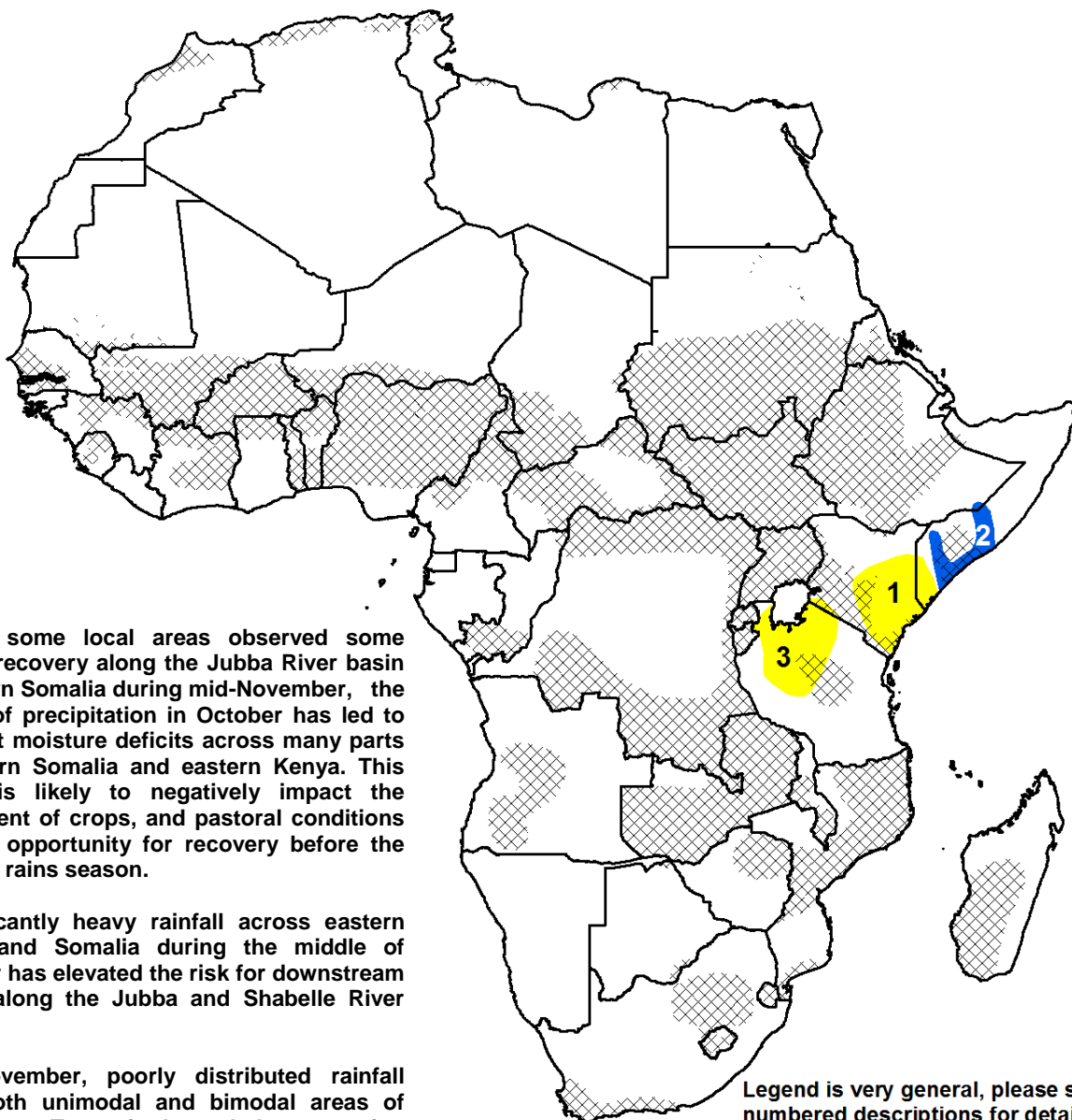




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook November 28 – December 4, 2013

- Despite a slight increase in rainfall across many anomalously dry parts of eastern Kenya in November, seasonal moisture deficits are expected to negatively impact the region.



1) While some local areas observed some moisture recovery along the Jubba River basin in southern Somalia during mid-November, the absence of precipitation in October has led to significant moisture deficits across many parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya. This dryness is likely to negatively impact the development of crops, and pastoral conditions with little opportunity for recovery before the end of the rains season.

2) Significantly heavy rainfall across eastern Ethiopia and Somalia during the middle of November has elevated the risk for downstream flooding along the Jubba and Shabelle River basins.

3) In November, poorly distributed rainfall across both unimodal and bimodal areas of northwestern Tanzania have led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions for many local areas in the Mara, Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Singida provinces of the country. Heavy rainfall is forecast to help relieve dry conditions in the southwestern parts of the country during the next seven days.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

XXXX	November Cropped Areas
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Brown	Drought
Dark Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Light Blue	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat

Developing dryness observed in parts of Tanzania.

During the last observation period, a continued reduction of seasonal rainfall was observed throughout many parts of the Greater Horn, while the highest rains were limited to the Lake Victoria region and across western Tanzania. The heaviest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were received around Lake Tanganyika in the Rukwa province of Tanzania, with more seasonably moderate totals (25-50mm) received in southern Uganda and southwestern Kenya (**Figure 1**). In eastern Kenya, precipitation was moderately distributed, with locally heavy rains observed in the southern Garissa province. However, little to no precipitation was observed throughout much of eastern Ethiopia and Somalia during the last week, which is expected to provide some relief to the saturated ground conditions associated with significantly heavy rainfall that fell during mid-November.

Since the beginning of October, seasonal precipitation in East Africa may be characterized as both anomalously wet and dry. The wettest conditions, which stem from two extreme rain events during mid-November, have resulted in widespread moisture surpluses covering much of Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan and Somalia. In this region, seasonal rainfall to date ranks above the 80th percentile, with some local areas in Somali region of eastern Ethiopia and Somalia ranking above the 90th percentile (**Figure 2**). The anomalously wet conditions have triggered localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations, fatalities, and continue to elevate the risk for waterborne disease outbreaks and downstream inundation along the Jubba and Shabelle Rivers in southern Somalia.

Conversely, low seasonal rainfall percentiles have developed across parts of Kenya, Tanzania and other local areas further south. In eastern and southern Kenya, little to no rainfall associated with a delayed seasonal start led to the strengthening of significant moisture deficits by early November. While rains have gradually improved along the Jubba River basin in southern Somalia, many local areas further west have received approximately half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the season. These moisture shortages remain unfavorable for ongoing cropping activities, and pastoral conditions, with less opportunity for recovery before the end of the season. Additionally, much of northwestern Tanzania is also beginning to experience deteriorating ground conditions associated with poorly distributed rainfall in November. The driest regions include the Mara, Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Singida provinces of the country where rainfall has been below the 20th percentile over the last two months.

For the upcoming outlook period, a continued decrease in seasonal rainfall is expected for much of Ethiopia and Somalia, with moderate to locally heavy precipitation amounts forecast across eastern Kenya. In Kenya, increased moisture will remain favorable for some recovery to seasonal dryness, however, many unimodal parts of northern Tanzania is expected to receive another week of suppressed rainfall during late November and early December (**Figure 3**). This is expected to worsen the already dry ground conditions.

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.

