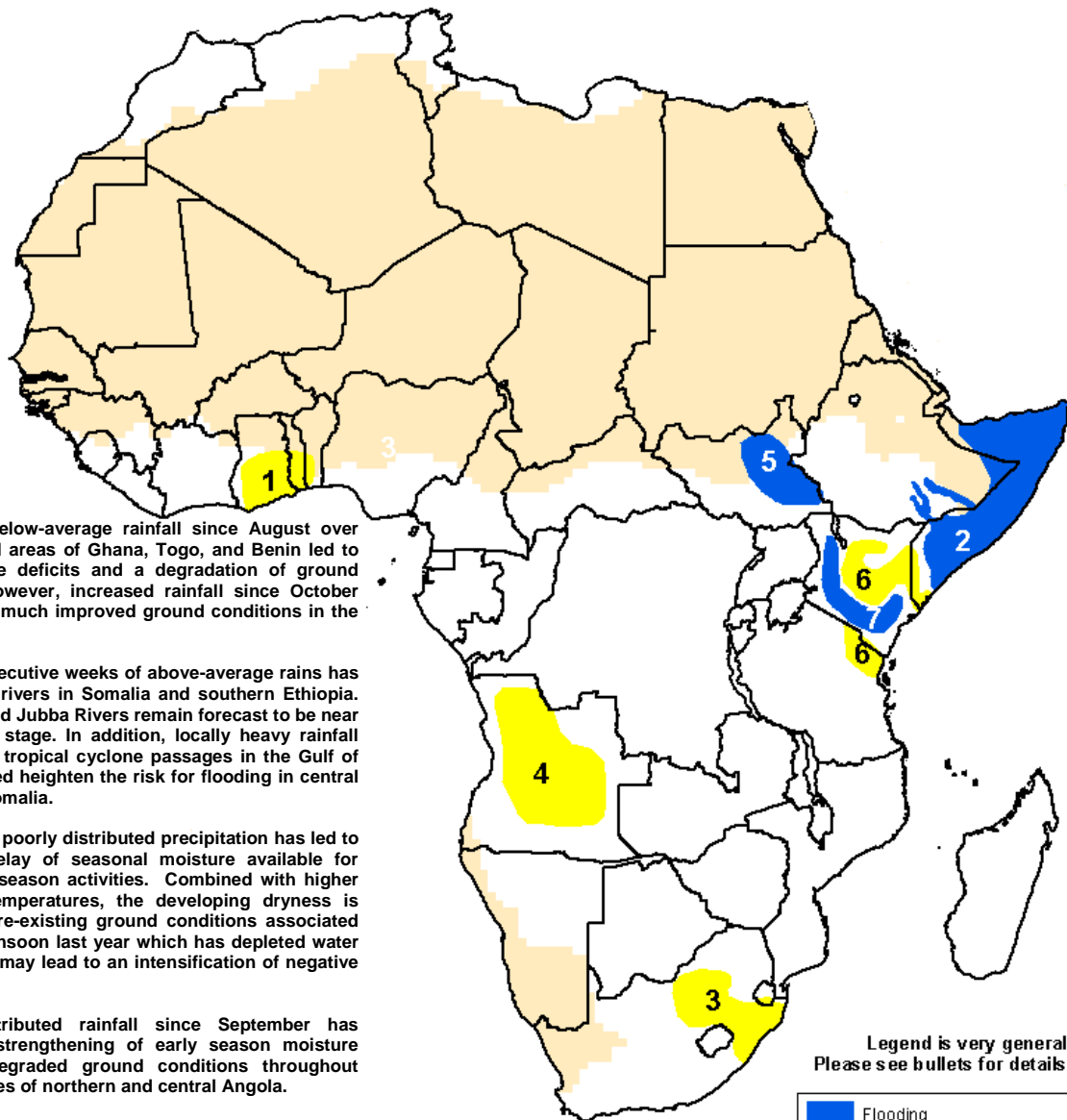




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook November 12 – November 18, 2015

- Enhanced rains and tropical cyclone activity sustains the risk of flooding during early November in East Africa.
- Delayed seasonal rains continue to strengthen early season dryness throughout several parts of southern Africa.



1) Persistent below-average rainfall since August over several bimodal areas of Ghana, Togo, and Benin led to strong moisture deficits and a degradation of ground conditions. However, increased rainfall since October has resulted in much improved ground conditions in the region.

2) Several consecutive weeks of above-average rains has led to swelling rivers in Somalia and southern Ethiopia. The Shabelle and Jubba Rivers remain forecast to be near or above flood stage. In addition, locally heavy rainfall due to ambient tropical cyclone passages in the Gulf of Aden is expected heighten the risk for flooding in central and northern Somalia.

3) Very low and poorly distributed precipitation has led to a prolonged delay of seasonal moisture available for cropping early season activities. Combined with higher than normal temperatures, the developing dryness is worsened by pre-existing ground conditions associated with a poor monsoon last year which has depleted water resources, and may lead to an intensification of negative impacts.

4) Poorly distributed rainfall since September has resulted in a strengthening of early season moisture deficits and degraded ground conditions throughout several provinces of northern and central Angola.

5) Several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall has increased the risk for flooding and river inundation in the White Nile, Jonglei, and Eastern Equatorial provinces of South Sudan.

6) Poorly distributed rainfall since the beginning of October has resulted in pockets of strong seasonal moisture deficits throughout parts of central Kenya and northeastern Tanzania.

7) Abundant rain has caused flooding, cut off roads, overflowing of rivers, and affected people in many parts of Kenya, including the vicinity of Lous, Meru, Nairobi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, and Garissa during the past week. Elevated risks for flooding are maintained as locally heavy rain is expected to continue during the next week.

Legend is very general.  
Please see bullets for details.

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
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

## Seasonal moisture surpluses strengthen across parts of the Greater Horn.

During the last week, much of eastern Africa continued to experience well-above average rainfall, with some the wettest seasonal amounts occurring during early November. Much of the enhanced precipitation regime has been associated with increased moisture convergence in the monsoon circulation, as well as, increased tropical cyclone activity in the Gulf of Aden during the past two weeks. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>75mm) were received across eastern Ethiopia, extending eastward into portions of central and northern Somalia (**Figure 1**). Further west, seasonal rains were lower in amount, but well distributed across western Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and southwestern Ethiopia. Light, but increased rainfall amounts were received in some bimodal regions of northern Tanzania and central Kenya, with heavier amounts received further south in unimodal areas of central Tanzania. In Kenya, this past week's increased rain has resulted in flooding and elevated river water levels over many parts of the country, including the Garissa, Gurufu, and Baringo districts.

The character of the Oct-Dec rains season across the Greater Horn has generally been quite favorable, with the exception of flooding risks along the Jubba and Shabelle River basins since mid-October. However, many consecutive weeks of above-average rains, as well as, increased moisture from transient tropical cyclones in the Arabian Sea has elevated concerns for excess saturation and adverse ground impacts. Localized flooding has been reported in the central and northern provinces of Somalia, as significantly high seasonal moisture anomalies greater than 200 percent of normal are being registered in the region according satellite estimate precipitation data (**Figure 2**).

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest a return towards more near-normal rainfall for Somalia, with a larger potential for enhanced rains further west and south into parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. Despite a reduction in rains, low to moderate rainfall amounts during the middle of November may worsen ground conditions.

## Early season dryness likely to impact parts of Angola and South Africa.

Compared to the last several weeks, an increase in seasonal precipitation was observed across parts of southern DRC, Angola, Zambia, and Mozambique. Despite this increase in moisture, satellite-estimated precipitation anomalies since the beginning of October show fairly strong deficits concentrated throughout northern and central Angola, as well as, throughout many regions in South Africa (**Figure 3**). Because the southern Africa monsoon season is relatively long, there remains much opportunity for moisture recovery later in the season, however, both the current developing dryness, and, pre-existing dryness associated with a poor monsoon last year, is expected to heighten the threat of negative ground impacts throughout several southern Africa countries. Satellite vegetation index analyses have begun to depict deteriorating ground conditions in Angola and in parts of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Maize Triangle region of South Africa.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a near-normal rainfall into the middle of November, which is not expected to relieve moisture deficits in several anomalously dry areas. There is some potential for increased rains throughout parts of South Africa during the next week.

**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.

