FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

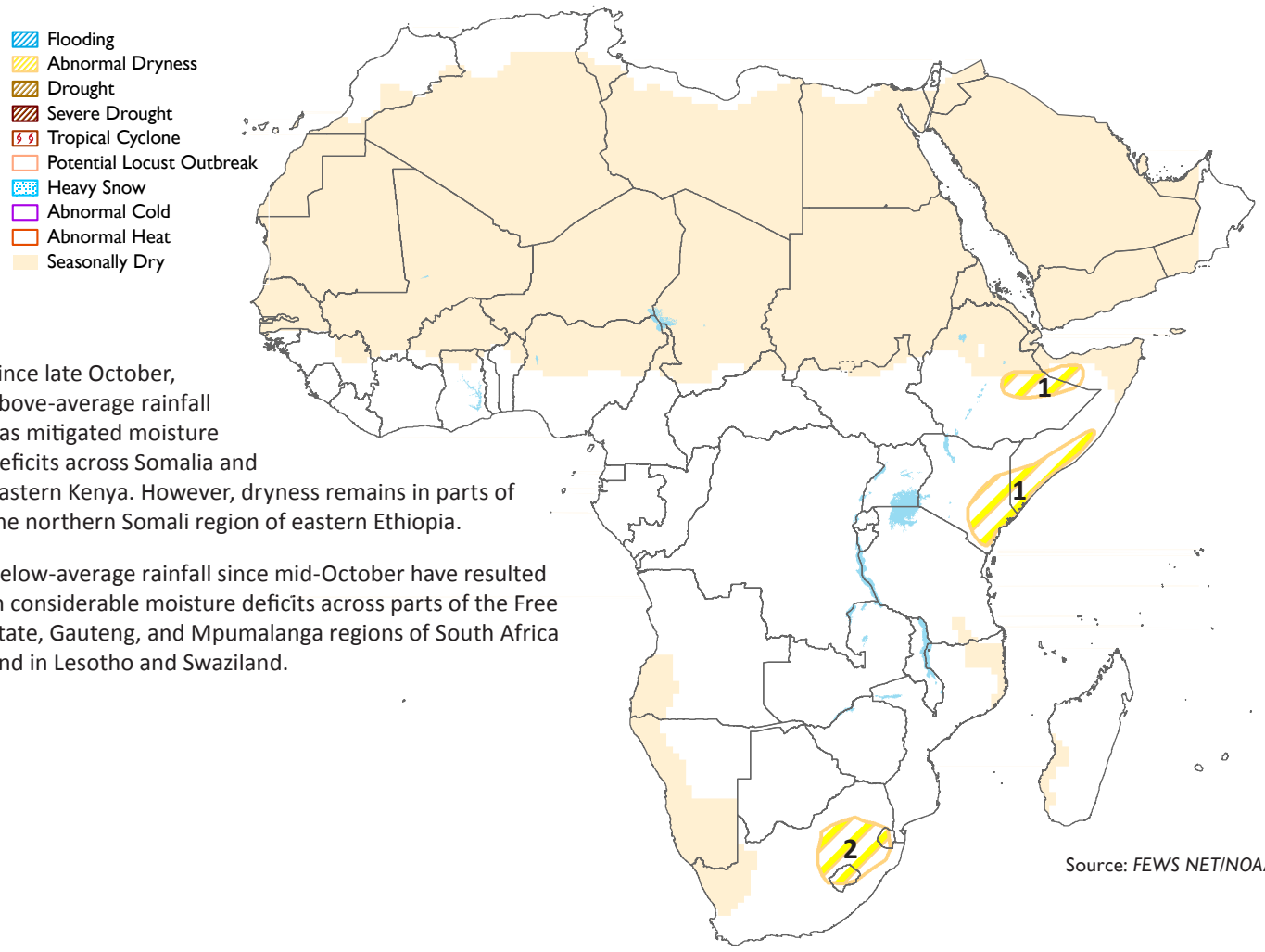
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Global Weather Hazards Summary

November 17 - 23, 2017

Continued heavy rains in November bring relief to dryness in East Africa

Africa Weather Hazards



1. Since late October, above-average rainfall has mitigated moisture deficits across Somalia and eastern Kenya. However, dryness remains in parts of the northern Somali region of eastern Ethiopia.

2. Below-average rainfall since mid-October have resulted in considerable moisture deficits across parts of the Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga regions of South Africa and in Lesotho and Swaziland.

Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

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Africa Overview

Heavy rains continue across East Africa

During the last week, increased seasonal rainfall was recorded in many regions in the Greater Horn of Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were registered across southeastern Kenya, northeastern Tanzania, and the Jubba and Shabelle River basin in southern Somalia. Flooding and damages to infrastructure were reported in the coastal provinces of southeastern Kenya. More moderate, widespread amounts (25-50mm) were registered over southern Ethiopia, Uganda, and northern Kenya **(Figure 1).**

The increase in rainfall over East Africa during the last two to three weeks follows an unusually dry October. The latest rainfall has largely minimized the extent and magnitude of moisture deficits in Somalia and northeastern Kenya. Currently, many portions of the Tana River basin and Garissa region in eastern Kenya are experiencing less than 80 percent of their average rainfall, with many other regions experiencing average to above-average rainfall since mid-October **(Figure 2).** Water levels along Jubba and Shabelle River have been increasing in southern Somalia, with a few locations exceeding flood alert levels.

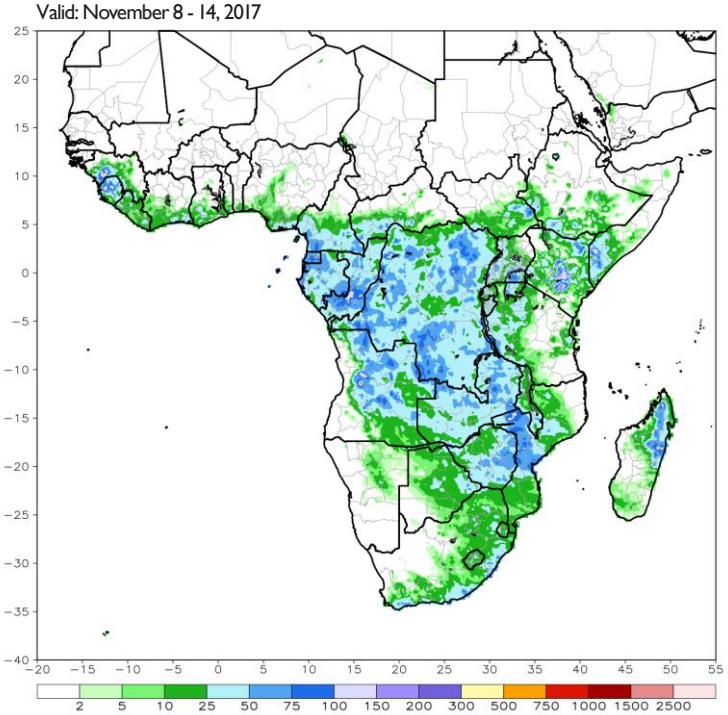
Next week, rainfall in Somalia and Ethiopia is forecast to be average. However, above-average amounts are possible over the interior provinces of southeastern Kenya.

Early season moisture deficits developing in southern Africa

Last week, seasonal precipitation returned over parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique and Malawi following a week of largely suppressed rainfall activity in the region. However, many parts of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland still received relatively low amounts of rainfall, extending a dry spell and strengthened early season moisture deficits in the south. Currently, many local areas in Swaziland, Lesotho, and in the Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga states of South Africa have experienced less than half of the normal rainfall since mid-October, with several local areas receiving less than a quarter of average **(Figure 2).** In Madagascar, large, early season moisture deficits are also recorded over the southern provinces of the country, as lesser amounts of seasonal rainfall have accumulated since October.

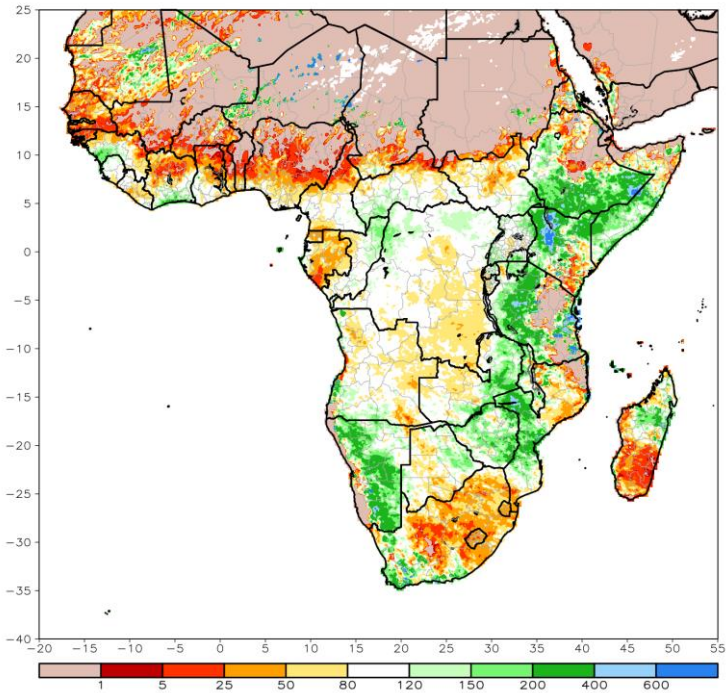
Precipitation models suggest an increase in rainfall along the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa. Local areas near the Maize Triangle are expected to receive average to below-average rains.

Figure 1: RFE2 Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 8 - 14, 2017



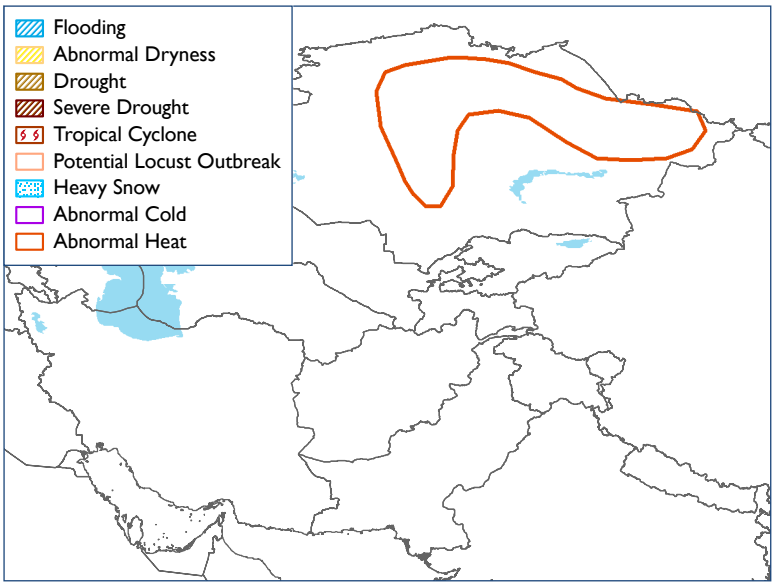
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: ARC 30-Day Percent of Normal (%)
Valid: October 16 - November 14



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Temperatures

Above-normal temperatures (2-8°C) were recorded across the Central Asia region from November 7 to November 13, and most anomalously in Tajikistan. However, temperatures were generally cooler than the previous week. Maximum temperatures reached 28°C in southern Afghanistan and minimum temperatures were as low as -18°C in northeastern Kazakhstan. Next week, above-normal temperatures (6-12° above average) are forecast over Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, while Afghanistan is expected to cool down below average. Subfreezing temperatures will be limited to the northern two thirds of Kazakhstan and the higher elevations of Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

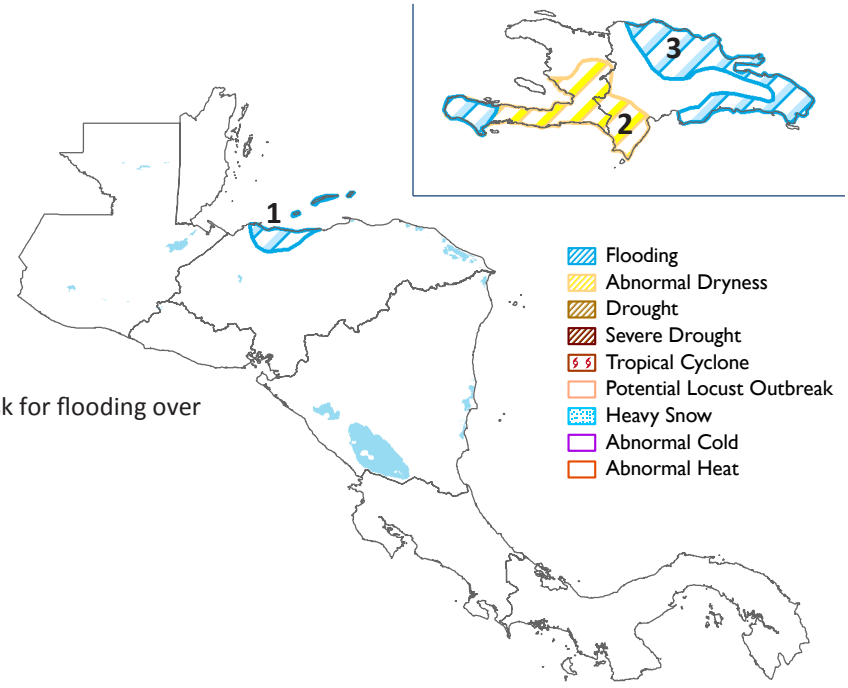
Precipitation

Precipitation (2 to 25 mm) was recorded across eastern Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Other than a few light showers in western areas, the rest of the region was dry. Abnormal dryness is posted for parts of eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.

During the next week, precipitation is forecast across Kazakhstan. Beneficial moderate rain is also likely in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan during the beginning of the week. With temperatures returning closer to average, snowpack may begin to increase.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Abundant rain during the past week resulted in flooding over the Roatán Island of Honduras. During the next seven days, heavy rain is forecast to continue along the Gulf of Honduras, which could trigger new flooding over the Bay Islands and portions of northern Honduras.
2. Abnormal dryness observed over southern Hispaniola.
3. Heavy rain during the next week will increase risk for flooding over some areas in Hispaniola.



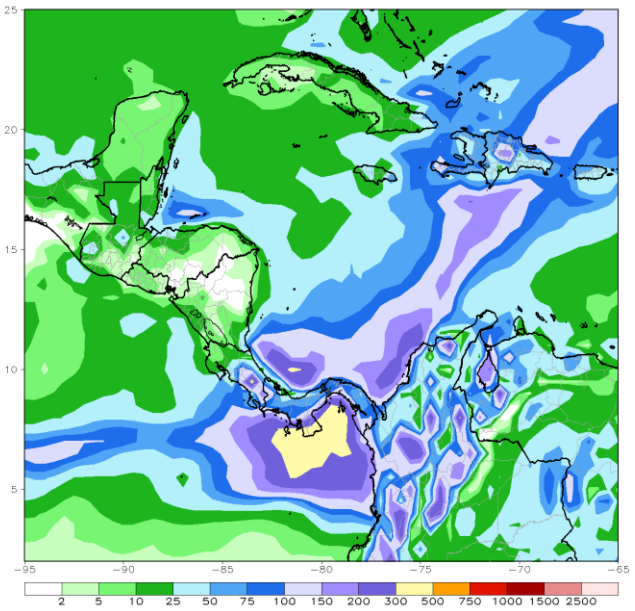
Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Rainfall to continue along the Gulf of Honduras, while below-average rain is forecast elsewhere. Last week, below-average rain prevailed across much of Central America. For the second consecutive week, little to no rainfall was received throughout the inland of the sub-region. However, light to locally moderate rain was observed along the Atlantic Basin of Nicaragua, eastern Honduras, and the Southern Caribbean. The heaviest rainfall amounts fell over the Bay Islands, which resulted in flooding over the Roatán Island of Honduras. Compared to climatology, this rain was average to below-average and was not that atypical since the Postrera, second rainfall season, is approaching its end. Since mid-October to date, areas such as southern Guatemala, Honduras, north-central Nicaragua, and the Pacific Basin of Costa Rica received below-average rain. In contrast, above-average rain was recorded over parts of northern Guatemala, eastern and northern Honduras, and central Nicaragua. Recent vegetation indices adequate conditions over most areas.

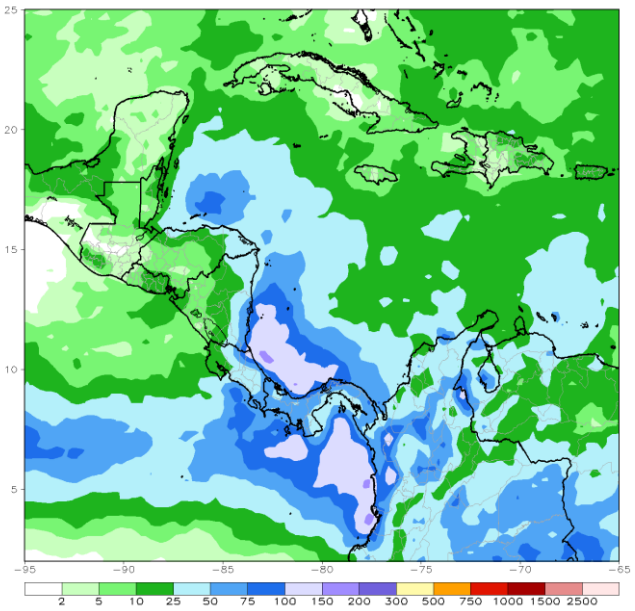
During the next week, a drier weather pattern is expected to continue over Central America, except the Southern Caribbean and Gulf of Honduras, where heavy rain is forecast. Over Honduras, another week with heavy rain is forecast, increasing the potential for flooding over the Bay Islands and parts of the Atlantida department. Minimum temperature is expected to remain above-freezing over the higher terrains of the sub-region.

Figure 4: GEFS mean total rainfall forecast (mm)
Valid: November 15 - 22, 2017



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 5: CMORPH rainfall climatology (mm)
Valid: November 15 - 22, 2017



Source: NOAA/CPC

Next week, forecast rain will increase risk for flooding over Hispaniola

During early November, above-average rain was recorded over Hispaniola. Moderate to heavy rain was observed throughout the Island, except the central portions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Last week's average to above-average rain helped reduce moisture deficits and alleviate dryness over many local areas. However, moderate to large thirty-day negative rainfall anomalies remained over portions of the Southern Peninsula of Haiti and northern Dominican Republic. The return of good rain should help replenish soil moisture and relieve dryness over the dry portions of Hispaniola.

Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest continued rain over Hispaniola. Widespread, moderate to heavy rain is expected throughout the Island, with the heaviest (>100 mm) rainfall amounts over southwestern Haiti and central Dominican Republic. This increases the risks for flooding and landslides in local areas, including the Grand'Anse department of Haiti, southern, eastern, and northern coastal areas of the Dominican Republic.

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.