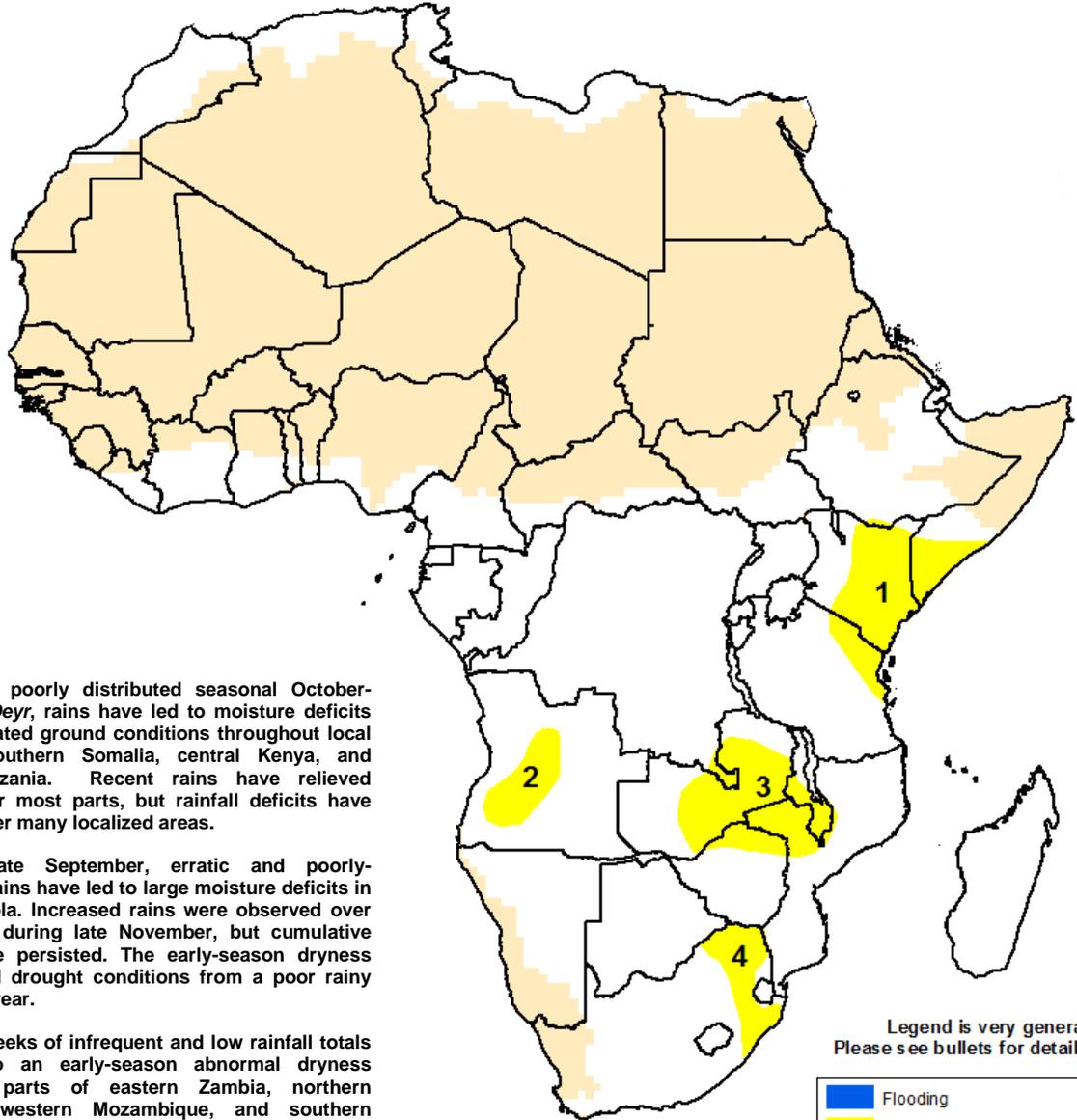




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 4 – December 10, 2014

- Below-average rains observed over a wide portion of Southern Africa during the past week.
- Seasonal rains coming to an end in the Greater Horn of Africa.



1) Low and poorly distributed seasonal October-December, *Deyr*, rains have led to moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions throughout local areas of southern Somalia, central Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. Recent rains have relieved dryness over most parts, but rainfall deficits have persisted over many localized areas.

2) Since late September, erratic and poorly-distributed rains have led to large moisture deficits in central Angola. Increased rains were observed over the country during late November, but cumulative deficits have persisted. The early-season dryness has followed drought conditions from a poor rainy season last year.

3) Several weeks of infrequent and low rainfall totals have led to an early-season abnormal dryness throughout parts of eastern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, western Mozambique, and southern Malawi. The forecast suppressed rains during the next week are likely to worsen conditions on the ground.

4) Despite an increase in rainfall over South Africa and eastern Botswana during late November, the northern and eastern parts of the South Africa have continued to receive below-average rains since the beginning of October. This has delayed planting over many localized areas.

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

Dryness worsens in the eastern parts of Southern Africa.

During the past week, light to moderate rains were observed throughout Angola, the western and northern parts of Zambia, Tanzania, northeastern Namibia, Botswana, and the eastern half of South Africa (**Figure 1**). Similar rainfall amounts were also recorded over the northern third of Madagascar. In contrast, suppressed rains continued in southeastern Zambia, eastern Zimbabwe, and much of Mozambique. Compared to climatology, this past week's rainfall remained below-average across much of Southern Africa, whereas rainfall totals were slightly above-average over some areas, including southwestern Angola, eastern Botswana, central South Africa, and parts of Tanzania. The uneven spatial distribution of rainfall over the past several weeks has affected land preparation and cropping activities in Southern Africa during this time of the year.

An analysis of rainfall percentile has indicated that accumulated rains since November have ranked only below the 10th percentile over the eastern portions of Southern Africa, including southern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, and western Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Some parts of central Angola, northern and eastern South Africa, and southwestern Madagascar have also showed analogous patterns. However, cumulative rains have ranked above the 85th percentile in central South Africa. If the poor spatial distribution of rains continues over the next several weeks, it will likely deplete soil moisture further and negatively impact early-planted crops over many local areas of Southern Africa.

During the next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast over Angola, the western and northern parts of Zambia, southern DRC, and western Tanzania. Light to locally moderate rains are expected in central and eastern South Africa. In contrast, suppressed rains are again forecast throughout Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, northern South Africa and the southern two-thirds of Mozambique.

Seasonal rains coming to an end in Eastern Africa.

During the past week, while moderate to heavy rains were observed over the Lake Victoria Region of southwestern Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia, and northwestern Tanzania, reduced to no rains were recorded in southern Somalia and central Kenya (**Figure 3**). In contrast to enhanced rains during the previous weeks, this past week's limited rains were slightly below-average and contributed to sustain moderate to large thirty-day deficits over central Kenya and localized areas of southern Somalia and coastal Tanzania.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest little to no rains, which may announce the approaching end of the October-December rainy season in southern Somalia and northern Kenya. This might exacerbate the long-lasting impacts of the delayed onset of the season and poor rainfall distribution over the past few months on crops. Farther south, light to locally moderate rains are, however, expected in south-central Kenya and along the border with Tanzania.

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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