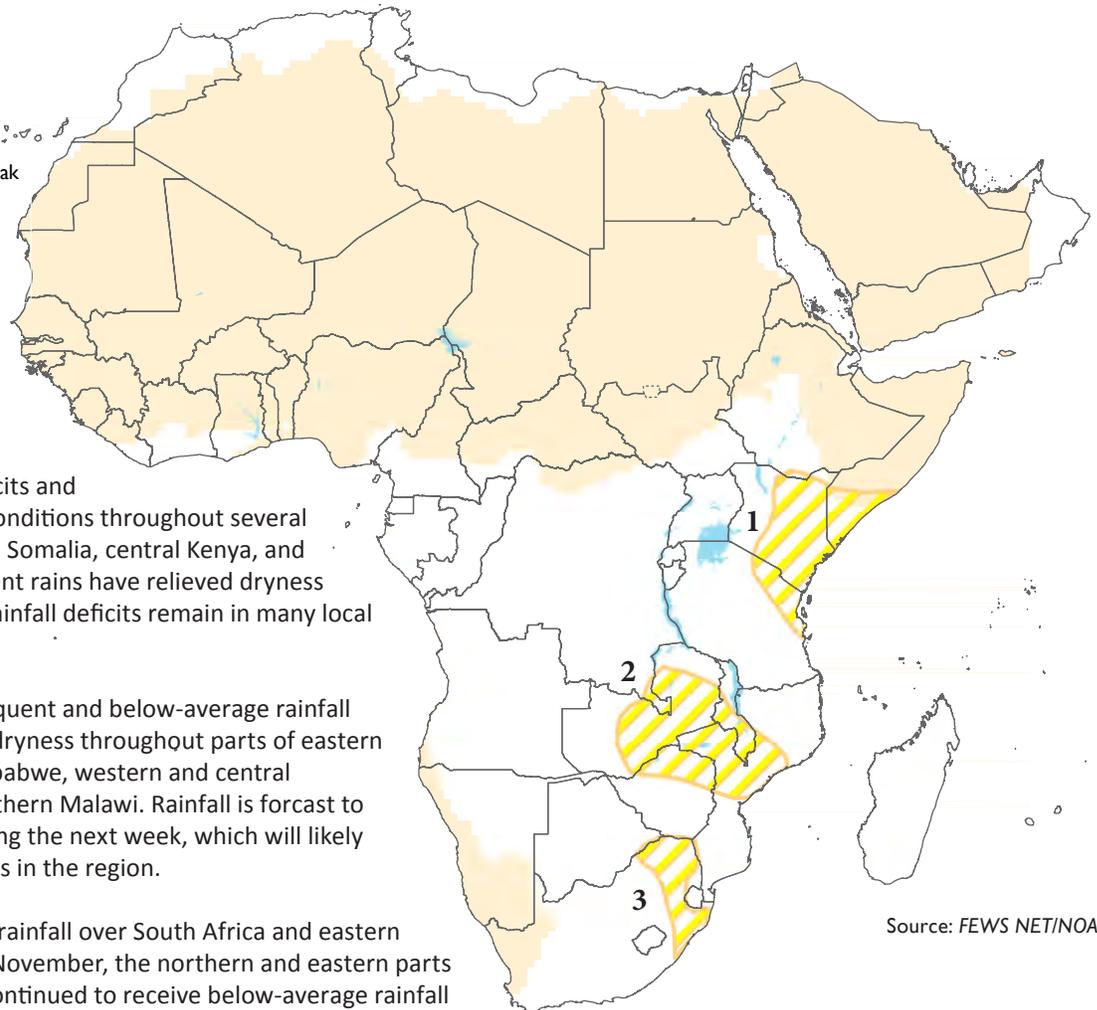


Despite heavy rains in localized areas, rainfall deficits persist in East and Southern Africa

Africa Weather Hazards

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



1. Low and poorly-distributed seasonal Deyr rains have led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions throughout several local areas of southern Somalia, central Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. Recent rains have relieved dryness over most parts, but rainfall deficits remain in many local areas.

2. Several weeks of infrequent and below-average rainfall have led to abnormal dryness throughout parts of eastern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, western and central Mozambique, and southern Malawi. Rainfall is forecast to be below average during the next week, which will likely maintain dry conditions in the region.

3. Despite an increase in rainfall over South Africa and eastern Botswana during late November, the northern and eastern parts of South Africa have continued to receive below-average rainfall since the beginning of October. This has delayed planting over many localized areas. However, heavy rains are forecast during the next week, likely helping to replenish soil moisture across the region.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Good rainfall to begin in eastern parts of Southern Africa

An analysis of rainfall performance over the past thirty days indicates that a wide portion of eastern Southern Africa has received below-average rainfall since early November. Eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, western and northern parts of Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar have experienced significantly below-average rainfall, accounting for less than 25 percent of their average rainfall over the past four weeks (Figure 1). Similarly, the northern and eastern portions of South Africa have received between only 50-80 percent of their average rainfall over the past thirty days. The observed lack of rains has already affected agricultural activities, including delayed land preparation and planting in many local areas. The abnormal dryness was primarily attributed to a delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by prolonged dry spells across the region. During the past week, below-average rains continued throughout the eastern parts of Southern Africa, increasing moisture deficits over dry portions of the African sub-region, while moderate to heavy rains fell over Angola and parts of South Africa.

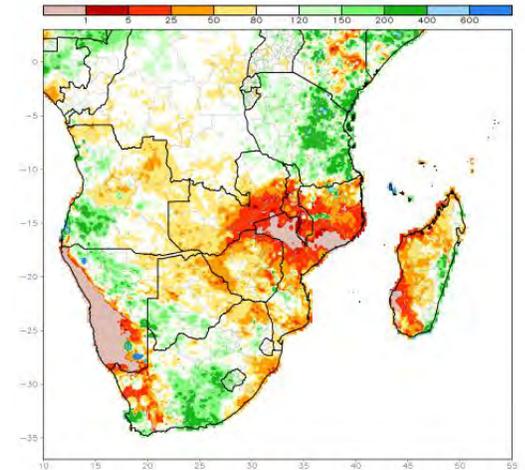
During the next week, model forecasts suggest the return of good rainfall, with heavy rainfall expected over Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, eastern South Africa, and Madagascar (Figure 2). This should help reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture across the dry portions of Zimbabwe, the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, and southwestern Madagascar. To the west, heavy rains are also forecast to continue over Angola, along the border with Namibia, and the Caprivi Strip region. To the northeast, limited rainfall is expected over eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and Tanzania. The forecasted reduced rainfall could be beneficial over Tanzania as it would help to relieve wetness over many local areas, but persistent below-average rainfall is likely to worsen conditions in many already dry areas of eastern Southern Africa.

Poor October-December rainy season observed in East Africa

Despite an increase in rainfall during late November and early December, rainfall totals have remained below average over parts of equatorial East Africa since the beginning of October. Northern Kenya has received less than 25 percent of its average rainfall (Figure 3), while eastern Kenya and localized areas of southern Somalia have accumulated between 25-50 percent of their average rainfall since the start of the rainy season. The season was delayed by several weeks in southern Somalia, allowing dryness to spread across central and northern Kenya. The poor rainfall distribution has already negatively impacted agricultural and pastoral activities in the region.

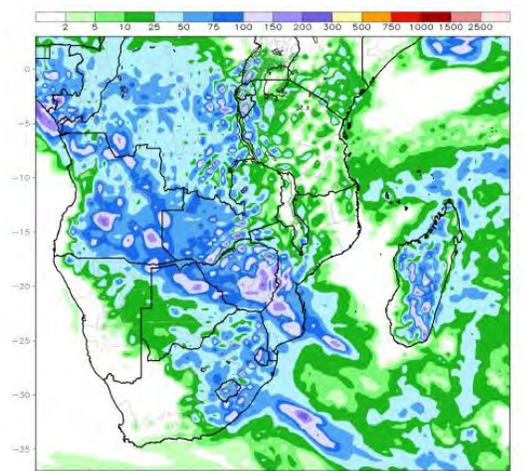
During the next week, light rains are expected in eastern Kenya, while below-average rainfall is forecast in southern Somalia. Little to no rainfall is also expected over Uganda and the bimodal region of northern Tanzania.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: November 09 - December 08, 2014



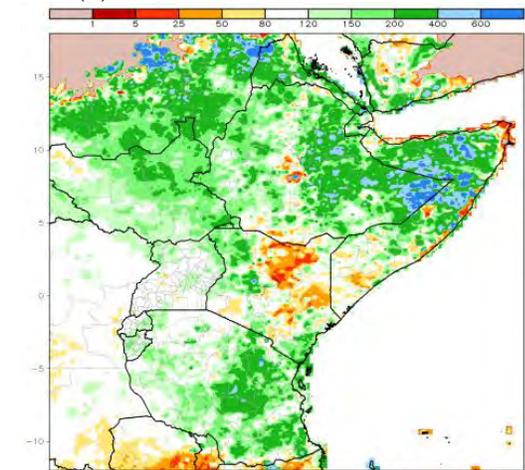
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: GPS Rainfall Forecast (mm) Valid: December 11 - December 17, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3: Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: October 01 - December 08, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

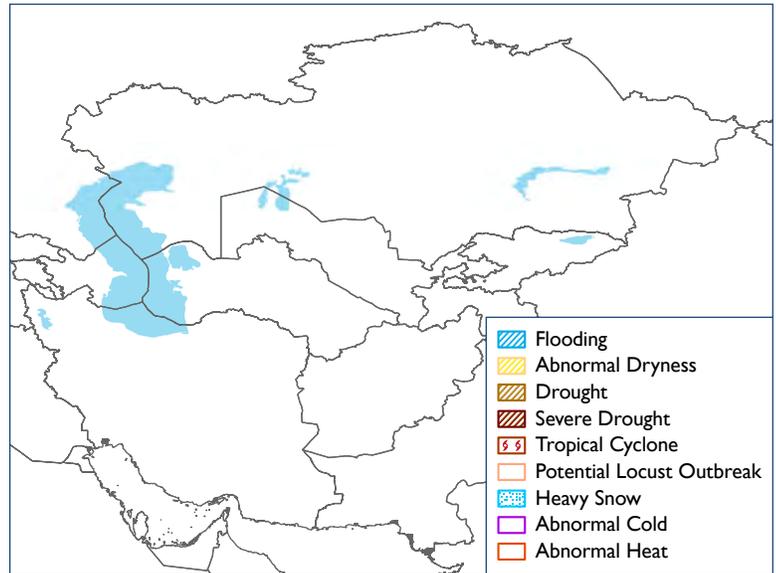
No hazards are posted for Central Asia.

Temperatures

Below-normal temperatures (1 - 7° C) prevailed across Central Asia from November 30 - December 6. The coldest temperatures were observed in northeast Kazakhstan, where temperatures fell to -20° C. During the next week, the GFS model indicates that minimum temperatures are likely to average below-normal across eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Since negative anomalies are expected to be smaller than previous weeks, an abnormal cold hazard is not posted.

Precipitation

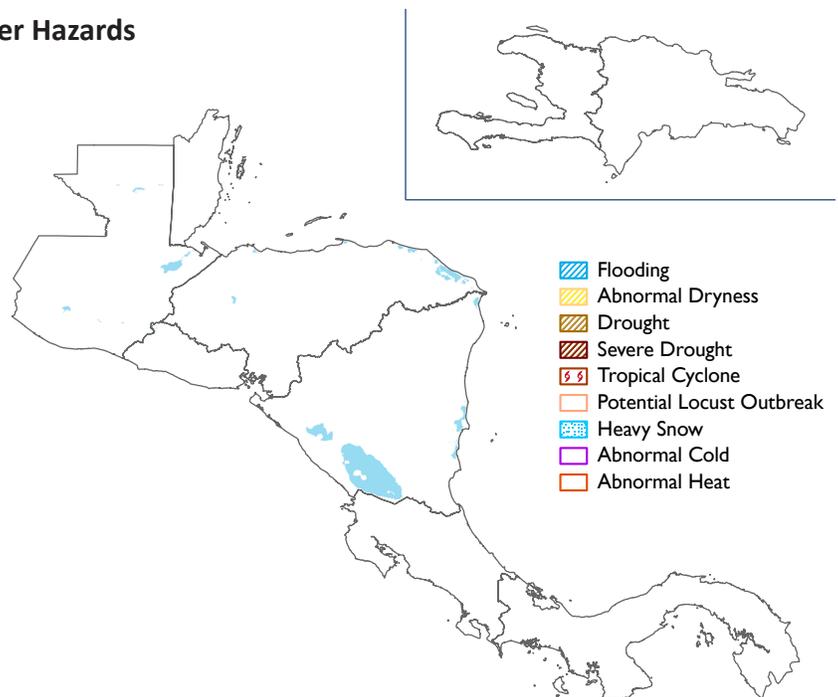
Rain and snow (>25 mm, liquid equivalent) fell across most of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and northern Afghanistan. 90-day precipitation is generally above-normal throughout the region, according to the CPC-Unified data. During the next week, mostly dry weather is expected for Central Asia.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards are posted for Central America and the Caribbean.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

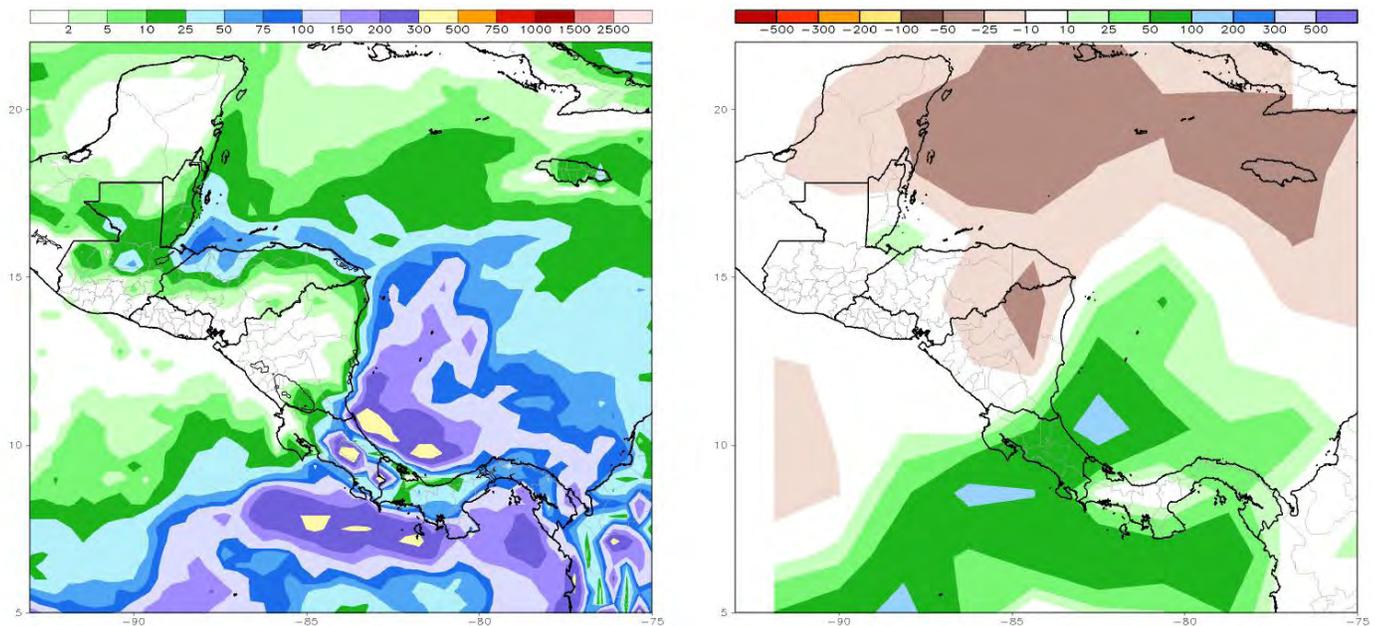
Anomalously wet conditions persist in northern Central America in early December

During the past week, above-average rainfall continued throughout many coastal areas along the Gulf of Honduras. Both satellite estimates and rain gauge reports indicate the highest weekly accumulations occurred in the Izabal and Peten departments of Guatemala, as well as the Atlantida department of northern Honduras. Rainfall in this region has been consistently above-average over the past 3 weeks, leading to saturated ground conditions and an elevated risk of flooding. For interior Central America, the quantity of late season *Postrera* / early season *Apante* rainfall has been much less, as much of the precipitation has been focused offshore in the Atlantic. Since early November, rainfall has been generally average throughout Central America, with the exception of some developing dryness in northern Nicaragua and southern Guatemala. The anomalously dry conditions are not expected to negatively impact ground conditions for cropping activities.

During the next week, precipitation forecasts suggest a sharp decrease in rainfall into the middle of December. The highest weekly precipitation amounts are expected for many coastal areas on the Atlantic side of Central America; however, the quantity is expected to decrease as compared to previous weeks. Further inland and on the Pacific side, much less rainfall is forecast.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm), left, and seven-day rainfall anomaly (mm), right.

Valid: December 10-17, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Seasonable light to moderate rainfall expected in Haiti

During the first week in December, a seasonable distribution of rainfall fell throughout Hispaniola. The highest weekly total precipitation amounts (>50mm) were registered in the Nord department of northern Haiti, with more moderate, well-distributed amounts (10-25mm) across the southern departments. To the east, lesser amounts of rainfall fell throughout the Dominican Republic. Since the beginning of November, both short-term and long-term moisture deficits have been greatly mitigated due to the significant increase in rains during the last month. As a result, satellite-estimated vegetation conditions suggest that dry parts of southern and northern Haiti have experienced much improvement. As seasonal rainfall typically experiences a minimum in December, precipitation forecast suggests light to locally moderate rainfall during the upcoming week.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.