

Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 6 – 12, 2021

• Effects from seasonal moisture deficits are widespread in East Africa, while flooding is a problem in Rwanda.



Much better rains were received over Ethiopia this week, but not in Kenya or southern Somalia.

Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall was received over Ethiopia this week. Amounts ranged from 25mm to 75mm over most of the country with locally higher amounts. Rainfall of 25mm or more was observed across much of south Sudan, Uganda, and northern Somalia (Figure 1). Light rains spread throughout the rest of Somalia. Tanzania received scattered seasonably light rain, except for a patch of heavier rain in and around Pwani region. Conversely, much of Kenya, excluding the western part, received little rainfall. As such, significant 7-day deficits of 10-50mm are observed there. The recent rains in northern Ethiopia were well-above normal and helped to drastically change the picture over the 30-day period. Areas of Afar and Amhara that exhibited large 30-day deficits now show near or slightly wetter than average conditions (Figure 2). Moisture deficits still exist widely on the 90-day (seasonal) timeframe. Elsewhere, both short and long-term deficits keep strengthening in Kenya, southern/central Somalia, and southern Ethiopia. Deficits have reached 100mm in many areas - equating to less than 50% of seasonal rainfall.

The far-northeastern part of Ethiopia has showed a poor Belg season performance this year causing hydrological drought and agriculture activity concerns. The NDVI anomaly has indicated a deterioration of ground vegetation conditions over the western and northern part of Ethiopia, northern Tanzania, and Kenya compared to the previous dekad. This continuation of poor vegetation coverage over far northeastern Ethiopia is one of the consequences of long-term moisture deficit over the area.

During the outlook period, wetter than average conditions are forecast to continue over Ethiopia with totals likely exceeding 75mm. The rains will continue to alleviate moisture deficits but are too late for Belg crops. Moderate, albeit near average, rain is expected in Somalia while Kenya will likely remain dry.

Rainfall was suppressed in West Africa this past week

During the past 7 days, light to moderate rainfall has been scattered throughout the Gulf of Guinea countries. The most rainfall, locally greater than 50mm, was observed in southern Nigeria, northeastern Ghana, southern Guinea, and Liberia (Figure 1) Rain was lighter and scattered elsewhere. Much of the region registered a deficit of 10-25mm during the last 7-days. Over the past 30-day period, deficits have increased in several parts of the region. Central Nigeria shows negative anomalies of 25-100mm, as do southern Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, and parts of Cote D'Ivoire. Southern Nigeria and some portions of far-western Gulf of Guinea show rainfall surpluses. Northern Ghana continues to show negative impacts to vegetation conditions according to NDVI anomaly, as do northern Togo, Benin, and Central Nigeria at this time. 2-month SPI is also indicative of the poor seasonal start for most of West Africa.

During the coming outlook period, rainfall is forecast to be below average for another week. 25mm or more rainfall is expected immediately along the Gulf of Guinea coast and Nigeria. Less than 25mm of rain is forecast for Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Almost no rain is expected in northern Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and southern Mali. This pattern will continue to contribute to moisture deficits and raise concerns about ground conditions.





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.