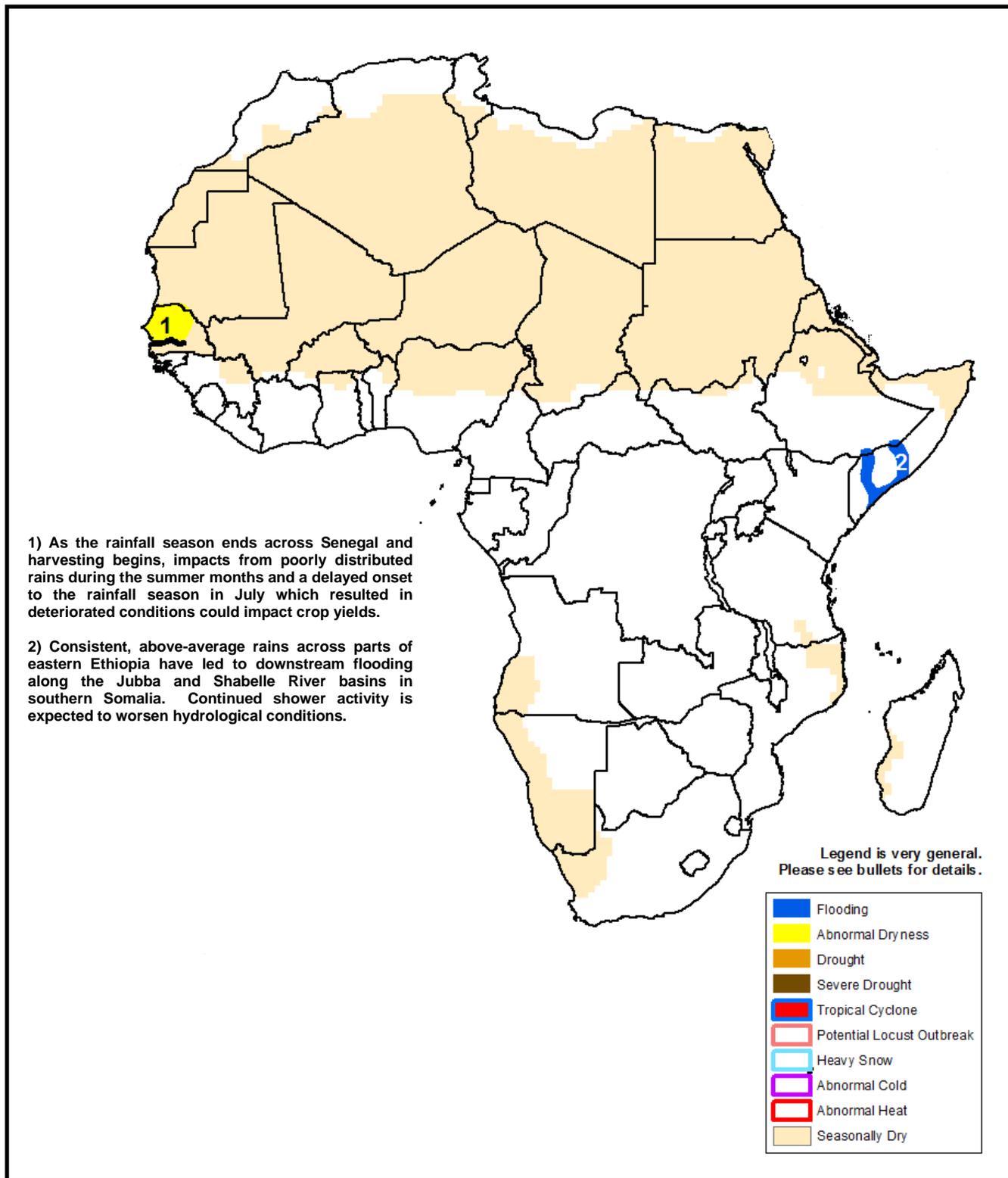




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 30 – November 5, 2014

- Another week of poorly distributed rains across the Greater Horn has led to strengthening deficits in southern Somalia.
- In southern Africa, a delayed start of monsoonal rains observed in parts of Angola and South Africa.



Poorly distributed early seasonal rains observed over parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya.

In the last seven days, a continuation of moderate to locally heavier amounts of weekly precipitation was received across the Greater Horn of Africa. The highest weekly amounts were received across the Lake Victoria region, with accumulations in excess of 75mm estimated in parts of Uganda and northern Tanzania (Figure 1). Further north, well distributed, but lesser amounts were received across much of South Sudan. In Ethiopia, a reduction in rainfall was observed in the western provinces, as much of rains and moisture has shifted eastward, signaling the beginning of the Oct-Dec short rains season. However, the spatial extent of precipitation has not yet covered parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya. Light to locally moderate rains were received in the region during late October.

Since the beginning of October, precipitation has been largely average to above-average throughout much of East Africa. In early October, unusually heavy rains were received in eastern Ethiopia, and the northern half of Somalia, leading to large moisture surpluses over many pastoral regions. Similarly, average to above-average rains throughout Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and northern Tanzania are expected to benefit early season cropping activities. However, the lack of October rains across parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya has led to developing moisture deficits (Figure 2). Because the rainy season is short (October-December), increased rains will soon be needed during the next several weeks to avoid potentially negative impacts on cropping activities.

For the next week, seasonally average rainfall is forecast throughout East Africa. With a low potential for locally convective, heavy rains, not much relief is expected over parts of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia during early November.

Anomalously dry conditions observed in parts of Angola, South Africa.

In October, there has been sluggish southward shift in the ITCZ/ITF, which has led to a continued suppression of rains over parts of central Angola. Since late September, many local areas in central Angola have experienced rainfall in 10th percentile or lower, which marks one of the driest starts of the southern Africa monsoon according to the satellite rainfall record in the region (Figure 3). The suppressed precipitation also follows a very poor end to the monsoonal last March and April. Several consecutive months of anomalous dryness is expected to result in depleted ground moisture, and unfavorable conditions for cropping activities. Further south, a slow onset of rains has also been observed across many parts of South Africa and southern Botswana, where early season rains have also fallen below 15th percentile. Precipitation forecasts suggest average to below-average rains during early November across southern 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.

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