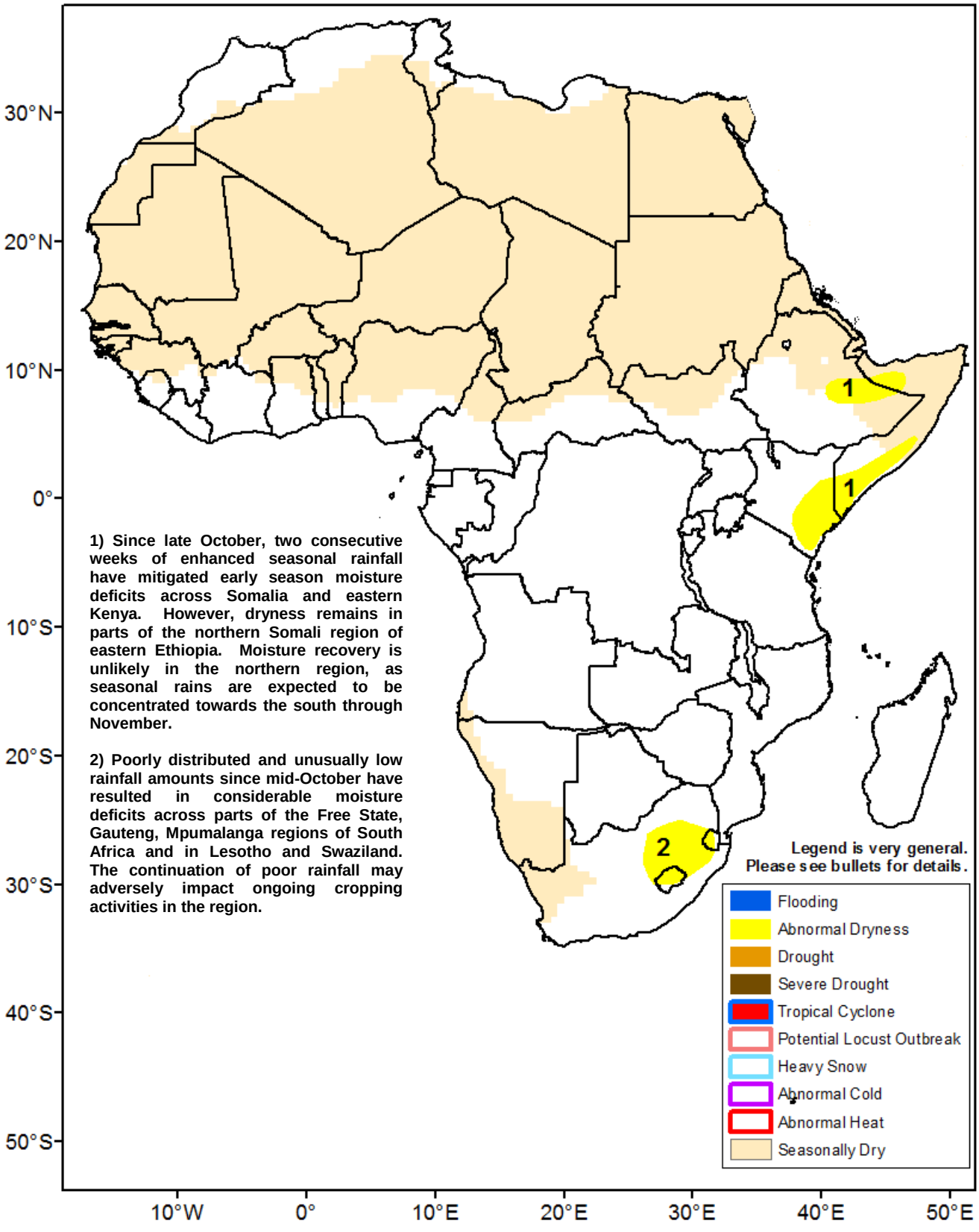
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# November 16 – 22, 2017

- **Early season dry spell leads to strengthening moisture deficits over parts southern Africa.**
- **Continued heavy rains in November bring relief to dryness in East Africa.**




**1) Since late October, two consecutive weeks of enhanced seasonal rainfall have mitigated early season moisture deficits across Somalia and eastern Kenya. However, dryness remains in parts of the northern Somali region of eastern Ethiopia. Moisture recovery is unlikely in the northern region, as seasonal rains are expected to be concentrated towards the south through November.**

**2) Poorly distributed and unusually low rainfall amounts since mid-October have resulted in considerable moisture deficits across parts of the Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga regions of South Africa and in Lesotho and Swaziland. The continuation of poor rainfall may adversely impact ongoing cropping activities in the region.**

**Heavy rains continue across East Africa.**

Over the Greater Horn, enhanced seasonal rainfall continued during the last week, with locally heavy precipitation accumulations (>100mm) registered in parts of the Jubba River basin in southern Somalia, and in parts of central Kenya (**Figure 1**). In Kenya, the heavy rains triggered floods, damages to infrastructure and fatalities near the Marsabit and Meru regions of the country. Elsewhere, a more seasonable distribution of November precipitation was received according to satellite rainfall estimates, with slightly suppressed amounts observed in southeastern Kenya.

The enhancement of seasonal rainfall over East Africa during the last two to three weeks follows an anomalously dry October, where several local areas in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia experienced a delay in the start of the monsoon. The latest moisture recovery has largely minimized the extent and magnitude of moisture deficits in Somalia and northeastern Kenya. Currently, many portions of the Tana River basin and Garissa region in eastern Kenya are experiencing less than 80 percent of their average rainfall, with many other regions experiencing average to above-average rainfall since mid-October (**Figure 2**). Water levels along Jubba and Shabelle River have been increasing in southern Somalia, with a few locations exceeding alert levels for river inundation.

During the next seven days, models suggest an end to enhanced rainfall pattern over Somalia and Ethiopia, with more seasonably distributed totals during 2rd dekad of November. However, increased rainfall amounts are possible over the interior provinces of southeastern Kenya which may to help mitigate dryness.

**7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: November 8 – November 14, 2017**

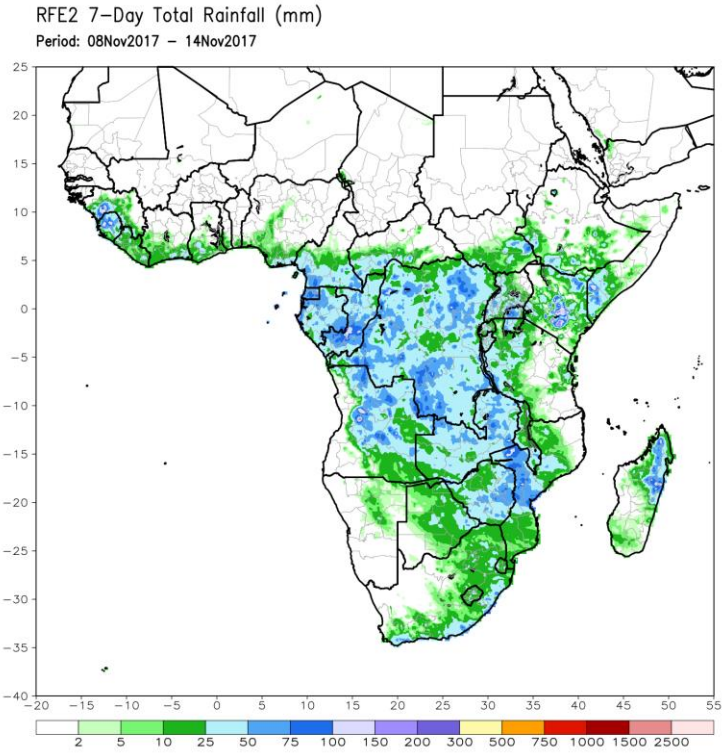



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**30-Day Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)**
**Valid: October 16 – November 14, 2017**

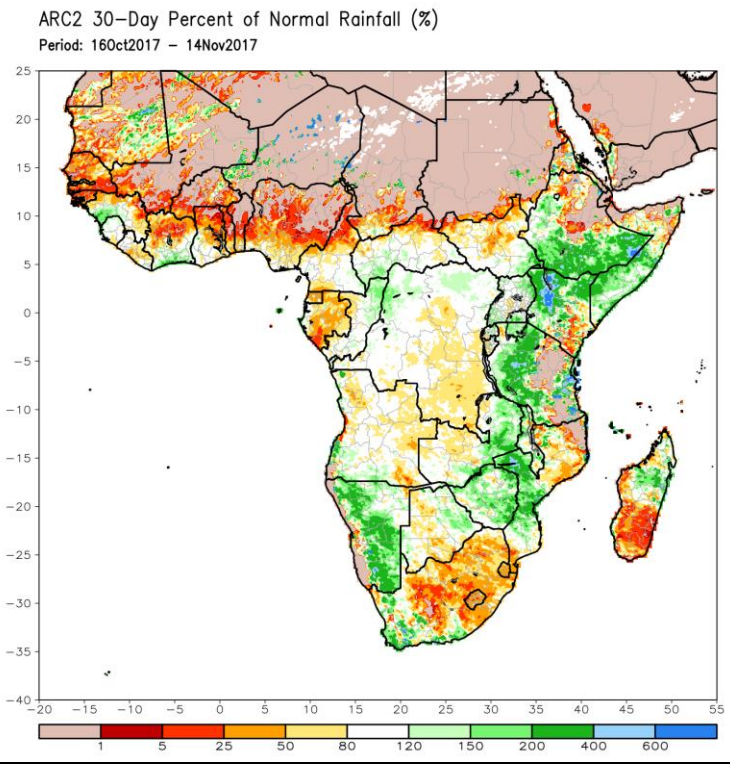



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

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**Early season moisture deficits may negatively impact cropping activities in southern Africa.**

During the last seven days, seasonal precipitation returned over parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique and Malawi following a week of largely suppressed rainfall activity in the region. However, many parts of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland still received relatively low amounts of precipitation, extending a dry spell and strengthened early season moisture deficits in the south. Currently, many local areas in Swaziland, Lesotho, and in the Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga states of South Africa have experienced less than half of the normal rainfall accumulation since mid-October, with several local areas receiving less than a quarter of climatological rainfall (**Figure 2**). In Madagascar, large, early season moisture deficits are also being observed over southern provinces of the country, as lesser amounts of seasonal rainfall have been accumulated since October. The anomalous dryness is expected to adversely impact crops that were planted earlier in the season.

Precipitation models suggest an increase in rainfall along the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa, several local areas near the Maize Triangle are expected to receive average to below-average rains.

**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.**

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