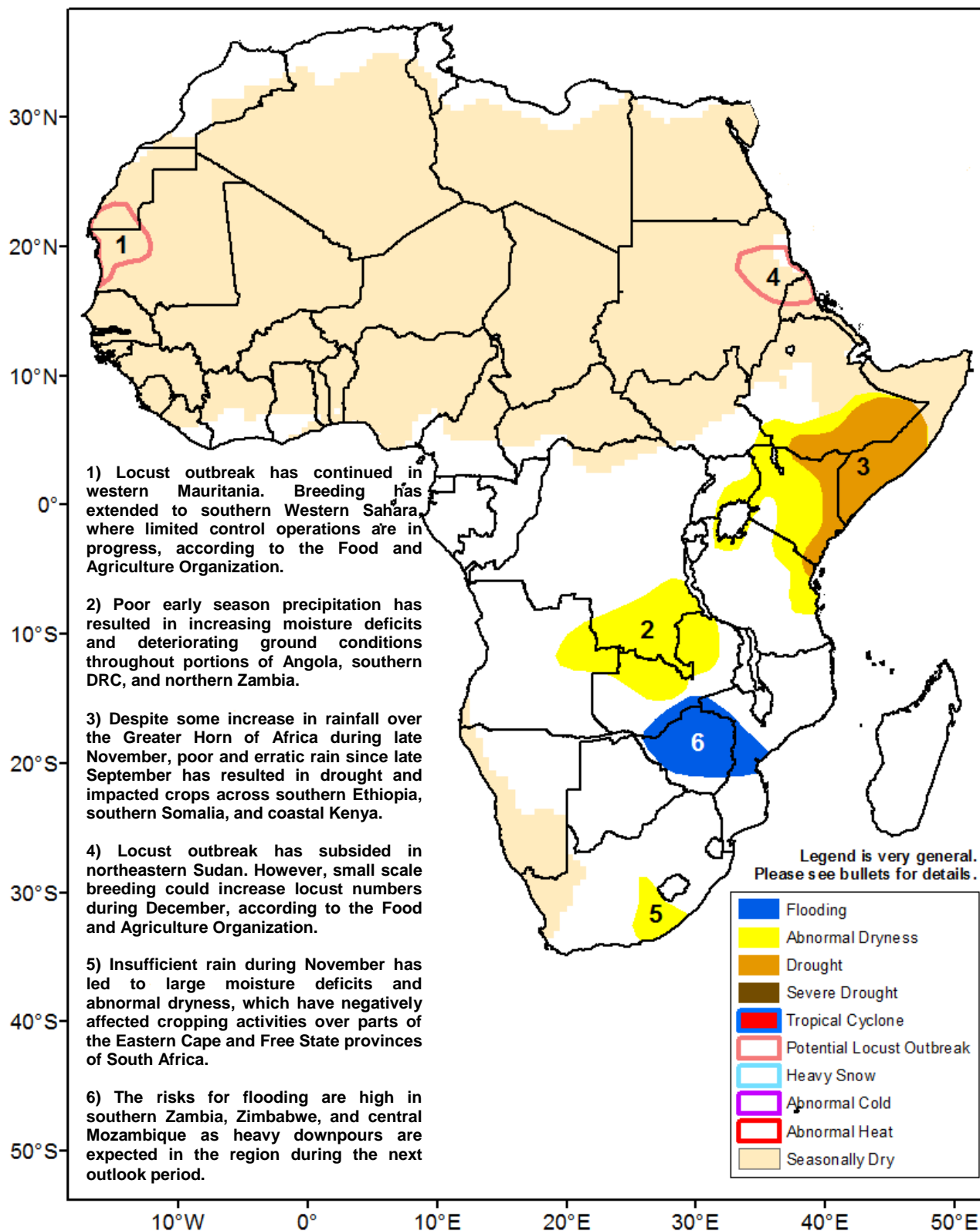




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 15 – 21, 2016

- Heavy downpours forecast, heightening risks for flooding in eastern Southern Africa.
- Suppressed rain observed over the Greater Horn of Africa.



High risks for flooding exist in eastern Southern Africa.

Despite a favorable, spatial distribution of rainfall over the past few weeks, many portions of Southern Africa have received poor and below-average rain since mid-November. Rainfall deficits in excess of 50 mm have been observed in northern Angola, central DRC, western Zambia, and western Zimbabwe (Figure 1). Farther south, negative anomalies have also been recorded in southern South Africa and southern Madagascar. The lack of rain has already negatively impacted cropping activities over some local areas, according to recent vegetation indices. In contrast, frequent and above-average rain has been observed over south-central Angola, north-central Namibia, parts of Botswana, northern South Africa, southern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar. During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rain fell in southern Angola, DRC, Zambia, eastern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique, while light rain was received elsewhere.

During the next outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicate an enhancement in rainfall over portions of Southern Africa, with torrential rain across central and eastern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique (Figure 2). The forecast abundant rain could trigger flooding and overflowing of rivers, which could negatively impact the livelihoods of people over many local areas. Moderate to heavy rain is also forecast over northern South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar, increasing potential for localized flooding. In contrast, little to light rain is only expected over Tanzania, which could contribute to maintaining or strengthening thirty-day rainfall deficits over the dry portions of the unimodal region of southern Tanzania.

Little to no rain observed in the Greater Horn of Africa.

From December 6-12, while little to light rain fell in southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and localized areas of northeastern Tanzania, suppressed rain was observed elsewhere (Figure 3). The stark decrease in rainfall over the past few weeks may announce the end of the *Short Rains*, October-December, season in East Africa. Since mid-September to date, despite some increase in rainfall during late November and early December, the delayed onset and poor rainfall distribution during the season, have resulted in moderate to large deficits over a wide area of the Greater Horn of Africa. This past week's rainfall was again below-average and contributed to maintaining negative rainfall anomalies over southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya. An analysis of recent vegetation indices have indicated that degraded and below-average biomass conditions have persisted over the dry portions of the region. During the next outlook period, dry weather pattern is expected to continue, with little to light rain in eastern Kenya, northeastern Tanzania, and portions of southern Somalia. Meanwhile, suppressed rain is expected elsewhere. This may further reduce water availability and worsen conditions on the ground over many local areas of the dry portions of East Africa.

**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.

