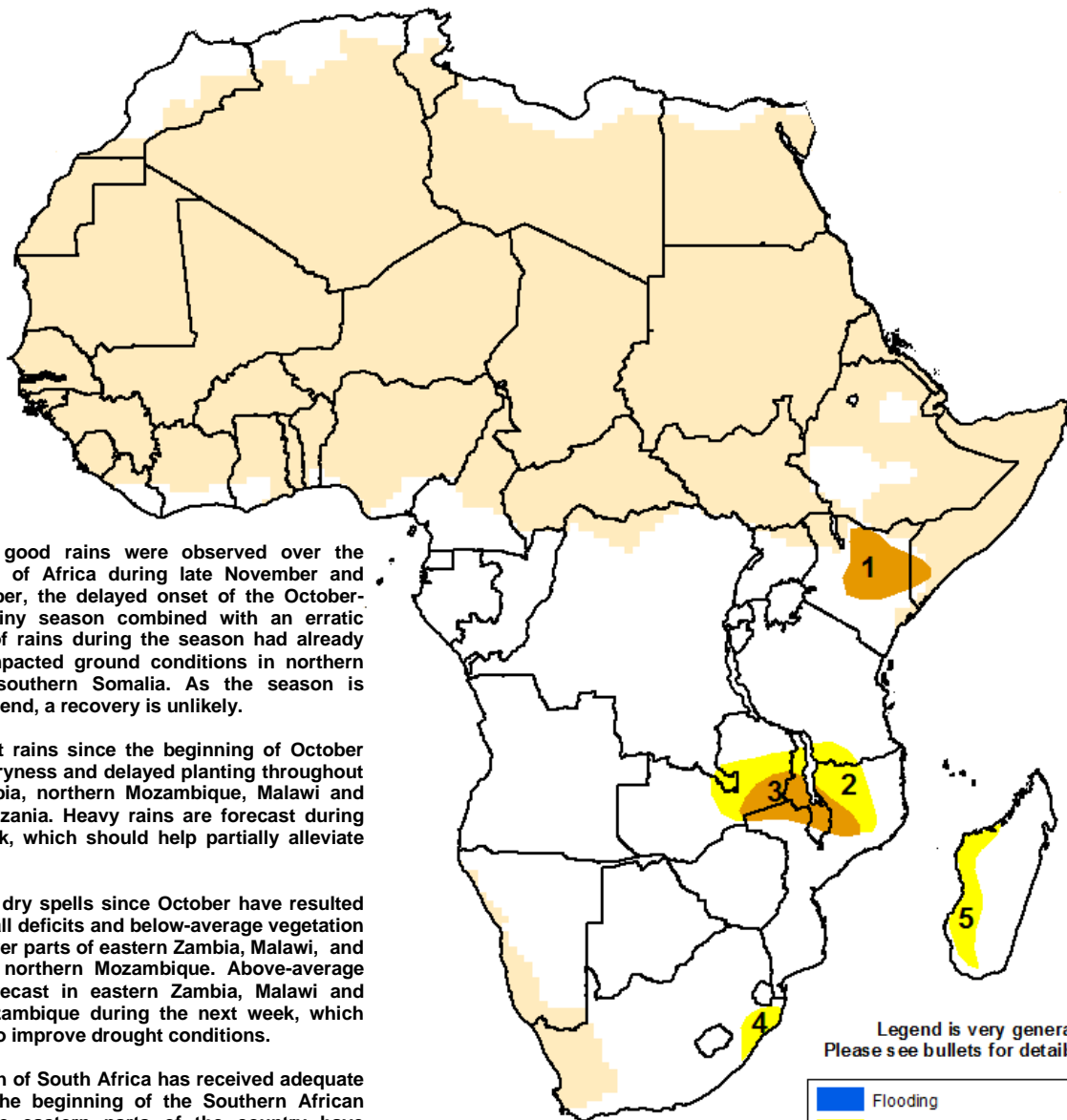




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 1 – January 7, 2015

- Heavy rains brought needed moisture to dry areas in eastern southern Africa.
- Moderate to heavy rains were observed around Lake Victoria in Uganda and Kenya.



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 Mozambique, Malawi and southern Tanzania. Heavy rains are forecast 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, and western and northern Mozambique. Above-average rains are forecast in eastern Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique 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 eastern parts of the country have accumulated below-average rains, affecting agricultural conditions in the region. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast over the KwaZulu-Natal 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 island during the next week, which could provide some relief to poor ground conditions.

Legend is very general.  
Please see bullets for details.

Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Dark Orange	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

## Heavy rains shift east across southern Africa.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) again fell for a second consecutive week across previously dry areas in eastern southern Africa. The highest rainfall totals (>75mm) were recorded in central Mozambique, Zimbabwe, northern Madagascar and Zambia. The recent increase in rain has provided needed ground moisture in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia after an erratic start to seasonal rains, including prolonged dry spells and deteriorated ground conditions. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (>25mm) was observed in South Africa, Tanzania and Angola (**Figure 1**). While moderate yet still below-average rains added to seasonal deficits in Angola, the seasonal rains in South Africa provided a recent recovery from poor rains earlier in the season.

While an increase in rains have occurred across previously dry areas in southern Africa, long-term rainfall deficits remain across a broad swath of southern Africa. Thirty-day rainfall totals 50-80% of normal extend from Madagascar, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania across the continent to Angola. The largest thirty-day deficits (25-50% of normal) are located in southern Tanzania and Malawi. Dry spells in the Ruvuma region of Tanzania resulted in the replanting of maize crops. However, after a poor start of season, abundant rains during the past two to three weeks have led to thirty-day rainfall surpluses (120-200% of normal) in central Mozambique and Zimbabwe (**Figure 2**). The rains have erased seasonal rainfall deficits dating back to the beginning of October as well. Vegetative indices continue to show poor ground conditions though, even with improving rains. Farther south, rains have also eroded early season deficits in the Limpopo province of South Africa; although deficits remain in the KwaZulu-Natal province of eastern South Africa.

During the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, southern Tanzania and Madagascar. There exists the potential for the development of a tropical cyclone in the Mozambique Channel during the period which could increase rainfall totals in western Madagascar. Elsewhere, below-average rains are expected in Angola and Botswana while seasonal rains are forecast for South Africa.

## Above-average rains observed around Lake Victoria.

During the past seven days, locally heavy rain (>50mm) was observed in southern Uganda and southwestern Kenya while dry conditions prevailed elsewhere across eastern Africa. The lack of rains closer to the coast in southern and eastern Kenya added to rainfall deficits, though seasonal rains are quickly coming to an end across much of the region. Since the beginning of October, below-average rains (25-80% of normal) have occurred in central/northern Kenya and southern Somalia while average to above-average rains were recorded elsewhere (**Figure 3**). The reduced rains led to poor ground conditions and negatively impacted cropping activities. For the next week, little to no rain is expected across eastern 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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