

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 7 – January 13, 2016

 The continuation of large-scale suppressed rainfall is forecast across much of southern Africa during early January, which is expected to further worsen ground conditions for many drought affected areas.



Poor rains and high temperatures continue to adversely impact southern Africa.

During the last observation period, poorly distributed seasonal rainfall was received across southeastern Africa, with little to no precipitation accumulations in parts of southern Zambia, western and southern Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and eastern Botswana (**Figure 1**). Conversely, increased amounts in excess of 50mm were received throughout southwestern Africa, Madagascar, and northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania. More seasonable rains were received across the Maize Triangle region of South Africa.

Over the past several weeks, both the magnitude and spatial extent of the abnormal dryness and drought conditions observed across southern Africa have experienced some change. Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies since early December now shows wetter than average conditions prevailing over parts of southwestern Angola and northern Namibia due to recently increased rains over the region. However, decreased rainfall over parts of southwestern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, southern Mozambique, and northern South Africa has helped to strengthen seasonal moisture deficits, as many local areas are now experiencing less than half of their normal rainfall accumulations since early December (**Figure 2**). Remotely sensed vegetation health indices also suggest declining ground conditions in these areas.

In addition to a poor rainfall performance since October, surface temperatures have been significantly high since the beginning of the monsoon season. In December, positive surface temperature anomalies ranged, on average, between 3-8 degrees Celsius throughout much of southern Africa, with positive temperature departures ranging between 5-12 degrees Celsius just during the last 7 days. This abnormal heat, combined with anomalously suppressed rainfall is expected to further exacerbate ground conditions, and deplete water availability for several southern African countries during January.

During the next outlook period, another week of largely suppressed rainfall is forecast over areas in southern Africa (**Figure 3**). Some of the lowest precipitation totals are forecast over southern Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and western Mozambique, where the recent dryness trend has been most pronounced. As a result, both short-term and seasonal rainfall deficits are expected to continue to considerably strengthen. Temperature forecasts also indicate the continuation of abnormally high temperatures during early January, with weekly maximum temperatures expected to exceed 40 degrees Celsius throughout southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, southern Zimbabwe, Botswana, northern South Africa, and central Mozambique. Some local areas may see maximum daily temperatures rise above 45 degrees Celsius during early January.







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.