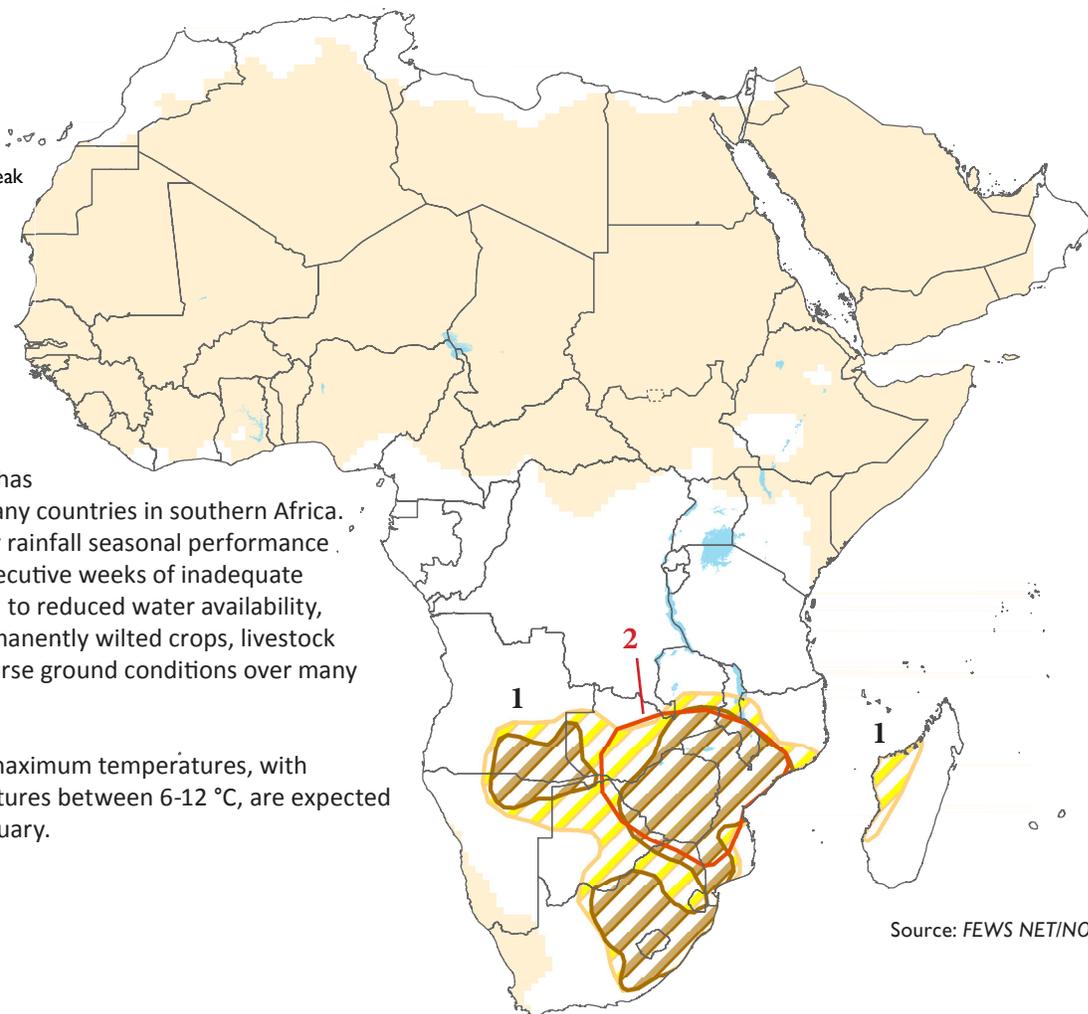


Drought persists in southern Africa despite recent increases in rainfall

Africa Weather Hazards

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



1. Significantly below-average and poorly-distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. Exacerbated by a poor rainfall seasonal performance last year, several consecutive weeks of inadequate rainfall has already led to reduced water availability, delayed planting, permanently wilted crops, livestock deaths and other adverse ground conditions over many areas.
2. Above-average daily maximum temperatures, with average weekly departures between 6-12 °C, are expected to persist into late January.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Increased rains to provide some relief to dryness across southern Africa

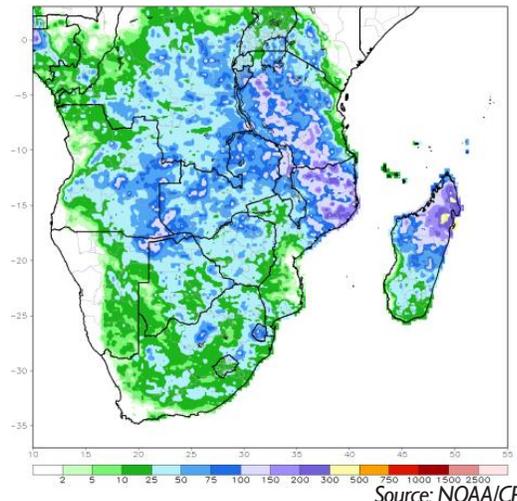
During the past week, an increase in seasonal rainfall was observed across many anomalously dry areas in southern Africa. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>75mm) were across portions of southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, eastern Angola, and in the Caprivi Strip region (Figure 1). More moderate but well distributed rainfall amounts were received further south into parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and western Mozambique. For these countries, this week marked the first occurrence of considerable seasonal rainfall for many local areas, which is expected to help reduce rainfall deficits stemming from very poor rainfall since mid-December.

Over the past 30 days, satellite rainfall estimates show a largely suppressed precipitation pattern across much of southeastern Africa (Figure 2). The largest moisture deficits (>100mm) are concentrated over western Madagascar, southern Zambia, central and western Mozambique, and neighboring portions of Zimbabwe. It is this region where monsoonal rainfall is climatologically higher and most frequent during mid to late January. As a result, the continuation of low rainfall accumulations and fewer than average rain days before the end of January is likely to rapidly increase dryness and lead to many adverse ground conditions, impeding the development of crops.

In other countries throughout southern Africa, a shift towards average to above-average rainfall has been observed during the last 30 days. Since late December, many regions in Angola, Tanzania, and northern Mozambique have become anomalously wet due to more frequent, heavy rainfall, which has helped to alleviate dryness associated with poor rains earlier in the season. However, the heavy rains have reportedly triggered flooding, damages to infrastructure and the displaced populations in local parts of Angola and northern Malawi earlier this month. In South Africa, increased rains in recent weeks have helped to mitigate moisture deficits in some parts of the Maize Triangle region. However, many areas outside of the Maize Triangle region have not experienced much of a recovery, sustaining the anomalous dryness and drought conditions that began earlier in the season.

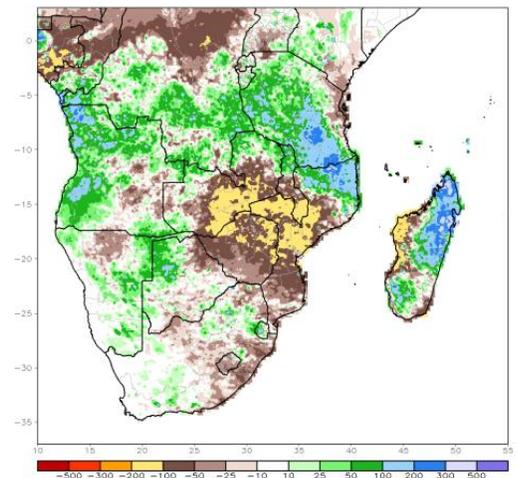
During the next week, suppressed rainfall is forecast over many areas in southern Africa, with the potential for the lowest rainfall totals over southeastern Africa in the Zambezi River basin and Madagascar (Figure 3). As a result, seasonal moisture deficits over southern Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique are expected to significantly strengthen during late January. Temperature forecasts also show the continuation of abnormally high temperatures during the next week, with maximum daily temperatures exceeding 40 degrees across some parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 12-18, 2016



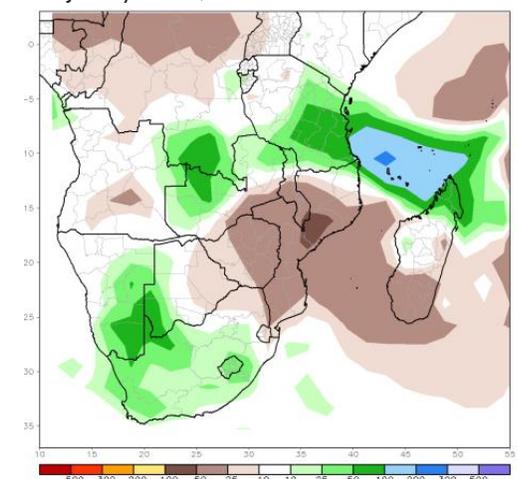
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (%)
Valid: December 20, 2015 - January 18, 2016



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3: Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 19 - 26, 2016



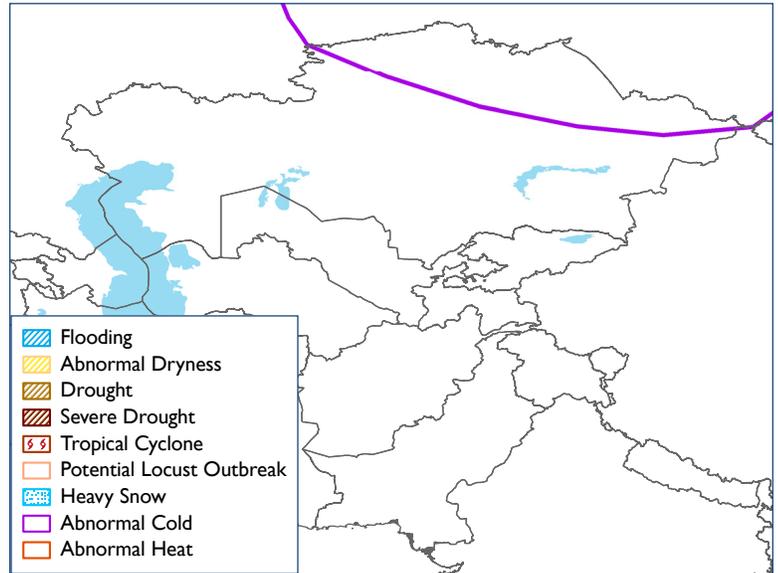
Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

The GFS model indicates that much below-normal temperatures will persist across northeast Kazakhstan, where minimum temperatures are forecast to average more than 12 °C below normal and could fall below -35 °C.

Temperatures: Temperatures began to moderate across northeast Kazakhstan with weekly temperatures averaging near to slightly below-normal, with extreme minimum temperatures near -30 °C. Meanwhile, above-normal temperatures persisted across the remainder of the region with the largest positive anomalies (6 to 10 °C) observed across southwest Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

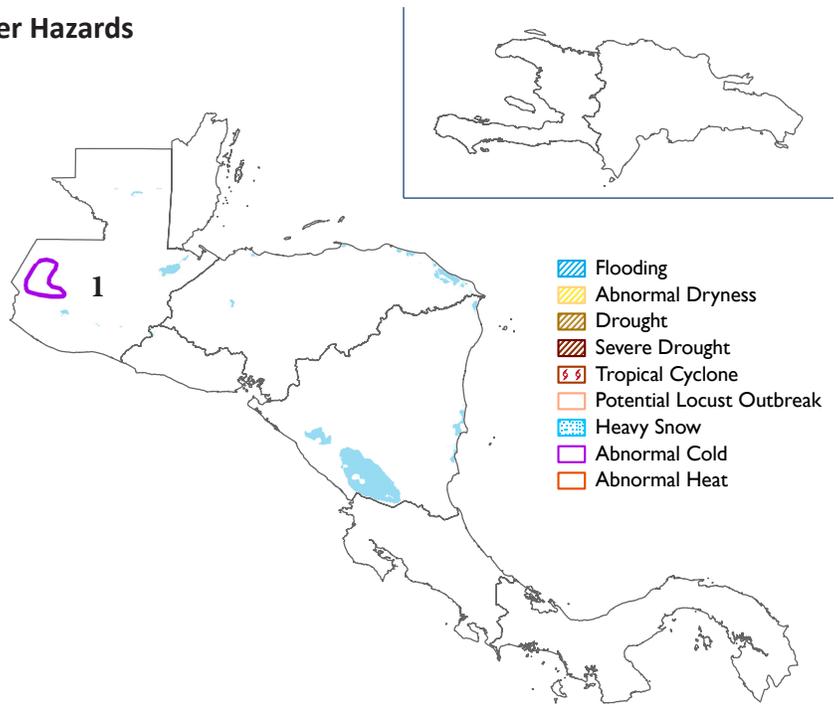
Precipitation: During the past week, light to moderate precipitation (22 mm or less, liquid equivalent) fell across most of the region. According to the CPC Unified Gauge Analysis, precipitation has averaged at or above normal across most of Central Asia, including northern Afghanistan, during the past 30 days. Mostly light precipitation is expected across the region during the next week, although locally heavy snow (around 25 mm, liquid equivalent) may occur across the higher elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Temperatures are likely to dip below freezing during overnight hours in some of the highest elevation regions of southwestern Guatemala, introducing the risk for frost and freeze in the departments of Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, and Totonicapán.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Cool nighttime temperatures are expected in Guatemala

During the past week, generally near or slightly below-normal rainfall conditions were experienced across the region. With a pattern very typical for this time of year, light rains fell in departments along the Caribbean coastline, while very little rainfall fell in central and Pacific-facing departments. Some more enhanced rains were observed over the Gulf of Belize and to the north of Panama, but these mainly stayed offshore. Over the previous 30-day period, dating to December 12th, most regions have observed slightly below-normal amounts of rain. The greatest of these deficits are found in the Petén Department of Guatemala and in southeastern Nicaragua. Vegetation indices remain quite good in most areas, especially in Pacific-facing portions of the region. The region along the western border of Petén Department in Guatemala is the primary place where vegetation indices indicate concern about moisture deficits.

During the next week, near-average conditions are expected again across the Central America region. Light to moderate rains should be contained to the Caribbean coastal facing departments. The greatest possibility for more substantial rainfall totals is in parts of extreme southeastern Nicaragua and eastern Costa Rica. Light rains are likely for eastern portions of Nicaragua and northern portions of Honduras, and some parts of central Guatemala, while very little rain can be expected elsewhere. Temperatures are likely to dip below freezing in the highest elevations of Guatemala during a couple of nights, introducing the risk for frost.

Figure 4: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 21-27, 2016

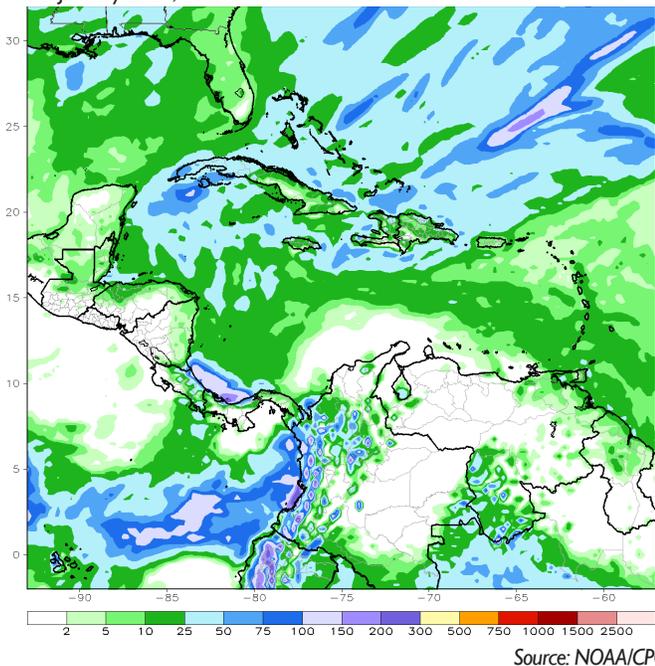
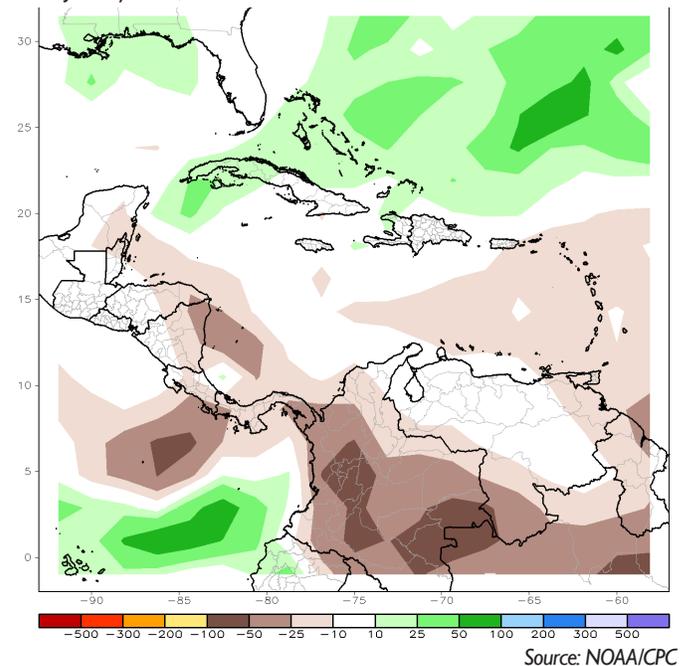


Figure 5: Seven-Day Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
Valid: January 21-27, 2016



Localized light rains were observed this past week; scattered showers are expected to continue next week

During the past week, little rainfall was observed throughout Hispaniola. Rains were constrained to some locations along the west coast of Haiti and local areas of southern Dominican Republic. Rainfall amounts generally ranged from 5-25mm. Rainfall has been consistently near or slightly below average over the last 30 days, with only minor observed anomalies over the period. A normal frequency of rain events has been observed as well. Both the VHI and NDVI indicate great improvements in vegetation conditions since the fall. Poor conditions are now relegated to northern parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, though most of these areas are showing a positive trend in recent weeks. The forecast indicates that the current pattern of seasonable scattered rain showers is likely to persist into the following week for Haiti. Totals could exceed 25mm in a few areas.

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.