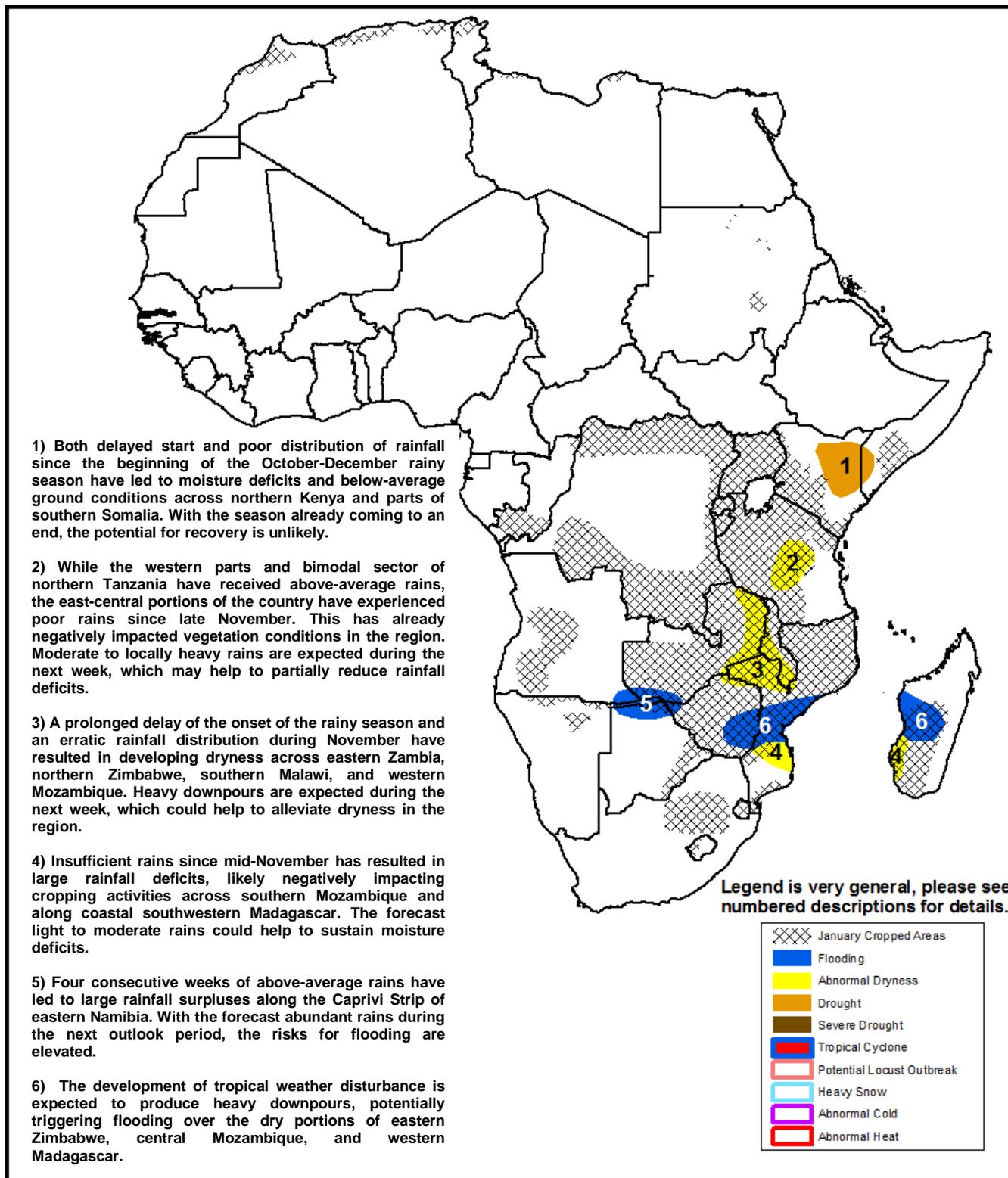




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 2 – January 8, 2014

- Heavy rains are expected in eastern Southern Africa, increasing risks for localized flooding during the next outlook period.



Good rains observed over much of Southern Africa during the past week.

During the past observation period, a favorable distribution of rainfall was observed across many countries of Southern Africa. As the season progresses, widespread moderate to heavy rains fell over eastern Angola, northeastern Namibia, Zambia, northern Botswana, Malawi, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, South Africa, and Mozambique (**Figure 1**). The heaviest (> 75 mm) rains were recorded over northeastern Zambia, northern Malawi, and southern Tanzania, where rainfall amounts in excess of 400 mm were recorded. Meanwhile, the continued seasonal rains helped to sustain favorable ground moisture over the western portions of Southern Africa, including Angola and Namibia. In contrast, reduced rainfall was received over northern Mozambique and Madagascar after increased rains observed during the prior week. An adequate distribution of rainfall is needed to eliminate accumulated rainfall deficits over the dry portions of eastern Southern Africa.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies indicated that surpluses exceeding 50 mm were observed throughout the western and central parts of Southern Africa, while large (> 50 mm) deficits remained across the Democratic Republic of Congo and eastern portions of the region during the past thirty days (**Figure 2**). The observed patterns in rainfall anomalies could be attributed to relatively frequent and above-average number of rainy days over much of Southern Africa except central Mozambique and southwestern Madagascar during the past thirty days. Many local areas of southern Mozambique and southwestern Madagascar have experienced only a few numbers of rainy days since the beginning of October. For next week, heavy downpours are forecast from the Caprivi Strip of eastern Namibia to central Mozambique and west-central Madagascar. This, therefore, increases the risks for flooding over already-saturated areas as the Caprivi Strip. Farther east, a tropical system to the east of Madagascar could also potentially result in localized flooding along its eastern coasts.

Poor October-December rainfall performance observed in Eastern Africa.

The October-December rainy season was characterized by an inconsistent distribution of rainfall over Eastern Africa. Many local areas of central and northern Kenya have experienced late start of the season, which was followed by atypical wet and dry rainfall episodes, and early cessation of rains. This has resulted in below-average pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions over many local areas of the region. Percent of average rainfall accumulated since October to date indicated large portions of northern Kenya and southern Somalia, with cumulative rainfall accounting for only less than fifty percent of the average (**Figure 3**). Moreover, suppressed rains were recorded across Eastern Africa during the past observation period, sustaining moisture deficits. During the next outlook period, light rains are expected only near the Lake Victoria region, while suppressed rains are forecast 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.

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