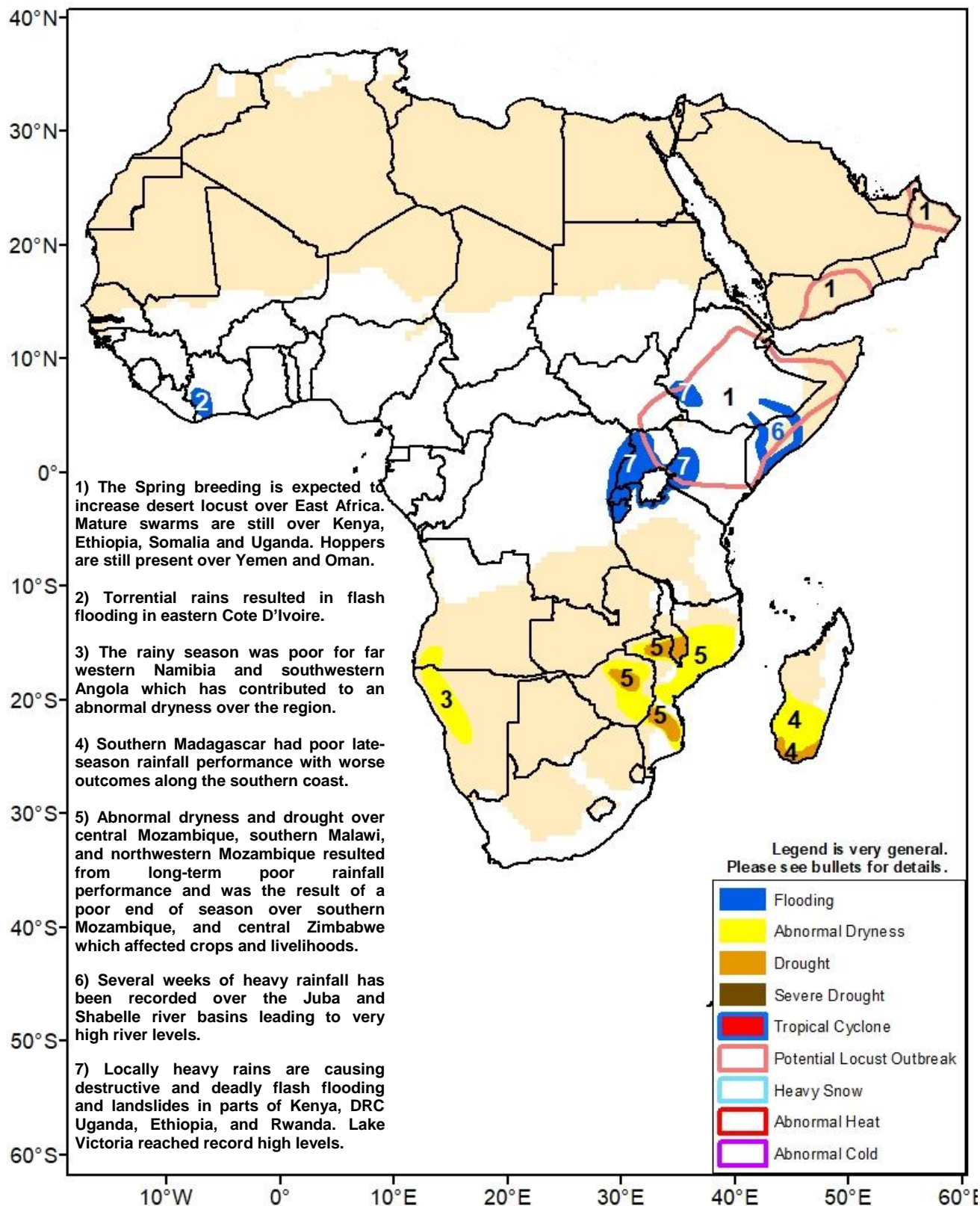




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 21 – May 27, 2020

- While rains have eased in parts of the Horn of Africa, flooding persists along the Juba and Shabelle rivers.
- Locusts remain a serious threat in the east and could spread into the Sahel over the coming months.



Many portions of DRC, South Sudan and western Ethiopia received heavy rain during the past week.

Several parts of the region continued to receive heavy rain this week. According to satellite estimates, large 7-day rainfall totals of greater than 100mm were observed in local parts of southwestern Ethiopia, South Sudan, and northeastern DRC (Figure 1). Light and moderate rain was also widespread across other parts of Ethiopia, Uganda, northern Somalia, western Kenya and northern Tanzania last week. Meanwhile, rains remained light in many other parts of Kenya, Tanzania, and southern Somalia. Almost no rain was observed in those areas. The pattern led to small 7-day rainfall deficits in parts of southern Ethiopia, western Kenya, and Uganda.

The MAM rainfall season to date has brought copious rainfall across the East Africa region. Many areas recorded twice their average rainfall during the period. Despite decreasing over the last 2 weeks, parts of northern Somalia and Yemen have seen abnormal rainfall registering more than 4 times the average. This persistent pattern has saturated many of the region's basins and will keep flood risks high in coming weeks. Flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers is a serious ongoing hazard. Outside of flooding concerns, the rainy pattern has led to excellent regional vegetation health. Additionally, urgent mitigation measures are ongoing to stop the rapid spread of locusts throughout the region. Wet conditions and ample vegetation are helping to drive reproduction and subsequent spread of locust populations that are impacting the MAM crop season.

During the outlook period, heavy and above-average rains (>75mm) are forecast for parts of eastern DRC, Uganda, and western Ethiopia. Meanwhile, a suppression of rain is likely in Somalia and Eastern Ethiopia.

Rainfall performance has been mostly positive early in the season for West Africa.

Moderate to heavy rain was observed across many parts of the climatologically active area of West Africa according to satellite estimates. The largest totals of more than 100mm were observed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, central and southern Nigeria, and Cameroon (Figure 1). Parts of northwestern Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria received only light rain (<25mm). These totals resulted in some deficits of 10-50mm for several areas. Surpluses of as much as 100mm were observed where the heaviest rainfall fell. As a result of the favorable regional rainfall pattern, vegetation looks healthy according to satellite derived products.

During the past 30 days, mostly sufficient rainfall has been observed over West Africa, but an uneven onset is observed over the northern part of Nigeria. Some early-season deficits are visible there (Figure 2). Analysis of the African ITF reveals a small lag in northward progression over West Africa. Many other parts of the region exhibit surpluses during the period. Western parts of the region, especially including Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, have received abnormal rains of as much as 4 times their normal.

During the outlook period, suppression of rainfall is expected across the western half of the West Africa region. Lighter rains of less than 25mm will likely be the norm. The northward extent of rains is expected reside further south than normal in Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso. 25-50mm rainfall is expected in Benin and Nigeria

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: May 12 – May 18, 2020

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 12May2020 – 18May2020

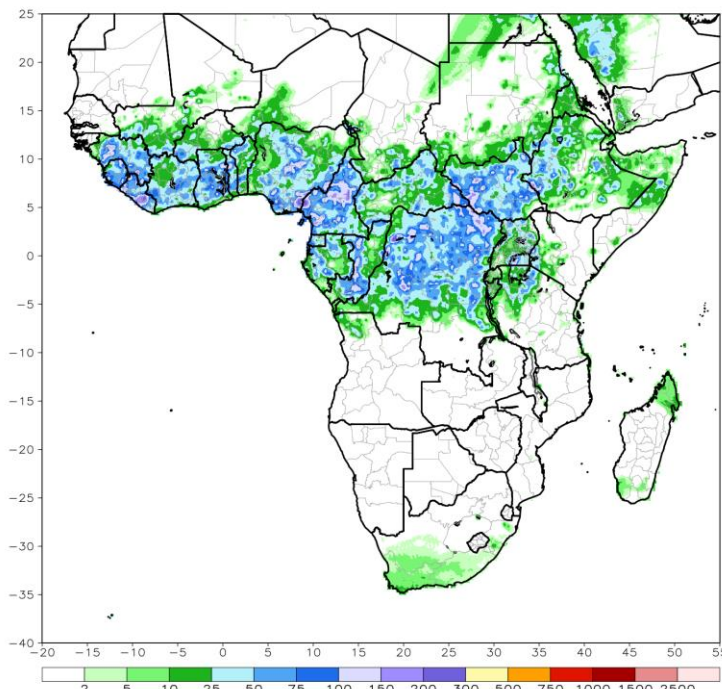


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: April 19 – May 18, 2020

ARC2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 19Apr2020 – 18May2020

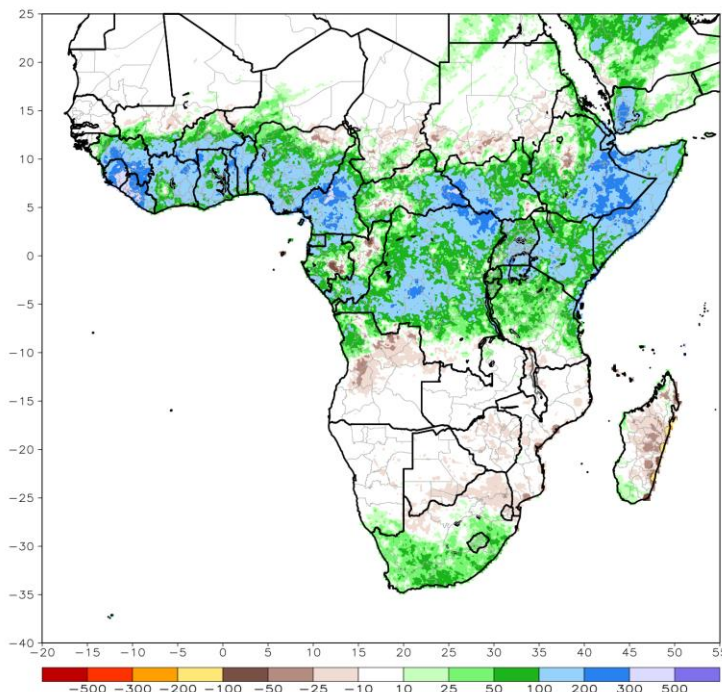


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.