Desert locust swarms reach Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti, as flooding continues in Zambia and Angola

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Over the past two weeks flash floods have been reported in Luanda, Uige, and Cabinda provinces of Angola.

2. Increasing numbers of desert locust swarms are moving across eastern Africa from Ethiopia into Djibouti, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, and Kenya. Heavy rain in Somalia during December could give rise to additional locust breeding in the coming months.

3. Parts of Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zambia have received three consecutive weeks of heavy rainfall.

4. Increased rainfall has provided relief to dryness in parts of Zambia, meanwhile southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe remain abnormally dry.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA
Africa Overview

Desert locust swarms reach Djibouti, Eritrea, and Sudan
The desert locust infestation is intensifying across eastern Africa. Desert locust breeding is spreading progressively starting in eastern Ethiopia, over the northern border of Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, and southern parts of Somalia, northern Kenya, and could reach South Sudan and Uganda in the coming months.

Last week, light to moderate rains were recorded over central Africa, Kenya, and the majority of eastern Africa (Figure 1). Over the past 90-days, eastern Africa has received favorable rainfall, which could provide breeding conditions for desert locust in the coming months. The rainfall season has also been favorable in Tanzania, despite some flooding in coastal areas (Figure 2).

Next week, seasonal rain is expected over southern Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi, while below-average rainfall is expected over Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Parts of South Africa recover from long-term dryness
Last week, much of southern Africa and Madagascar received above-average rainfall, and heavy rains triggered flash floods in parts of northwestern Angola (Figure 1).

Over the past 30-days, moisture deficits have strengthened over central Zambia, Botswana, and southern Mozambique, with some dryness starting to appear in southern Madagascar (Figure 2). Zambia has been receiving above-average rainfall since January, which has helped relieve short-term dryness affecting the country since December. A complete moisture recovery has been observed in north-central and southern parts of South Africa, while continued below-average rainfall through the end of January is expected to maintain and strengthen dry conditions in much of Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique.

Next week, above-average rainfall is forecast across southern Africa, with heavy rain expected to continue over northeastern parts of the region and Madagascar. Meanwhile, below-seasonal rain is expected over Botswana and Namibia.
Weather Hazards Summary

Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures
Last week on average, temperatures were near normal across Central Asia, while below-normal temperatures were recorded in Pakistan. Western and northern parts of Kazakhstan experienced warmer than usual temperatures, while colder than usual temperatures were recorded in Pakistan. Next week, near-normal temperatures are forecast across Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, abnormally cold temperatures are expected in north-central parts of Afghanistan, where temperatures may fall 6°C below-normal.

Precipitation
Last week, heavy precipitation was observed over southern Central Asia, including southern Iran, southern Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan. Precipitation from the previous week caused flooding or avalanches in southern Iran, areas of the Kandahar and Helmand Provinces in southern Afghanistan, and the Kashmir region of Pakistan. Abnormal dryness, however, persists over central parts of the region. Next week, dry weather and light precipitation are forecast over central and southern parts of the region, which may strengthen moisture deficits in already dry areas.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards reported.
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Central America records seasonal rainfall distribution
Last week, favorable seasonal rainfall was recorded across the region, with light to moderate rain in most areas, with some heavier totals along the northern coast of Honduras and Belize. Lighter amounts of rain were also observed in parts of southern Nicaragua and Panama. Over the last 30 days Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, and northern Guatemala have received above-average rain. Next week, near average or slightly above-average rainfall, is expected for parts of Belize, eastern Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Hispaniola receives light seasonal rainfall
Last week, seasonably light rainfall was observed over parts of northern Hispaniola. Rainfall performance over the past 30 days has been varied, with small rainfall deficits in southern and eastern Haiti and the northwestern Dominican Republic, and rainfall surpluses in several local areas. The current weather pattern is expected to continue into next week with light rain forecast over northeastern Hispaniola and slightly colder than average temperatures.