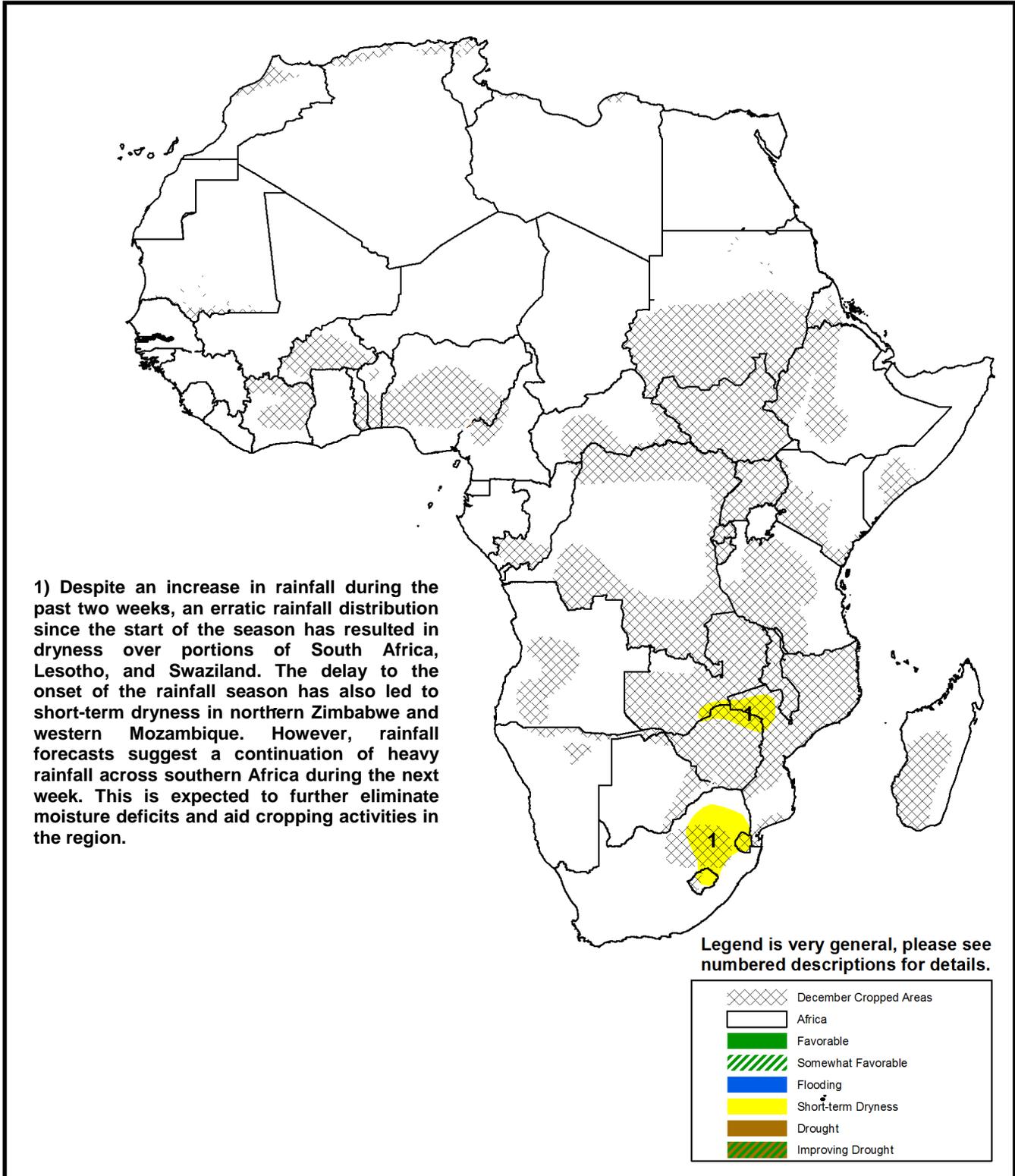


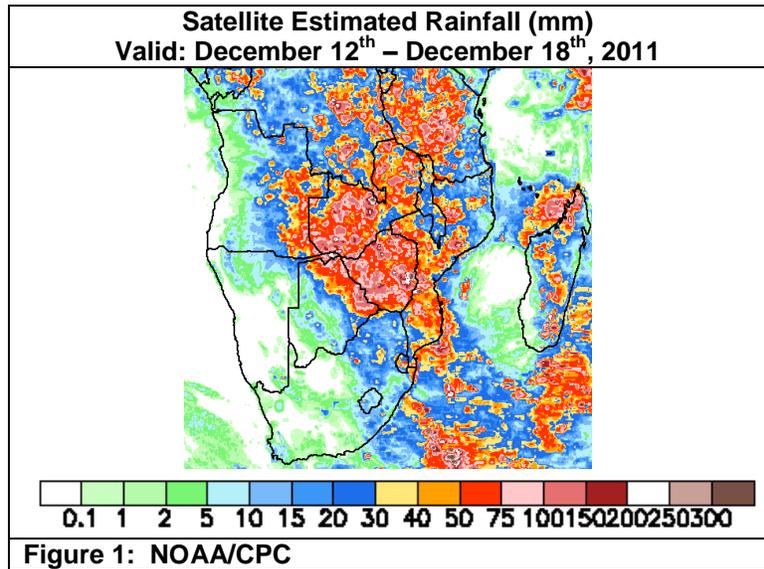
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 22 – December 28, 2011

- The eastward propagation of rain-bearing weather systems has brought heavy rainfall across Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern and central Mozambique during the past week.

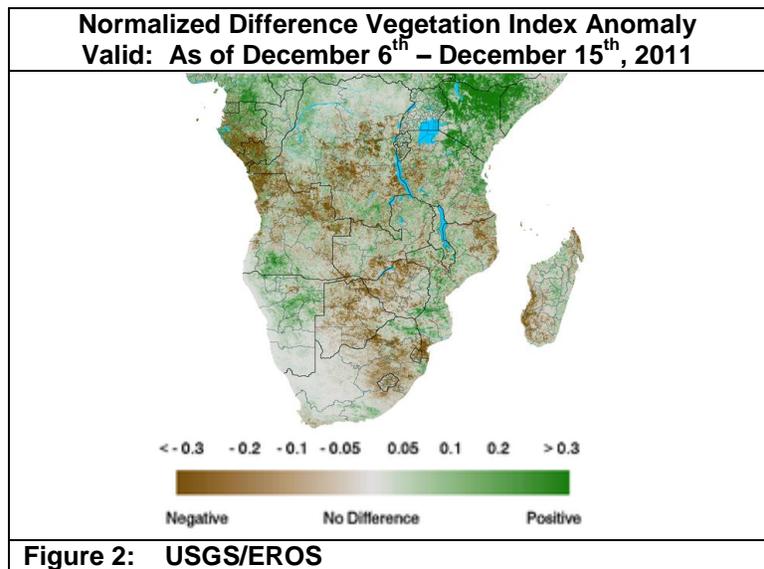


Eastern southern Africa experienced an increase in rainfall during the past week.

The eastward propagation of rain-bearing weather systems has brought heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall over Zambia, Botswana, southern and central Mozambique, while suppressed rainfall was observed over portions of Angola and Namibia during the past seven days (Figure 1). In the north, in the Congo Air Boundary region, the intensity of the low-level wind convergence was such that heavy rainfall has continued over Tanzania. Meanwhile, further south, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was recorded over parts of South Africa, where moderate rainfall deficits have persisted due to poor rainfall distribution since the start of the season. Across the Channel of Mozambique, the highlands of Madagascar and the northwestern coasts of the island also received heavy rainfall during the past week. In eastern southern Africa, the marked increase in rainfall during the past week has helped to partially compensate the accumulated rainfall deficits since the start of the season and aid agricultural activities in many local areas, including the maize triangle region of South Africa, northern Zimbabwe, and western Mozambique.



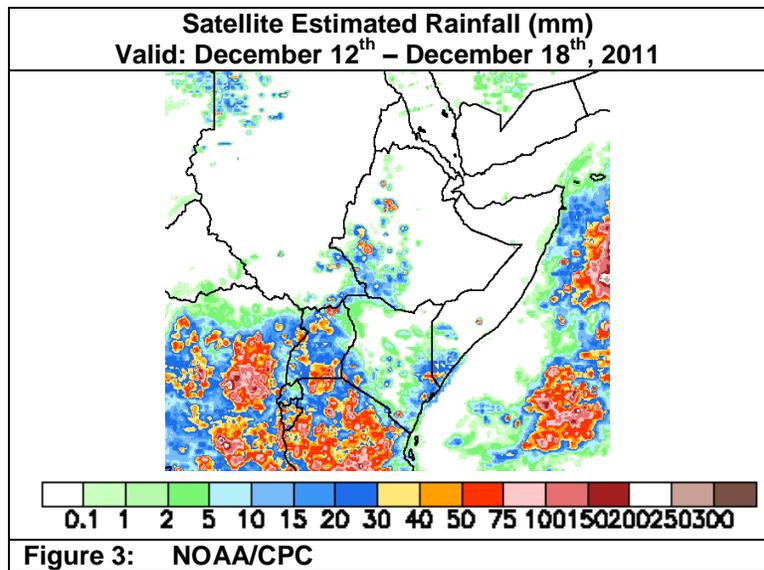
An analysis of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly during the period from December 6 to 15 shows areas, with lower than average greenness over eastern South Africa, Botswana, much of Zimbabwe, southern Zambia, and northeastern Mozambique (Figure 2). These areas have generally suffered below-average rainfall that has resulted from the delayed onset and poor spatial and temporal distribution of the rainfall season. A delay of several-dekads has already been reported over many local areas of southern Africa.



During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of heavy rainfall across southern Africa, with the highest probability of heavy rainfall over parts of Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, and South Africa. Meanwhile, moderate (20 – 40 mm) to locally heavy rainfall is forecast over northern Zimbabwe and western Mozambique. Further south, the interaction of tropical and subtropical weather systems is expected to bring heavy rainfall over eastern South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland during the next week. This is expected to bring relief to the dryness and benefit cropping activities over the dry portions of southern Africa.

Short-rains season coming to an end in eastern Africa.

During the past week, the satellite-estimated rainfall patterns showed continued suppression of rainfall, indicating an approaching end to the short-rains season in eastern Africa (Figure 3). However, heavy rainfall was still observed over local areas of western Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia during the past week. Locally heavy rainfall was also recorded over Uganda and Burundi. This has added positive anomalies to the already above-average rainfall received in eastern Africa since October. As for the upcoming week, rainfall prospects indicate a continuation of reduced rainfall amounts in the region, with the highest (< 20 mm) quantity forecast over southern Kenya. However, local areas of central and coastal Kenya could experience moderate to (30 – 50 mm) heavy showers during the next week. The expected reduction of rainfall during the next week should help to erode the excess of water that has resulted from above-average rainfall during October and November.



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.