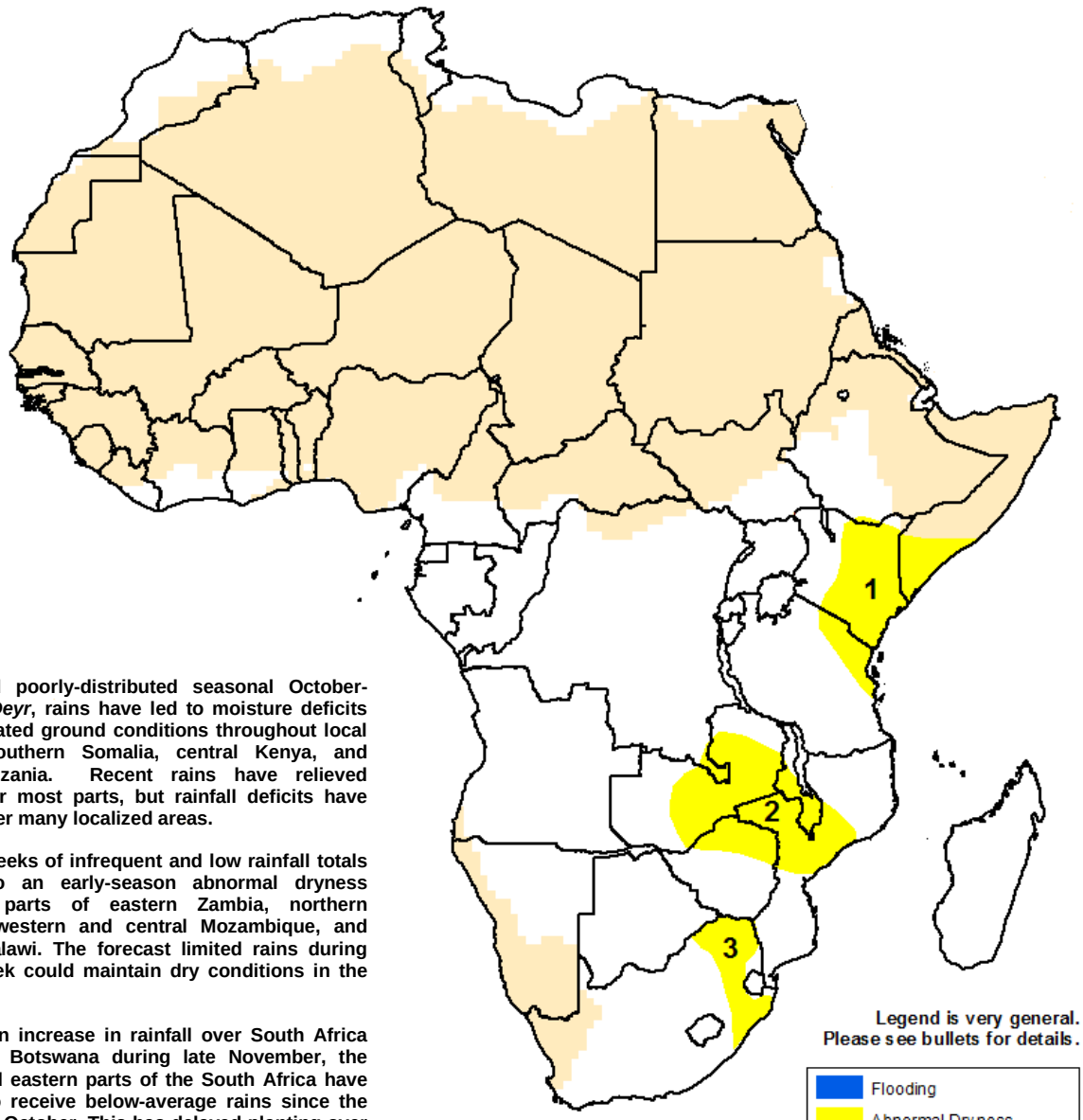
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
December 11 – December 17, 2014

- **After several weeks of suppressed rains, good rains are forecast in eastern Southern Africa.**
- **Little rains expected in Eastern Africa.**



1) Low and poorly-distributed seasonal October-December, *Deyr*, rains have led to moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions throughout local areas of southern Somalia, central Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. Recent rains have relieved dryness over most parts, but rainfall deficits have persisted over many localized areas.

2) Several weeks of infrequent and low rainfall totals have led to an early-season abnormal dryness throughout parts of eastern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, western and central Mozambique, and southern Malawi. The forecast limited rains during the next week could maintain dry conditions in the region.

3) Despite an increase in rainfall over South Africa and eastern Botswana during late November, the northern and eastern parts of the South Africa have continued to receive below-average rains since the beginning of October. This has delayed planting over many localized areas. Heavy rains are, however, forecast during the next week, likely helping to replenish soil moisture across the region.

Good rains to begin in eastern Southern Africa.

An analysis of rainfall performance over the past thirty days has indicated that a wide portion of eastern Southern Africa has received below-average rainfall since early November. Eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, the western and northern parts of Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar have experienced poor rains, accounting for only less than 25 percent of their average rainfall over the past four weeks (**Figure 1**). Similarly, the northern and eastern portions of South Africa have received between only 50-80 percent of their average rainfall over the past thirty days. The observed lack of rains has already affected agricultural activities, including delayed land preparation and planting over many local areas. The abnormal dryness was primarily attributed to a delayed onset of the rainy season, which was followed by prolonged dry spells across the region. During the past week, suppressed rains continued throughout the eastern parts of Southern Africa, increasing moisture deficits over the dry portions of the African sub-region, while moderate to heavy rains were observed over its western and southern counterparts such as Angola and parts of South Africa.

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: November 09 – December 08, 2014

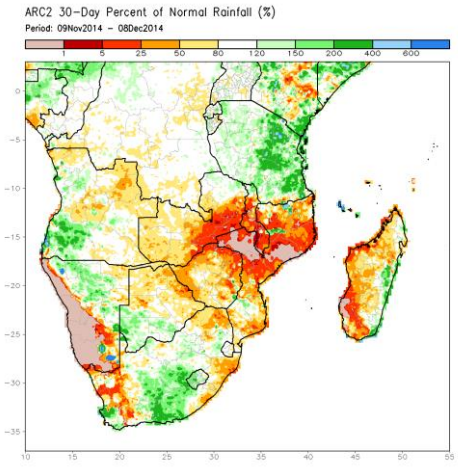


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest the return of good rains, with heavy rainfall expected over Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, eastern South Africa, and Madagascar (**Figure 2**). This should help reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture across the dry portions of Zimbabwe, the Maize Triangle Region of South Africa, and southwestern Madagascar. To the west, heavy rains are also forecast to continue over Angola, along the border with Namibia, and the Caprivi Strip region. To the northeast, limited rains are expected over eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and Tanzania. The forecast reduced rains could be beneficial over Tanzania as it would help to relieve wetness over many local areas, but a persistent insufficient rainfall is likely to worsen conditions in many already dryness-stricken areas of eastern Southern Africa.

GFS Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: December 11 – December 17, 2014

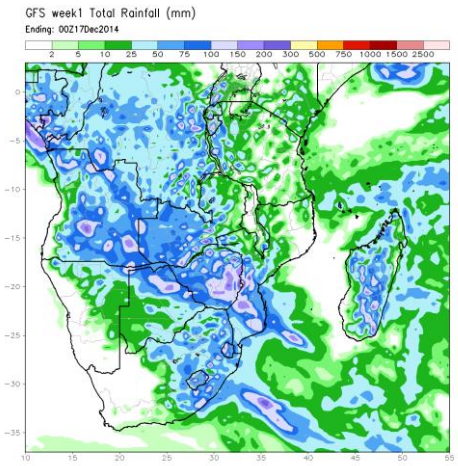


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

A poor October-December rainy season observed in Eastern Africa.

Despite some increase in rainfall during late November and early December, rainfall totals have remained below-average over parts of equatorial Eastern Africa since the beginning of October. Northern Kenya has received less than 25 percent of its average rainfall (**Figure 3**), while eastern Kenya and localized areas of southern Somalia have accumulated between only 25-50 percent of their average amounts since the start of the rainy season. The season was delayed by several weeks in southern Somalia and dryness spread across central and northern Kenya. The poor and inadequate rainfall distribution has already negatively impacted agricultural and pastoral activities in the region.

During the next week, light rains are expected in eastern Kenya. In contrast, suppressed rains are forecast in southern Somalia. Little to no rainfall is also expected over Uganda and the bimodal region of northern Tanzania.

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 01 – December 08, 2014

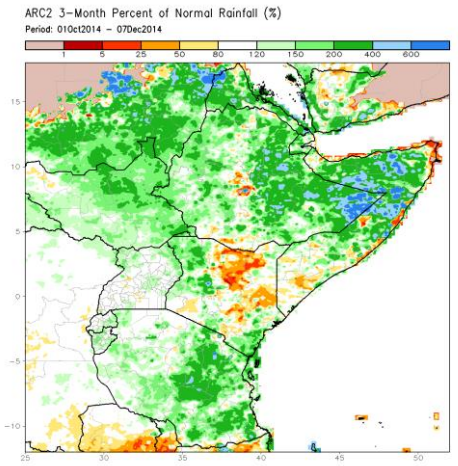


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.