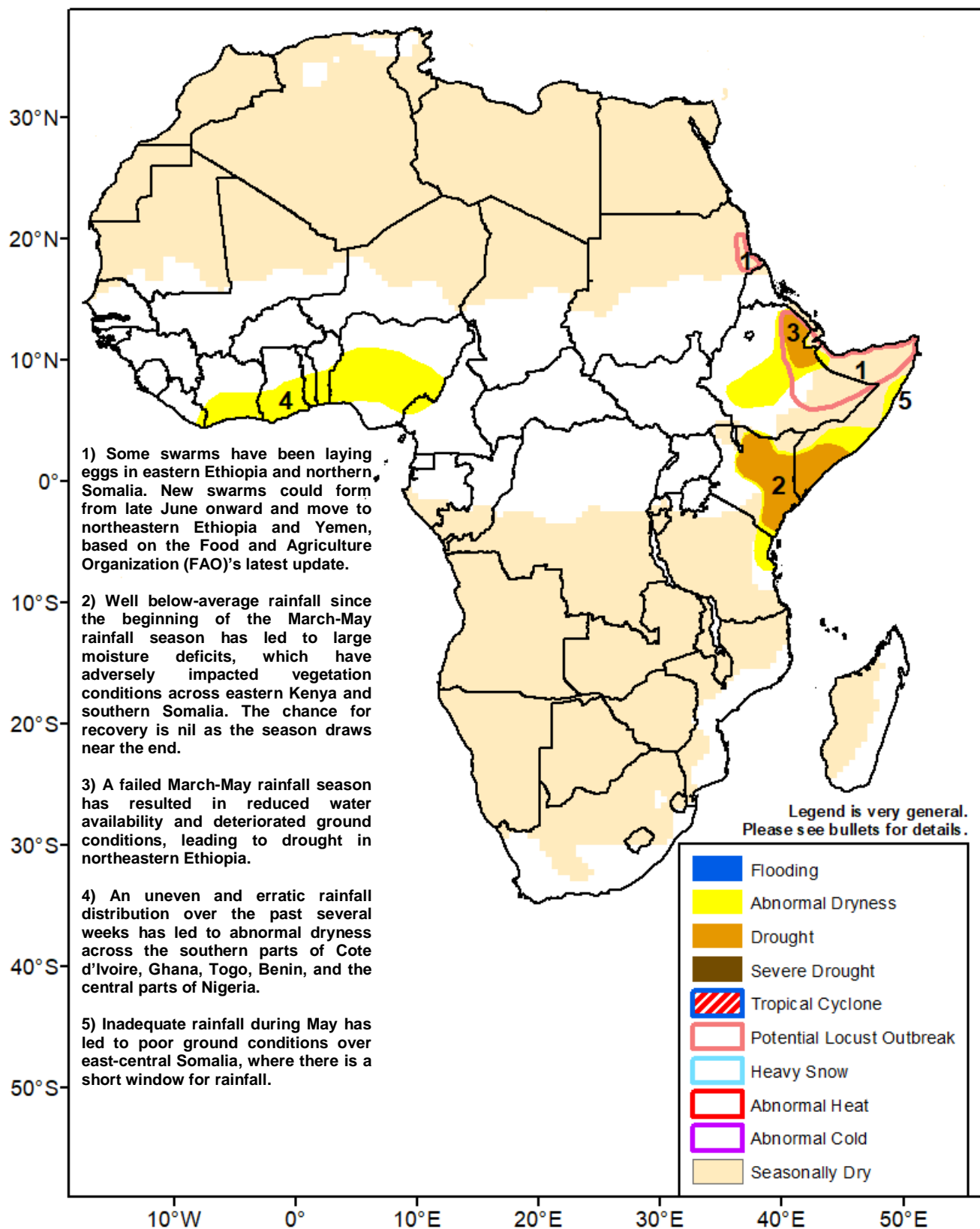




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 17 – 23 June 2021

- Insufficient rainfall maintained drier-than-average conditions along the Gulf of Guinea and Horn of Africa.



Enhanced rains observed over areas of the Sahel during the past week

During mid-June, an increase in rainfall was observed over many parts of West Africa. Heavy rains fell over parts of Senegal, Mali, Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, whereas widespread light to locally moderate rains were received elsewhere (**Figure 1**). Despite the past two consecutive weeks of enhanced rains, thirty-day rainfall anomalies remained negative along the Gulf of Guinea from eastern Liberia to southern Benin. Drier-than-average conditions also persisted in southeastern Nigeria. The observed poor rainfall performance was partially attributable to a persistent abnormal southerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF), rain-bearing system, since the beginning of April.

An analysis of the latest Vegetation Health Index (VHI) product indicated that a wide swath of the Sudanian-Guinean and portions of the Sahel in West Africa exhibited initially poor and degraded conditions. A continuation of seasonal rainfall should gradually aid and benefit cropping activities in the region.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest heavy and above-average rainfall over the far western West Africa, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, and along the Gulf of Guinea from southern Cote d'Ivoire to southern Nigeria. This forecast increased rains should help alleviate dryness in the region. Farther north, light to moderate rains are expected across southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and west-central Nigeria.

A sluggish start to the June – September season has increased short-term moisture deficits in eastern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, below-average rainfall was received over much of the Horn of Africa. Moderate to large (> 50 mm) deficits spread over South Sudan, western and eastern Ethiopia, northern Uganda, southwestern and eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia (**Figure 2**). In fact, since the beginning of June, insufficient rainfall fell over much of western Ethiopia, except for localized areas along the border with Sudan, where moisture surpluses were observed. Below-average rainfall was also registered in South Sudan and northern Uganda. This past week alone, while moderate to heavy rains continued over western Ethiopia, rainfall totals remained below-average farther inland and to the north, which indicated a slow start to the June – September rainfall season.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s update, desert locust bands have formed in northwest Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. More swarms could form in Somalia and move westward to northeastern Ethiopia and northward to Yemen during the upcoming month. Also, VHI still depicted deteriorated vegetation conditions across south-central Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia as a response to a poor and erratic rainfall during the previous March – May season.

For next week, moderate to heavy rains are to continue in western Ethiopia, while light to locally moderate rains are possible over South Sudan, northern Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. Suppressed rainfall is expected elsewhere. While the forecast abundant rains may help sustain favorable soil moisture over localized areas of the region, the forecast accumulation is unlikely to be sufficient to fully offset short-term moisture deficits over many areas.

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.

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