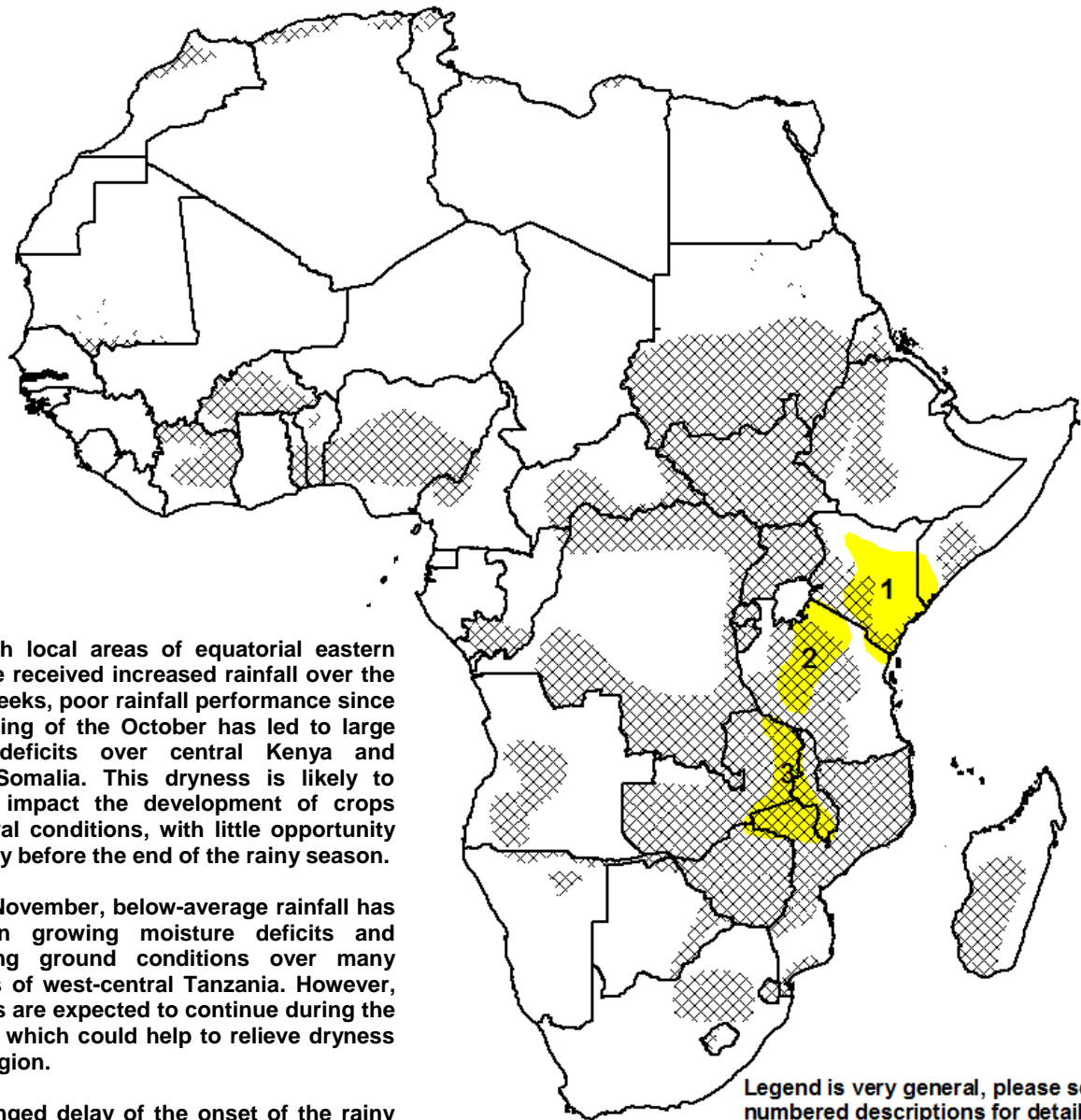




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 12 – December 18, 2013

- Below-average rainfall was observed in eastern Southern Africa during the past week, exacerbating dryness over parts of Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.

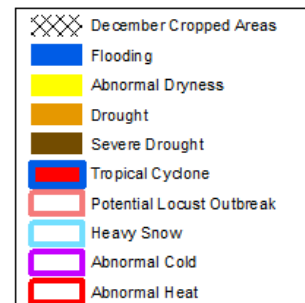


1) Although local areas of equatorial eastern Africa have received increased rainfall over the past few weeks, poor rainfall performance since the beginning of the October has led to large moisture deficits over central Kenya and southern Somalia. This dryness is likely to negatively impact the development of crops and pastoral conditions, with little opportunity for recovery before the end of the rainy season.

2) During November, below-average rainfall has resulted in growing moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions over many local areas of west-central Tanzania. However, heavy rains are expected to continue during the next week, which could help to relieve dryness over the region.

3) A prolonged delay of the onset of the rainy season and an erratic rainfall distribution during November have resulted in developing dryness across eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and western Mozambique. Moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast over eastern Southern Africa during the next week, which could help to alleviate dryness in the region.

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



Abnormal dryness has continued in eastern Southern Africa.

Overall, Southern Africa received favorable rainfall distribution, with widespread, moderate to heavy rains across most countries of the region during the past week. The heaviest (> 50 mm) rainfall was observed over much of Angola, western Zambia, and the Caprivi Strip of eastern Namibia, and Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, moderate rains were recorded across central Namibia and South Africa. This past week's average to above-average rainfall helped to offset negative rainfall anomalies over many local areas of Southern Africa over the past thirty days. In contrast, little to no rainfall was observed across the eastern portions of Southern Africa, including Malawi, eastern Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Rainfall was below-average during the past week, which contributed to exacerbate dry conditions across eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and the Tete and Zambezia provinces of Mozambique.

Rainfall anomalies indicated large (> 50 mm) negative anomalies extending from eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, to the central portions of Mozambique over the past thirty days (**Figure 2**). This abnormal dryness has resulted from an irregular distribution of rainfall since the start of Southern Africa monsoon season in October. For many local areas of eastern Southern Africa, the onset of the rainy season was delayed by several weeks; and rainfall amount and frequency were also below-average over the past thirty days. Conversely, positive rainfall anomalies were recorded over Angola, South Africa, and eastern Madagascar as a result of consistent, heavy rains, in particular, since the second dekad (10-day period) of November. During the next outlook period, while the western portions of Southern Africa is expected to receive reduced rains, with light to moderate rains over Angola, the eastern parts of the region are forecast to receive increased rains, with increased probability for heavy rains over Zambia, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique. The forecast increase in rainfall should help to reduce rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture in the region.

Heavy rains observed in eastern Kenya.

During the past week, while moderate to locally heavy rains were observed over western Tanzania, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, little to no rainfall was received elsewhere (**Figure 3**). Although continuous good rains have fallen and eliminated moisture deficits over many local areas of central and eastern Kenya over the past few weeks, large (> 50 mm) rainfall deficits have remained across northern Kenya extending into southern Somalia due to a delayed onset and irregular rainfall distribution since the start of the October-December rainy season. Provided the rainy season is fast coming to its end across equatorial Eastern Africa, further decrease in rainfall could negatively impact pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions in northern Kenya and southern Somalia. For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue over local areas of southern Kenya, while light rains are expected farther north over central Kenya.

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.

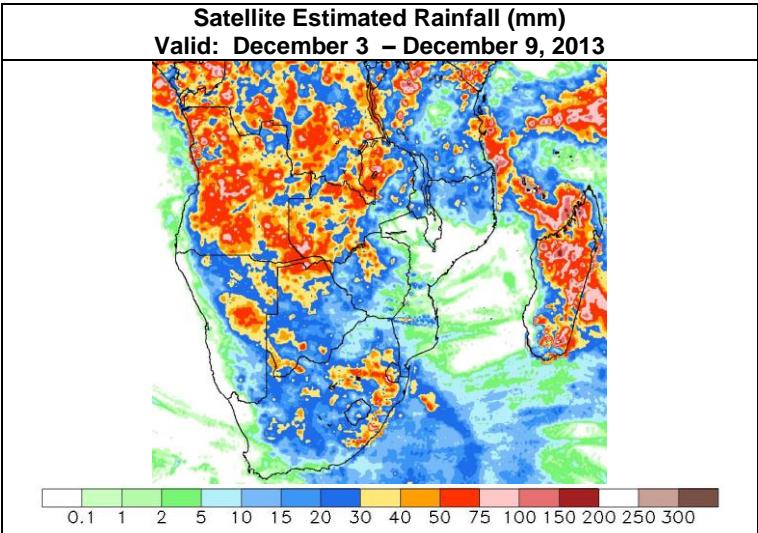


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

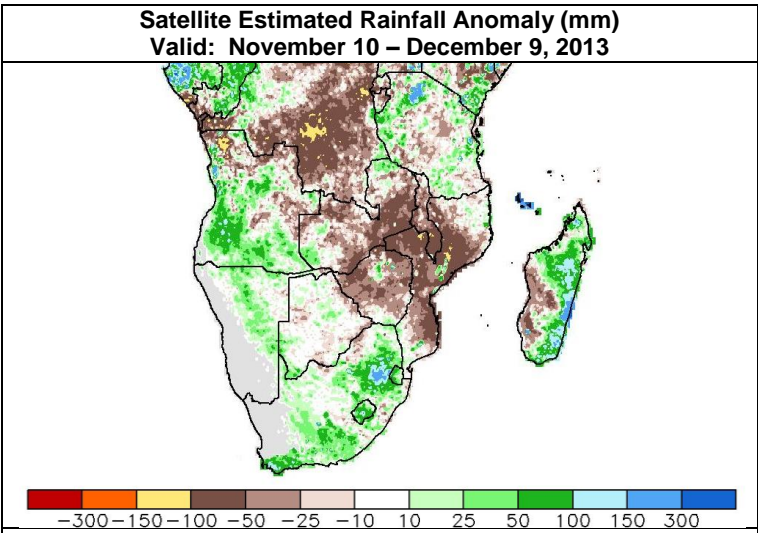


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

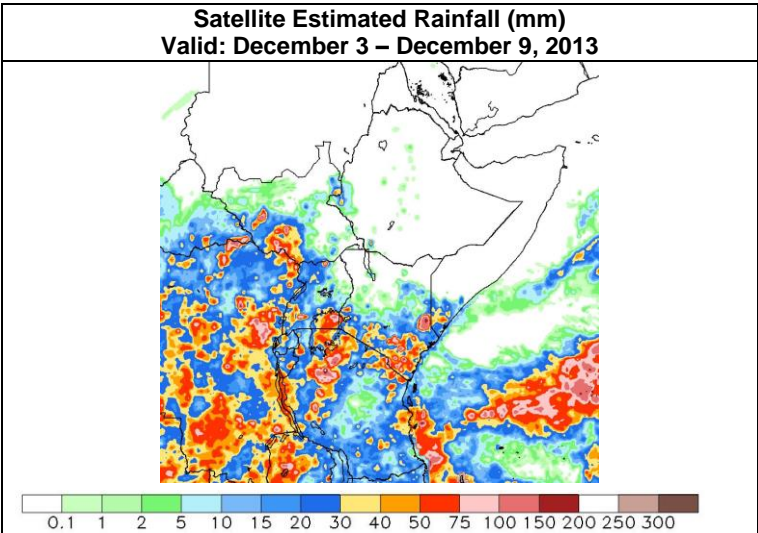


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC