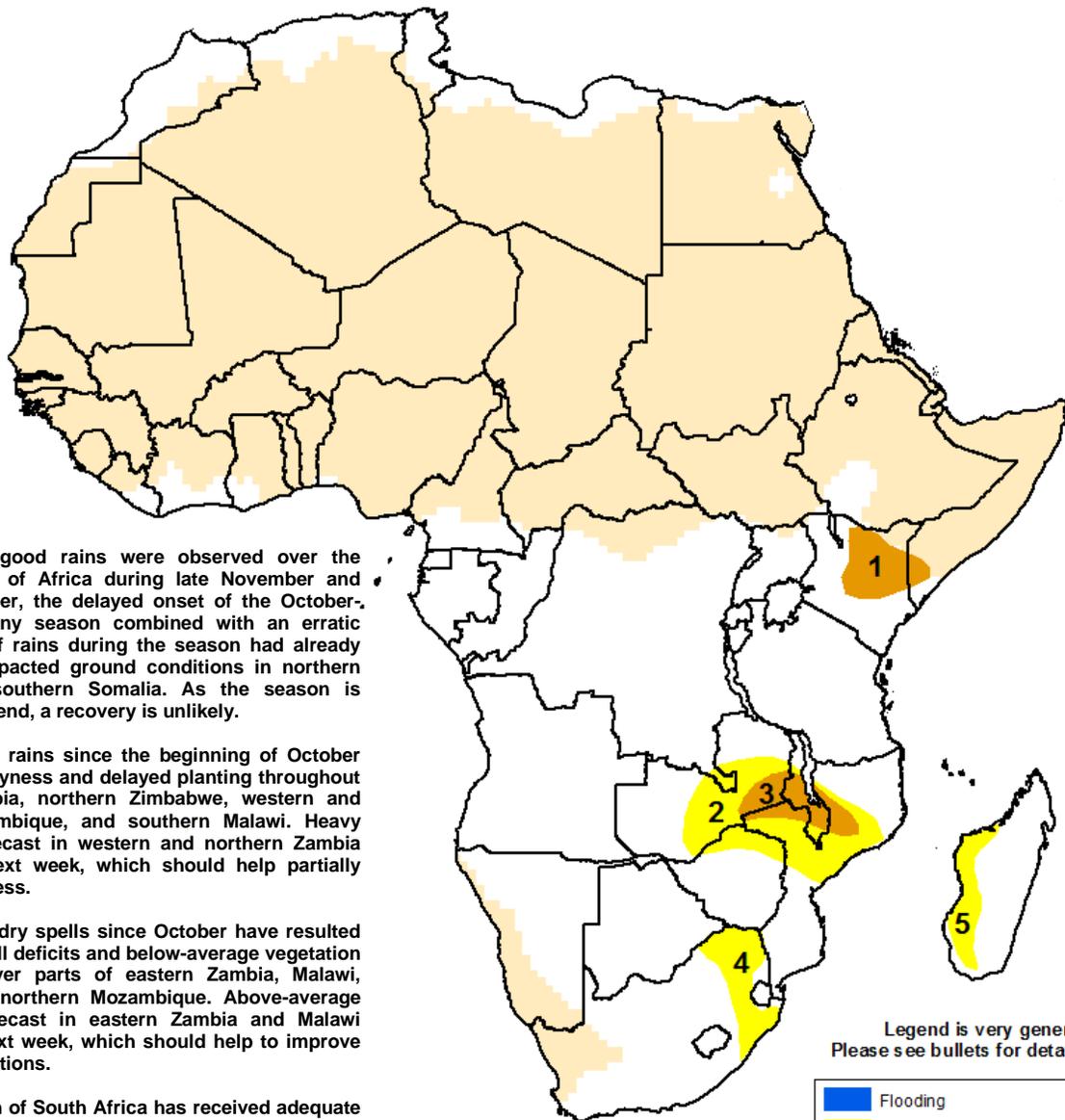




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 25 – December 31, 2014

- Needed rainfall was observed across previously dry areas in southern Africa.
- Dry conditions prevailed across eastern Africa.



1) Although good rains were observed over the Greater Horn of Africa during late November and early December, the delayed onset of the October-December rainy season combined with an erratic distribution of rains during the season had already negatively impacted ground conditions in northern Kenya and southern Somalia. As the season is coming to an end, a recovery is unlikely.

2) Insufficient rains since the beginning of October have led to dryness and delayed planting throughout eastern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, western and central Mozambique, and southern Malawi. Heavy rains are forecast in western and northern Zambia during the next week, which should help partially alleviate dryness.

3) Prolonged dry spells since October have resulted in large rainfall deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over parts of eastern Zambia, Malawi, western and northern Mozambique. Above-average rains are forecast in eastern Zambia and Malawi during the next week, which should help to improve drought conditions.

4) While much of South Africa has received adequate rains since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, the northernmost and eastern parts of the country have accumulated below-average rains, affecting agricultural conditions in the region. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast over the Limpopo province of South Africa during the next week, which should help reduce moisture deficits.

5) Below-average rains since the start of the rainy season have resulted in large moisture deficits and unfavorable ground conditions in western Madagascar. Moderate rainfall is expected across the central/northern parts of the island during the next week, which could provide some relief to poor ground conditions.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Beneficial rains observed across dry areas in southern Africa.

During the past seven days, widespread heavy rains (>50mm) shifted to the east across southern Africa falling over previously dry areas. The heaviest rains (>100mm) were recorded across Zimbabwe, central Mozambique and localized areas in Zambia and Madagascar. The rains were needed across dry areas in Mozambique, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe and Zambia where seasonal rainfall has been erratic. Elsewhere, seasonally moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) was observed across the maize triangle of South Africa which helped to increase ground moisture after a poor start of season. Farther north, below-average light to moderate rain (5-40mm) was recorded in Tanzania and Angola (**Figure 1**) increasing long-term deficits.

Since late November, rainfall anomalies across southern Africa have indicated continued dryness across western Madagascar, Zambia, Malawi, southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique as less than 50% of expected rains have occurred over the past thirty days. The dryness dates to a delayed onset of seasonal rains and a poor distribution of rains since. Dry spells in the Ruvuma region of Tanzania resulted in the replanting of maize crops. Similar below-average thirty-day rains were observed in parts of the Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of northern/eastern South Africa; although, recent rains have provided relief to dry conditions. The latest vegetative indices indicate that insufficient rains have led to poor and deteriorating ground conditions across these areas. This has negatively impacted cropping activities. Elsewhere, drier than average conditions also prevail across Angola, where thirty-day rainfall has been 50-80% of normal (**Figure 2**).

During the next week, heavy and beneficial rains (>50mm) are again forecast for dry areas in eastern southern Africa including Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The increase in rains should help to reduce long-term seasonal rainfall deficits and improve ground moisture. Torrential rains forecast for northern Madagascar could lead to localized flooding. In contrast, below-average rains are expected farther west in Angola which will add to recent rainfall deficits. Farther south, seasonal rains are forecast for South Africa.

Another week of dry weather is observed in eastern Africa.

During the past week, dry weather was observed across eastern Africa. Light to moderate rain (5-30mm) fell in Uganda and locations around Lake Victoria while little to no rain was recorded elsewhere. The lack of coastal showers in Kenya added to recent rainfall deficits, although seasonal rains are quickly coming to an end. Since the beginning of October, below-average rains (<50% of normal) have been observed in dry portions of central/northern Kenya and southern Somalia (**Figure 3**). Overall, seasonal rains were delayed at the start and erratic during the season, which led to poor ground conditions and negative impacts on cropping. For the next week, light to moderate rains (5-30mm) are forecast for southern and coastal Kenya as well as areas around Lake Victoria. Dry conditions should prevail elsewhere.

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

