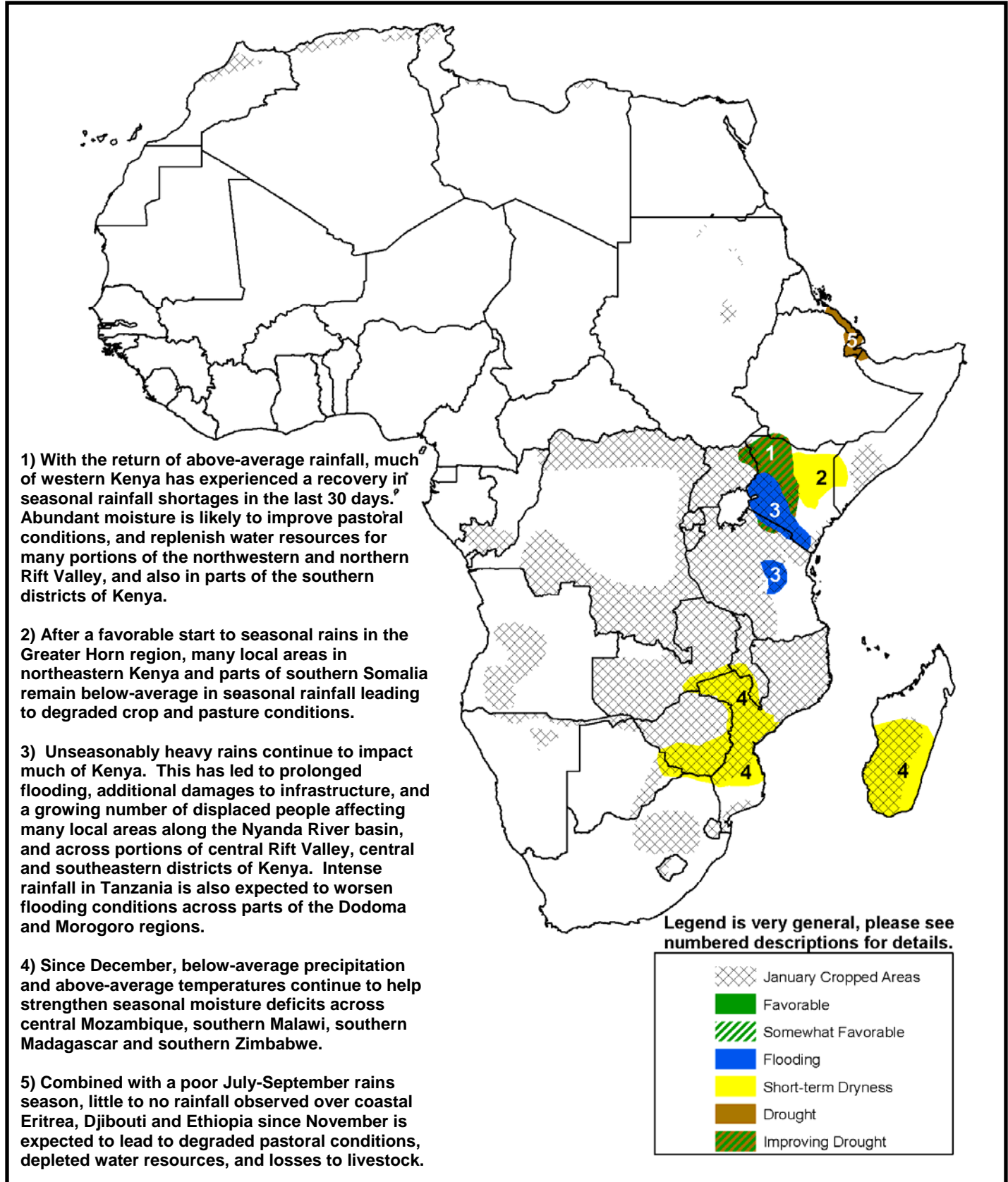


- The continuation of above-average precipitation in the last seven days exacerbates flooding conditions across parts of the central Rift Valley, central, and southeastern districts of Kenya.
- Another week of below-average rainfall in southern Africa continues to negatively impact crop and soil moisture conditions across portions of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and southern Madagascar.



Heavy rains and flooding continue across Kenya.

In the last seven days, many parts of Kenya continue to experience anomalously heavy amounts of precipitation. Although the character of rainfall in the last several weeks has helped alleviate both short-term and long-term moisture deficits, both the high amount and frequency of rains has resulted in localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, and thousands of displaced people across western and southern portions of Kenya.

In the last seven days, precipitation totals ranging between 50-75 mm were received in southern and western Kenya, with locally heavier totals (>75 mm) observed in the central districts of Kenya near Nairobi, and towards the southeast along the Tanzania border. These excessive rains have strengthened seasonal moisture surpluses across a large portion of Kenya, as many local areas in the west and south have observed nearly twice their average rainfall accumulations in the last 30 days (Figure 1).

The persistently wet conditions across Kenya have led to rising river levels along the Nyanda and Nzoia rivers in southwestern Kenya, and exacerbated flooding conditions in the central Rift Valley and central districts of the country. Additional damages to infrastructure were also reported in many local areas near Nakuru and Nairobi. Towards the southeast, heavy rainfall in the last week also led to a number of fatalities and displaced people in the Taveta district of Kenya.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a slight decrease in rainfall across Kenya in the next seven days. A reduction in rainfall and ground runoff is expected to provide relief for areas in the Nyando river basin and other areas impacted by significant rainfall in the last three weeks.

Below-average rainfall beginning to impact soil conditions in southern Africa.

During the last observation period, fair to moderate amounts of precipitation were observed over central and southern parts of Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Malawi. Well distributed and considerably higher rainfall totals were received across much of Angola, Zambia and portions of Tanzania and northern Mozambique (Figure 2).

Since December, a significant reduction in rainfall has been observed across southern and central portions of Mozambique, as well as parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi. While this past week's rains are expected to provide some relief to this dryness trend, seasonal rainfall deficits and insufficient soil water conditions are likely to impede local cropping activities (Figure 3). In southern Mozambique, abnormally high temperatures and below-average rainfall observed in the last month already led to a replanting of crops, and it is anticipated that a prolonged absence of rains throughout the remainder of January and into February will result in more deteriorating crops and possible failures for the season.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 11 2009 - January 9, 2010

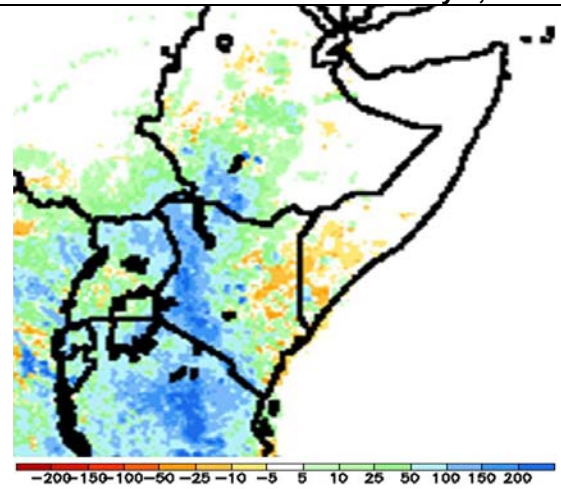


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: January 5– January 11, 2010

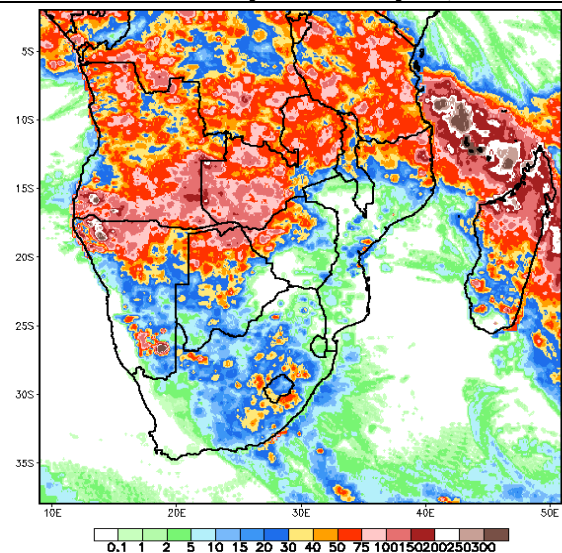


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Soil Water Index
Valid: First Dekad of January, 2010

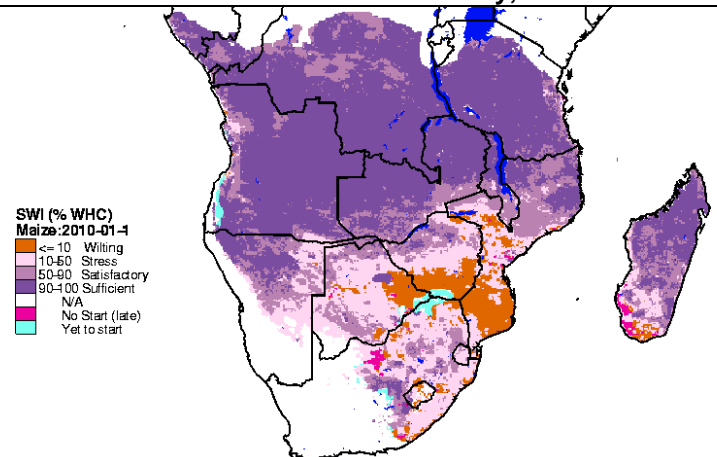


Figure 3: USGS/EROS