



Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 24 – 30, 2015

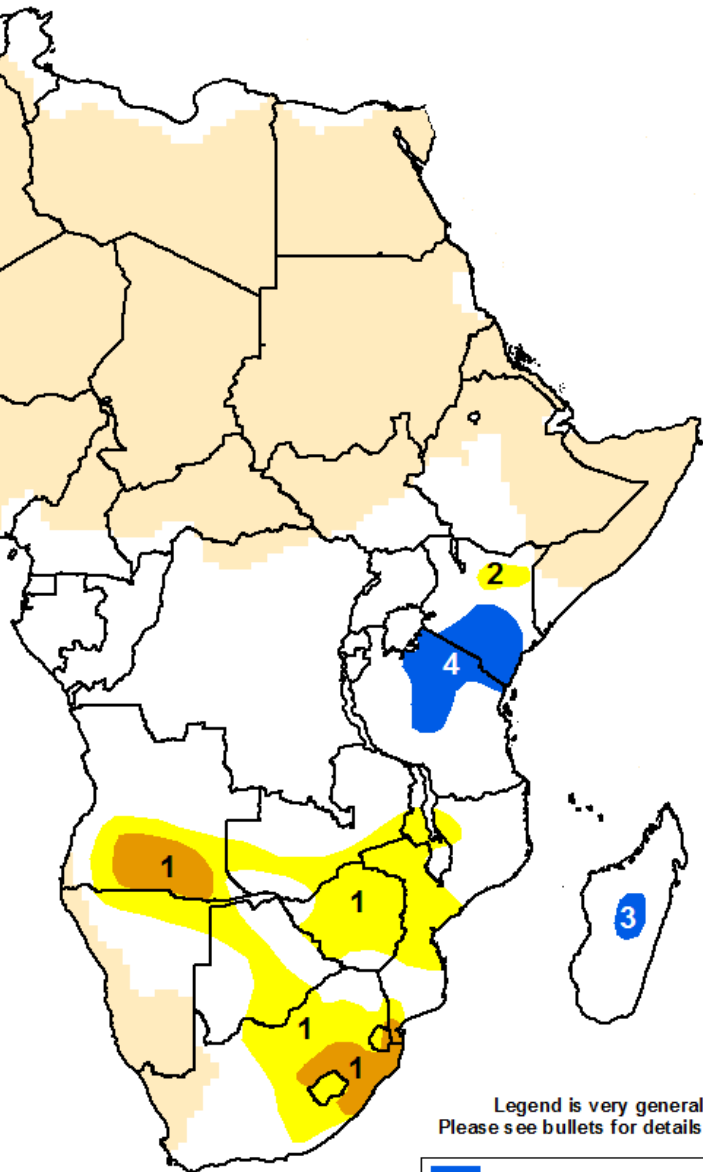
- A return to drier weather pattern is expected over Zambia, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique during the next week.
- This past weeks' heavy rain has triggered flooding, leaving fatalities and displaced people over many regions of Kenya.

1) Drought conditions have affected many countries of Southern Africa, including Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique due to a delayed start and erratic distribution of rainfall since the start of the season. Exacerbated by a poor performance during the previous season, the deficient rain has already significantly reduced water availability, leading to livestock deaths and poor ground conditions over many areas.

2) Abnormal dryness has persisted over local areas of north-central Kenya as moderate moisture deficits have remained due to an inconsistent rain during the past several weeks. The October-December season started late and was followed by an erratic distribution of the seasonal rain, which may adversely impact pastoral activities over the region.

3) Abundant rain during the past two weeks has led to localized flooding and fatalities over areas of Antananarivo, central Madagascar. Heavy rain is expected to continue during the upcoming week, maintaining elevated risks for flooding and landslides over flood-prone and low-lying areas.

4) Heavy downpours during the past week have resulted in flooding and overflowing of many rivers, leaving fatalities, swept away crops, and displaced people over the Migori, Baringo, Machakos, and Tana River counties of Kenya. Scattered moderate rain is forecast during the next week, which may exacerbate conditions on the grounds.



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
Light Orange	Abnormal Heat
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

Increased rain during the past week has helped ease dryness over eastern Southern Africa.

Since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, seasonal rain has been characterized by an erratic and uneven distribution. While many countries over the eastern parts of the sub-region, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique have experienced a delayed onset of the rain by as much as forty days over some areas, heavy downpours fell throughout those areas during the past week. Rainfall amounts in excess of 100 mm were received in northern Zimbabwe and Mozambique, according to satellite-derived estimates (**Figure 1**). Abundant and widespread rain was also recorded over Madagascar. Farther south, light to locally moderate rain was observed over northern South Africa. Reports have indicated that enhanced rain this past week has caused flooding, resulting in a fatality in Johannesburg. Meanwhile, little to light and below-average rain was observed elsewhere.

Since the beginning of December, most countries of Southern Africa, except southern DRC and Tanzania have accumulated average to below-average rain. However, this past week's increased rain has eliminated and turned rainfall deficits into surpluses over many areas of the eastern portions of the sub-region. An analysis of the departure of the cumulative rainfall since December 1 to present from the long-term average has shown positive rainfall anomalies ranging between 50-100 mm over Zambia, Tanzania, northern Zimbabwe, and northern Mozambique. Small (< 50 mm) positive anomalies were also observed across southwestern Angola and Namibia and northeastern South Africa. In contrast, moderate to large negative anomalies continued over Angola and the central and eastern portions of South Africa (**Figure 2**). The continued uneven distribution in rainfall is feared to reduce planted areas, which could substantially reduce yields over many local areas. During the next week, while the western parts of Southern Africa, including Angola and western Namibia are forecast to receive moderate to heavy and above-average rain, the eastern counterparts such as southern Zambia, northeastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique are expected to experience a return to suppressed rain.

Heavy and above-average rain triggered flooding over many areas of Kenya during the past week.

During the past week, abundant and above-average rain was observed over much of Kenya and Tanzania. Moderate to locally heavy, but near-average rain was recorded over Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi (**Figure 3**). In Kenya, flooding and overflowing of many rivers have been reported, which resulted in fatalities and affected people over many areas of the country. These included the Baringo, Tana River, Isiola, Machakos, and Migori. During the next week, a reduction in rainfall is forecast relative to that of past week. However, the forecast scattered locally moderate rain could exacerbate ground conditions over many local areas.

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.

