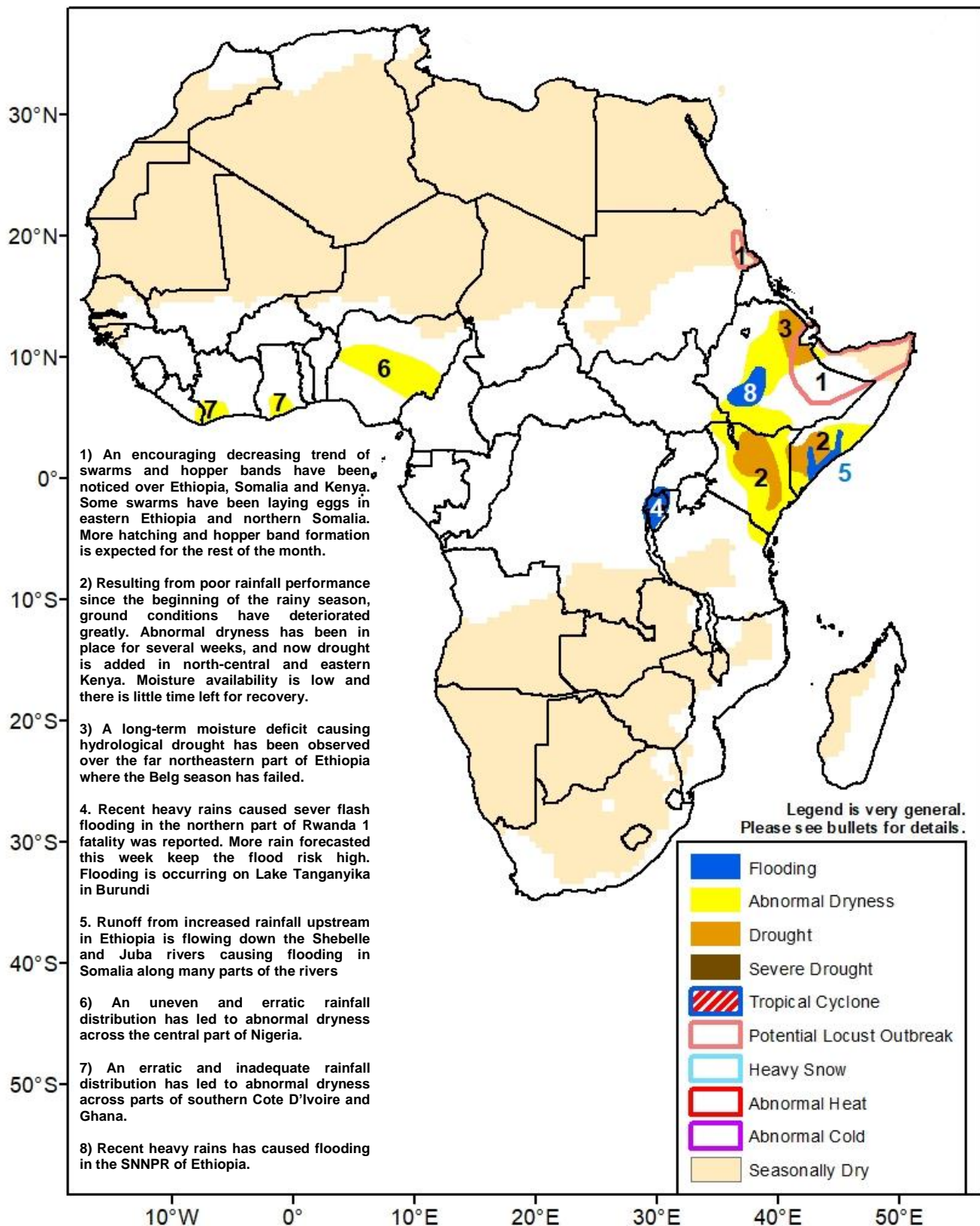




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 20 – 26, 2021

- Poor rainfall performance has led to expanding abnormally dry conditions in West Africa.



Recent heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in several countries of East Africa.

After a substantial increase in rainfall over Ethiopia and other parts of East Africa since the beginning of May, flooding has been reported in many areas. Of note are reports of a large landslide in Rwanda, flooding in Ethiopia's SNNPR, and 400 homes damaged in Nairobi Kenya. The heaviest rains this week, greater than 50mm and locally greater than 75mm, were observed across western Ethiopia, the Lake Victoria region, the Nairobi Kenya region, and northern South Sudan. Much lighter rainfall, less than 10mm, was observed in northern Somalia, and in eastern Kenya. Eastern Ethiopia, coastal regions of Kenya, as well as northeastern Tanzania did not receive any rainfall (Figure 1). The recent rains in western Ethiopia were well-above normal and boosted 30-day rainfall anomalies to more than 100mm. Similar anomalies are observed along the Sudan – South Sudan border (Figure 2). Despite the recent wet spell, moisture deficits still exist on the 90-day (seasonal) timeframe in North-central Ethiopia. Elsewhere, both short and long-term deficits remain entrenched in central/eastern Kenya and southern/central Somalia. 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 degraded vegetation conditions over the central and eastern part of Kenya. Improved rainfall over Ethiopia is beginning to cause a rebound in vegetation health. The rains have been reported to improve and regenerate pasture and water availability in these regions.

During the outlook period, a decrease in rainfall coverage over the area is expected. Moderate to locally heavier rain is predicted to continue in southwestern Ethiopia according to models. Only very light rain is expected across the remainder of Ethiopia, Somalia, and most of Kenya. This leaves little chance for any late season-moisture recovery in Ethiopia or Kenya. This will deplete rangeland resources again after the short lived recovery.

Rainfall was suppressed in West Africa this past week

During the past 7 days, rainfall was typical in spatial extent, though it was lighter than average in many cases. The heaviest rainfall totals (50-100+mm) were observed in Guinea, Sierra Leon, and northern Liberia (Figure 1). Light or moderate rainfall was observed across the rest of the West Africa region. In many cases, the rain was lighter than normal for mid-May. This was true for southern Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Nigeria, where 7-day deficits were 10-50mm. Over the past 30-day period, deficits are increasing in Many parts of the region. Central Nigeria shows negative anomalies of 25-100mm. Growing deficits and the onset of abnormal dryness are now seen in southern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana. 2-month SPI is also indicative of the poor seasonal start for most of West Africa. Poor VHI values support the impact of low moisture so far this season.

During the coming outlook period, rainfall is forecast to be below average for another week. 25mm or more rainfall is expected in areas of the western Gulf of Guinea countries, but most of the region is likely to see rainfall totals remain less than 25mm.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: May 12 – May 18, 2021

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 12May2021 – 18May2021

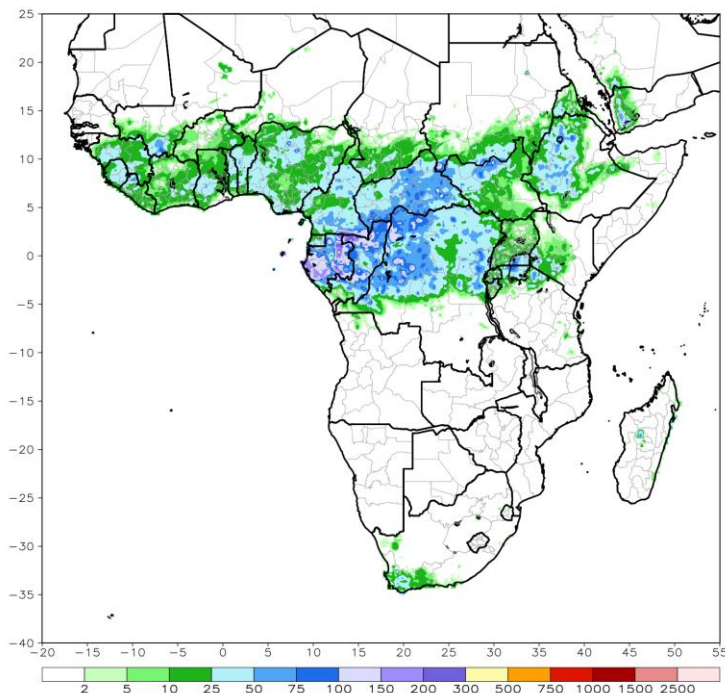


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: April 19 – May 18, 2021

RFE2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 19Apr2021 – 18May2021

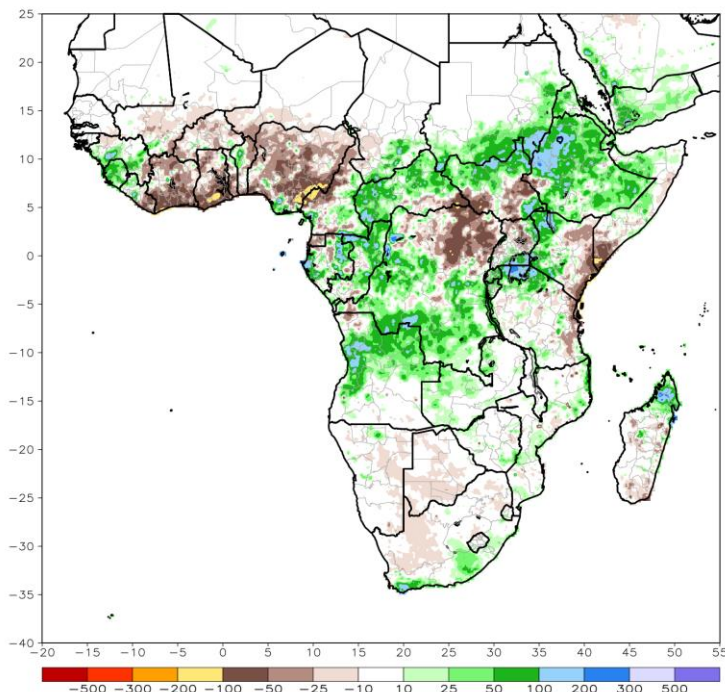


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.