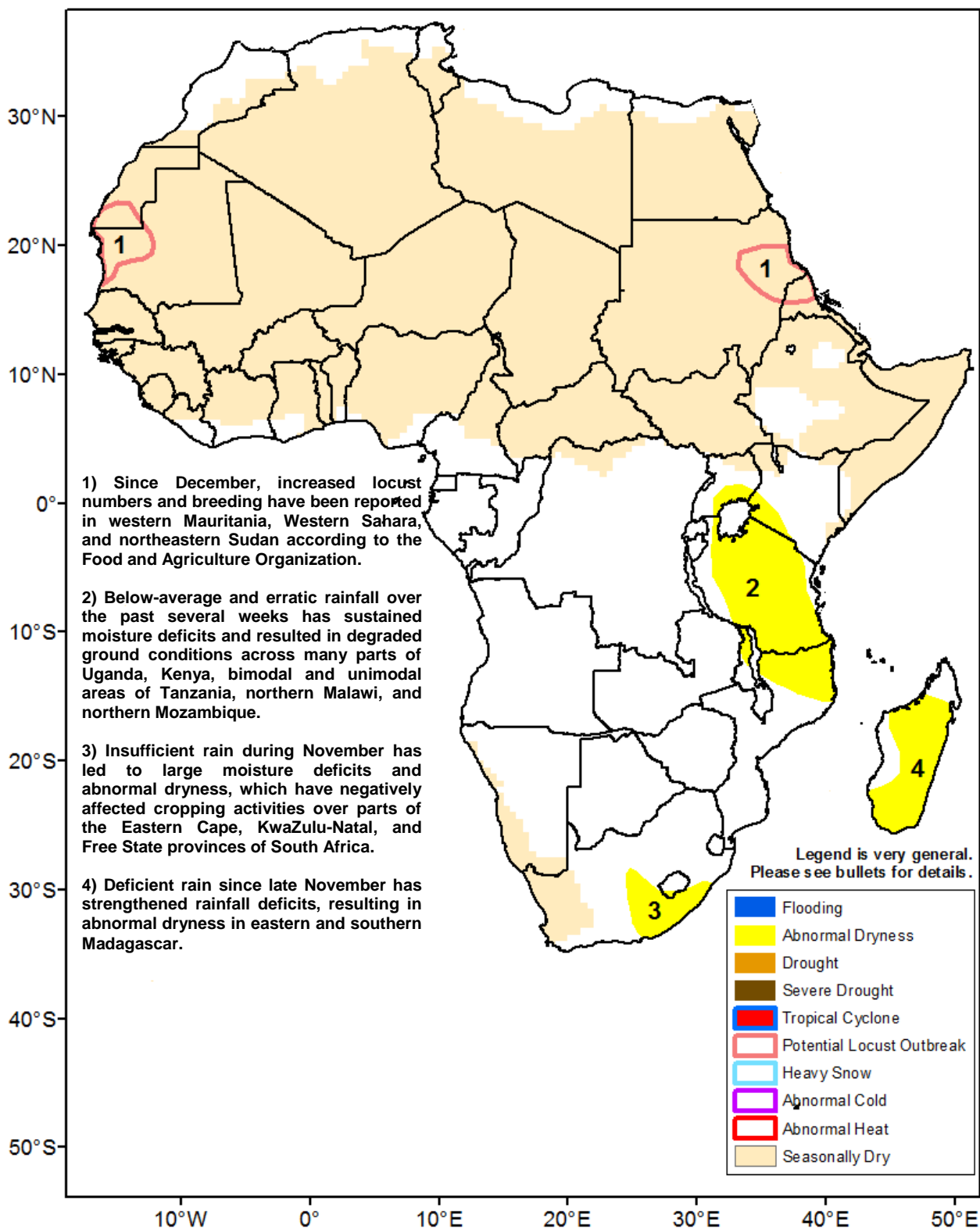




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 5 – January 11, 2017

- Suppressed seasonal rainfall continues throughout many parts of southeastern Africa and Madagascar.



Insufficient rain received in many parts of Southern Africa.

During the last week of December, 2016, a more favorable distribution of seasonal rainfall was received throughout much of southern Africa compared to the previous week. However, suppressed and isolated precipitation amounts continued across Tanzania, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and Madagascar. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were registered over many parts of Zimbabwe, and central and southern Mozambique (Figure 1). Towards the west, lesser but well distributed rainfall amounts were received across much of southern Angola, northern Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia. In South Africa, increased rainfall was observed over a number of states of Northern Cape, Free State and Eastern Cape, with slightly reduced rains over the Maize triangle region.

Since late November, the southern Africa monsoon has continued its trend towards a dipole pattern, with suppressed rainfall throughout many northeastern countries and Madagascar, and enhanced rainfall towards the south. An analysis of the weekly evolution of sub-seasonal moisture deficits suggests the anomalous dryness has strengthened the most over southern Tanzania, Malawi, and northern Mozambique. Here, many regions experienced a delayed onset of rains during November, followed by a brief period of increased rainfall in early December, and has since been significantly reduced. Many local areas of received less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation over the last 30 days (Figure 2). In Madagascar, rainfall has been relatively more frequent; however, the accumulation of low totals on a daily basis has led to a rapid strengthening and expansion of dryness towards the south within the last month. A continuation of infrequent and poorly distributed rainfall in these regions during January is likely to negatively impact cropping activities, and further deteriorate ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, some relief is expected as precipitation models depict a northward shift of enhanced rainfall over southern Africa. Many parts of eastern Zambia, northern Mozambique, Malawi, and northern Madagascar are forecast to receive weekly rainfall accumulations > 75mm, which is expected to help mitigate several moisture stressed areas.

Increased frequency of seasonal rainfall observed in the west.

In addition to the dryness centered Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar, anomalous dryness has also been prevalent over Angola, southern DRC, and Zambia. However, these areas have received an average to above-average number of rain days over the past 30 days, which is expected to be more favorable for the development of crops (Figure 3). The increase in the number of rain days is also reflected in vegetation health analyses, which depict positive changes in recent weeks. With an above-average frequency of rainfall also extending over many anomalously wet regions of Botswana, Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique further south, a continuation of above-average rainfall during January may lead to flooding concerns particularly along the Zambezi River basin.

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.

