

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook November 22 – 28, 2018

- Some rainfall enhancement has been observed in southern Somalia and Ethiopia
- Almost the entirety of southern Africa continues to experience a very poor start to the season



While parts of southern Somalia experienced beneficial rains, rainfall deficits increased across Kenya.

During the last week, rains increased over portions of southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. According to satellite rainfall estimates, 10-50mm of rainfall, with localized higher amounts, fell over the Jubba and Shabelle river basins (Figure 1). Widespread showers and thunderstorms were also observed over much of Ethiopia. Meanwhile, much of the rest of the East Africa region experienced below-normal rainfall with 7-day deficits ranging from 10-50mm. This included northeastern Uganda and several parts of Kenya which remained absent of rain.

Increased rains during the past week have reduced seasonal deficits locally over the Jubba and Shabelle river basins. But significant deficits still remain in many areas, especially in central Somalia and southern Ethiopia. Infrequent and poorly distributed rainfall during October and November has led to steadily deepening and expanding rainfall deficits across Kenya and neighboring parts of Uganda. Some of the largest rainfall deficits of close to 100mm are located in central and eastern Kenya (Figure 2). Pattern change will have to occur soon as the opportunity for moisture recovery is expected to lessen over the next couple of weeks. Given the brevity of seasonal rainfall in the region, the persistence of anomalous dryness into late November is likely to adversely impact many pastoral and agro-pastoral areas and cause concern for water availability. 30-day deficits are present in South Sudan and northeastern DRC. The season has mostly drawn to a close in South Sudan, but there is still plenty of time for moisture recovery in DRC.

During the next outlook period, models suggest that the bulk of the rains will shift southward. Above-normal rainfall is expected in southern Kenya, northwestern Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi and the DRC. At the same time, rains are expected to lighten considerably across Ethiopia and Somalia. Indications are that the period of enhanced rains over southern Somalia has been short-lived.

The southern Africa region continues to experience suppressed rainfall and increasing early-season moisture deficits.

Throughout southern Africa, rainfall was widely suppressed during the last week. Rain was largely missing for many regions of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, southern Angola, and southern Zambia, and deficits of 10-25mm were widespread. The largest deficits (25-50mm) were again located in Angola. Light rains of less than 25mm were scattered across eastern South Africa and Swaziland (Figure 1). The only regions where heavy rains, as much as 100mm, were observed were in northwestern Angola and Madagascar.

Over the past several weeks, repeated periods of highly suppressed seasonal rainfall throughout much of southern Africa have been observed. The inconsistency in seasonal rainfall has led to early-season abnormal dryness throughout much of South Africa and Angola, with moisture deficits (50-100mm) rapidly developing across southeastern Africa in parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique (Figure 2). The erratic rainfall has also resulted in degraded ground conditions according to remotely sensed vegetation health indices. In addition, daytime maximum temperatures were above average throughout Angola and South Africa during late October and early November, where increased evapotranspiration and moisture stress is likely adversely impacting early-season cropping activities. A poor start to the rainfall season is giving way to better moisture conditions in Madagascar.

For the next 7 days, precipitation models suggest beneficial rains will finally set in for Zimbabwe, Botswana, and southern Zambia. 7-day totals may be higher than normal in Zimbabwe for the first time this season. Rainfall totals may also be enhanced in northern Angola. Some light to moderate rains are expected in eastern South Africa and in Madagascar. Maximum temperatures are forecast to return closer to normal levels.







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.