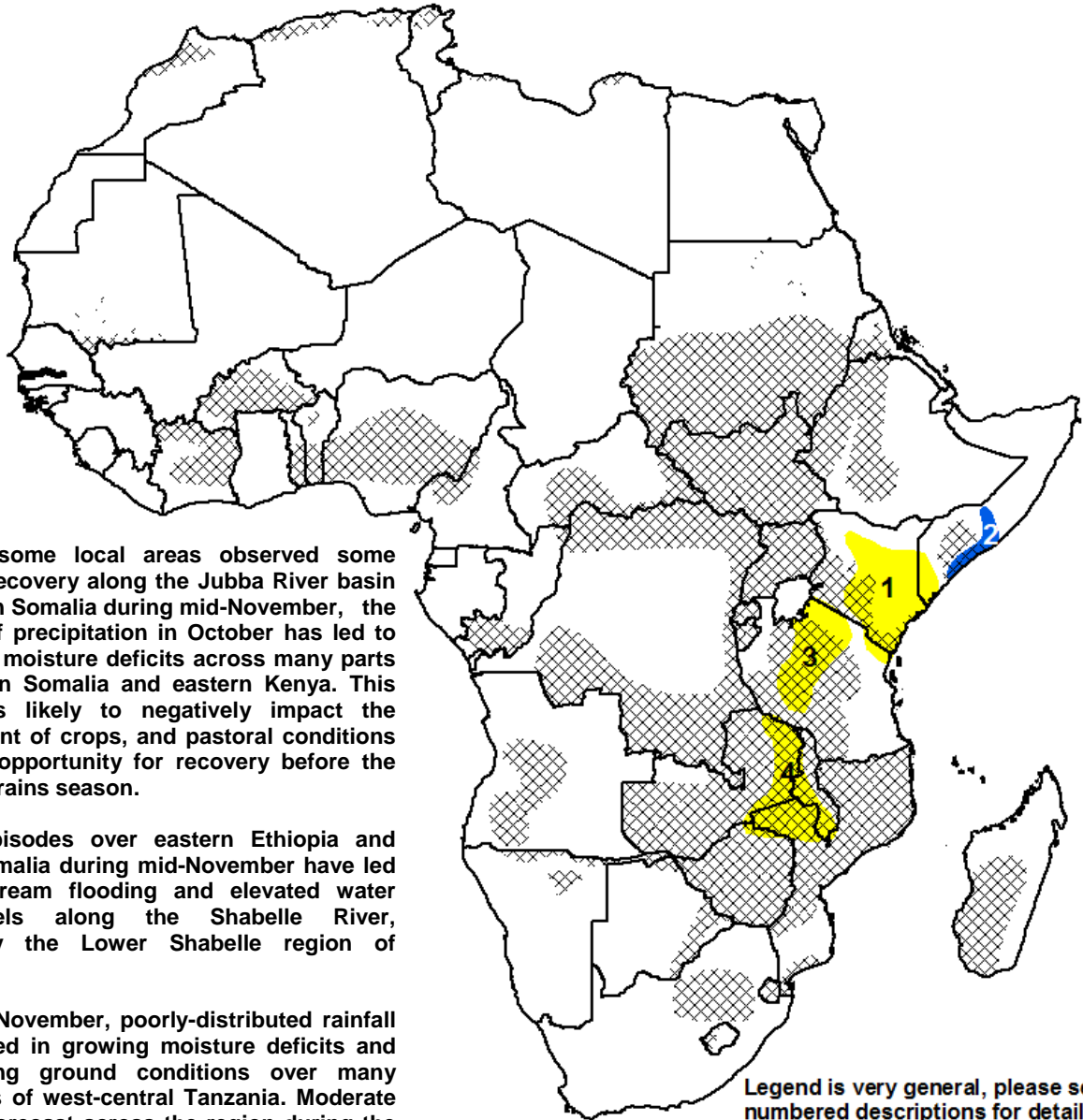




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 5 – December 11, 2013

- Abnormal dryness has settled in across eastern Southern Africa due to a poor rainfall distribution during November.



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) Wet episodes over eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia during mid-November have led to downstream flooding and elevated water river levels along the Shabelle River, particularly the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia.

3) During November, poorly-distributed rainfall has resulted in growing moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions over many local areas of west-central Tanzania. Moderate rains are forecast across the region during the next seven days, which may help to relieve dry conditions.

4) A prolonged delay of the onset of the rainy season and erratic rainfall distribution during November have resulted in developing dryness across eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and western Mozambique. Suppressed rainfall is forecast over the region during the next week, which could worsen conditions on the ground.

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

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

Dryness observed over the eastern portions of Southern Africa.

Since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon season, rainfall has been irregularly distributed over Southern Africa. While an increase in rainfall was observed across eastern Zambia and west-central Tanzania over the past few weeks, the lack of rainfall during the second half of November has resulted in growing rainfall deficits and deteriorating ground conditions over many local areas of the region. During the past month, portions of eastern Southern Africa, including eastern Zambia, Malawi, and western Mozambique received less than 50 percent of their average rainfall (**Figure 1**). Drier than average conditions were also observed farther south over portions of the Free State province of South Africa. Conversely, anomalously wet conditions were depicted throughout southern Angola, north-central Namibia, northeastern Mozambique, and the Mpumalanga region of South Africa.

Vegetation conditions have already begun to respond negatively to the poor distribution of rainfall over Southern Africa. Vegetation Health Index (VHI) during the recent week displayed very low (< 12 %) values indicative of unfavorable conditions over eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and parts of the Free State and North West provinces of South Africa (**Figure 2**). While most countries in Southern Africa received average to above-average rains, the eastern portions of the region recorded suppressed rainfall during the past week, exacerbating dryness. In contrast, adequate (VHI >= 60 %) conditions were observed over Angola, western Zambia, eastern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique. During the next outlook period, average to above-average rainfall is expected over much of Southern Africa, with heavy rains over Angola, northern Namibia, northern Zambia, South Africa, and northwestern Mozambique. However, light rains are forecast across eastern Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique.

Moderate to locally heavy rains observed in central Kenya.

During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rains were observed over the central and southeastern parts of Kenya, western and southern Tanzania (**Figure 3**). The continued increased rains over the past few weeks have helped to erode rainfall deficits over many local areas of Kenya and Tanzania. Meanwhile, little to no rainfall fell across north-central Tanzania, eastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia. This has helped to relieve wetness associated with the wet episodes during mid-November, which resulted in well above-average rainfall over eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia during the past thirty days. However, reports indicated that downstream flooding has continued along the Shabelle River, in particular, the Wanleweyn District of Somalia. For the upcoming outlook period, while light rains are forecast to continue in southern Somalia, moderate to heavy rains are expected across southern Kenya and much of Tanzania. This is expected to further reduce moisture deficits across the dry portions of Eastern Africa.

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.

