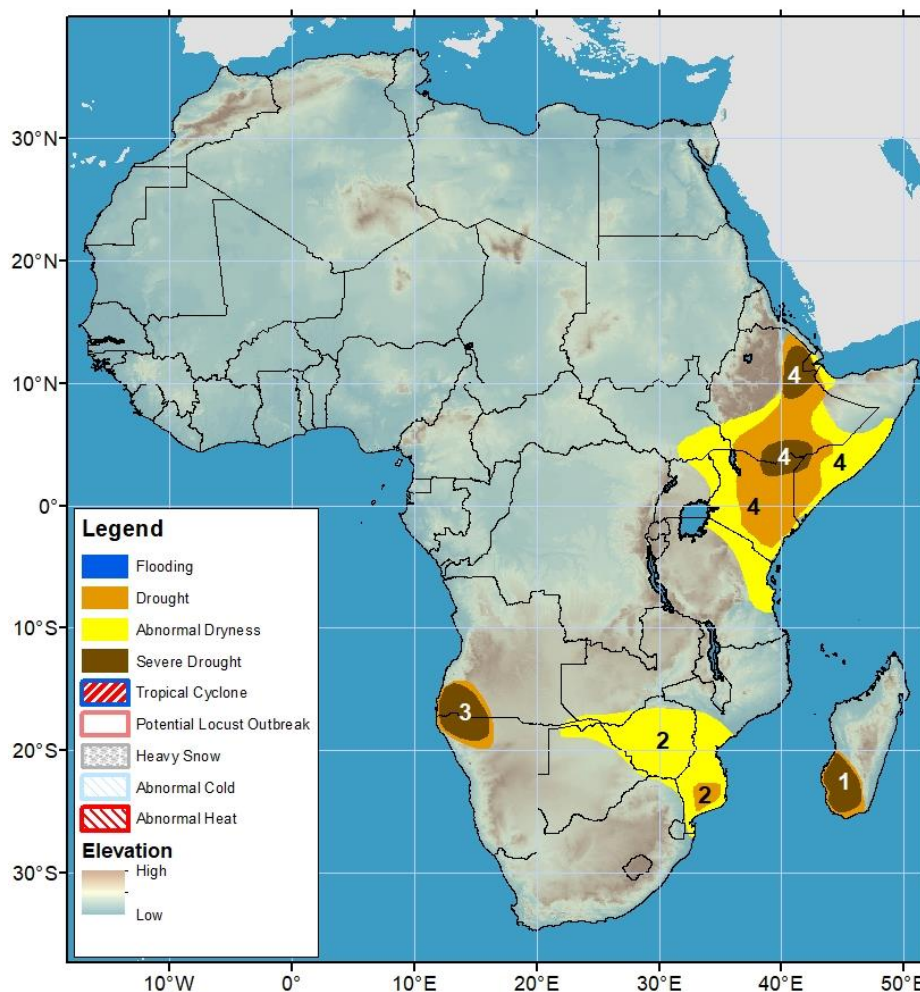


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 19 – 25 May 2022

- Drought persists and is transitioning to severe drought in parts of the Horn of Africa
- A favorable seasonal rainfall distribution has been observed over the Gulf of Guinea countries in West Africa.



- 1) The seasonal performance exhibited severe drought over southern Madagascar with tremendous loss of agriculture and pastoral activities.
- 2) Recent increase of rainfall might help restore grass land coverage from the robust moisture deficits across southern Mozambique, a major part of Zimbabwe, and portions of northern Botswana.
- 3) Inconsistent rainfall and dry spells since late December have caused strengthening moisture deficits which led to severe drought by the end of rainy season.
- 4) An erratic distribution of rainfall since the beginning of the March-May season developed abnormal dryness across a large portion of East Africa. Areas, including north-central Ethiopia and along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, where dryness is most acute (less than 50% of normal) and most persistent are now classified under severe drought.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov.
Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Poor performance of the March–May rainy season has led to severe drought over the Horn of Africa.

This year, the *Belg*, March–May, rainfall season has performed poorly over the Horn of Africa. Rainfall accumulation since March was well below-average throughout the sub-region. Seasonal rainfall deficits exceeded 100 mm over many areas, including southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, southern Somalia, and northern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). The delayed onset to the season and poorly-distributed rain during March and April has resulted in moderate to large moisture deficits, which have led to droughts, affecting southern and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia. Although, enhanced rains were received over some areas, including southern Somalia and eastern Kenya in late April, the pattern returned to dryer than normal conditions this past week. The heaviest rains, 25-75mm were relegated to western Ethiopia and the Lake Victoria region. The prolonged lack of rain had already negatively impacted biomass conditions and water availability over many areas.

The latest vegetation products have showed that below-average and unhealthy conditions spread from central, southern, and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, to southern Somalia.

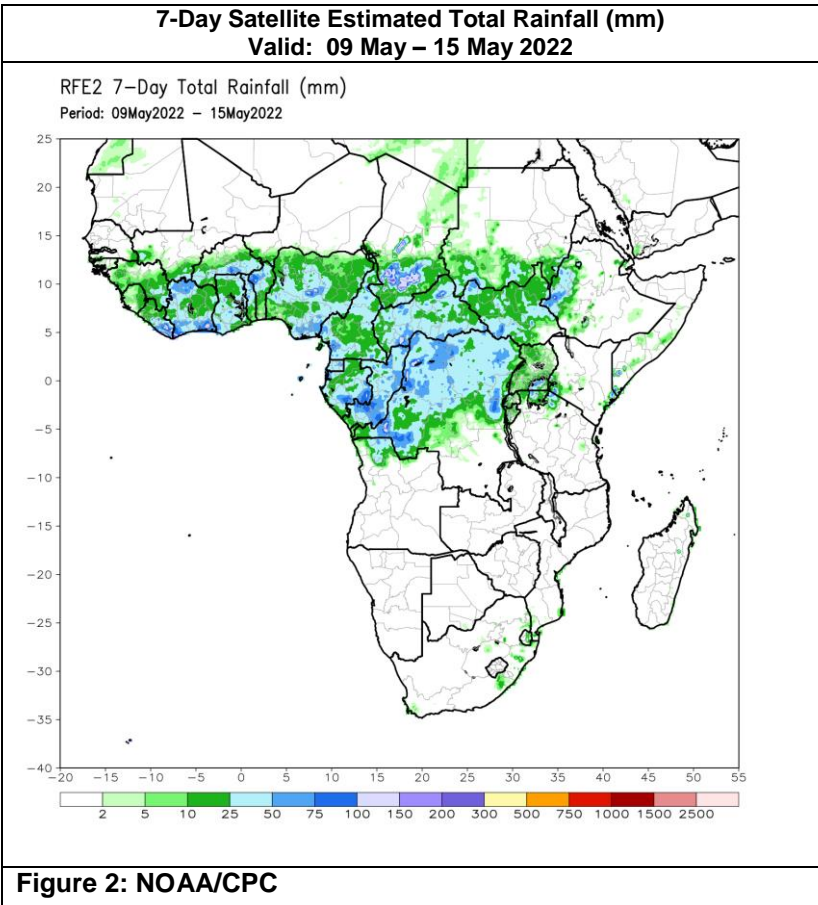
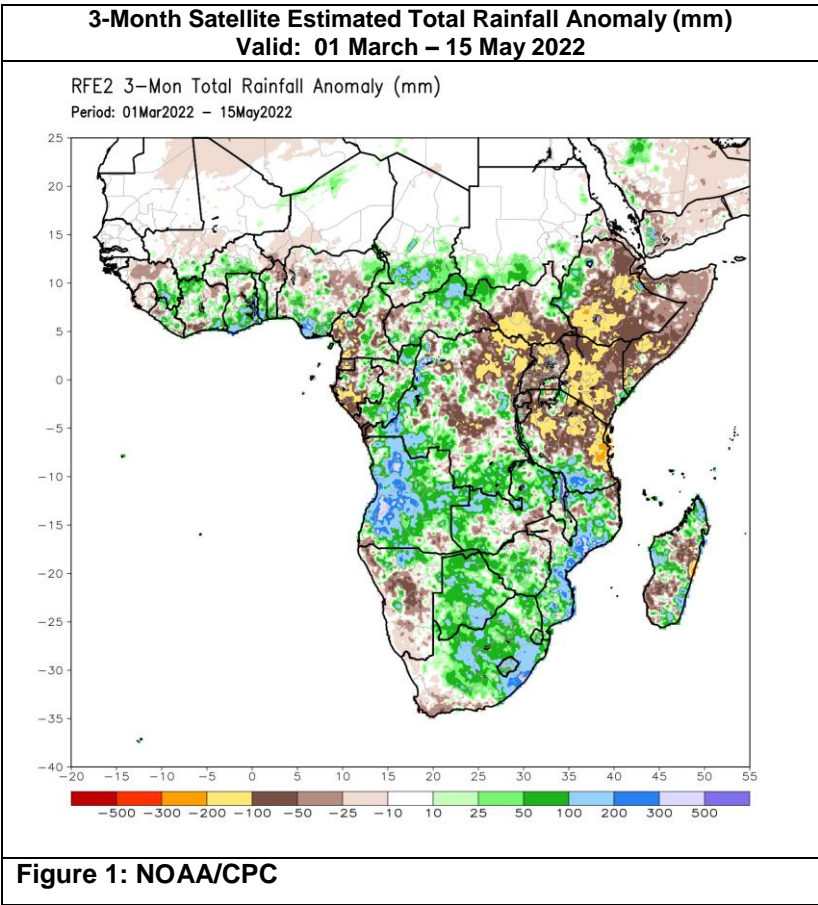
During the next outlook period, reduced and limited rains are again forecast over much of eastern Africa. While moderate rains are expected over western Ethiopia and western Kenya, light and likely below-average rain amounts are expected elsewhere. This forecast drier pattern will likely exacerbate droughts and worsen impacts over many local areas.

Widespread, if slightly lighter than average, rains continued over West Africa during the past week.

During the 2nd week of May, a favorable spatial distribution in rainfall was observed over West Africa. Moderate to locally heavy rains fell along the Gulf of Guinea, with the largest (> 75 mm) amounts over localized areas in southern Cote D'Ivoire and southern Liberia (**Figure 2**). Farther north, light to moderate rains were also received over the Sudanian-Guinean region in northern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, southern Burkina Faso, and north-central Nigeria. An analysis of this past 30 day's cumulative rain indicates that wetter-than-average conditions were present over the southern Gulf of Guinea regions and drier conditions were present to the north.

According to the latest agroclimatic products, biomass conditions were mostly positive and favorable over the sub-region. Following favorable rainfall over the past several weeks, West Africa's ground conditions may be off to a good start.

During the next week, while moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast over Sierra Leon and Liberia, as well as Cameroon, widespread light rains are expected over the remainders of the sub-region.



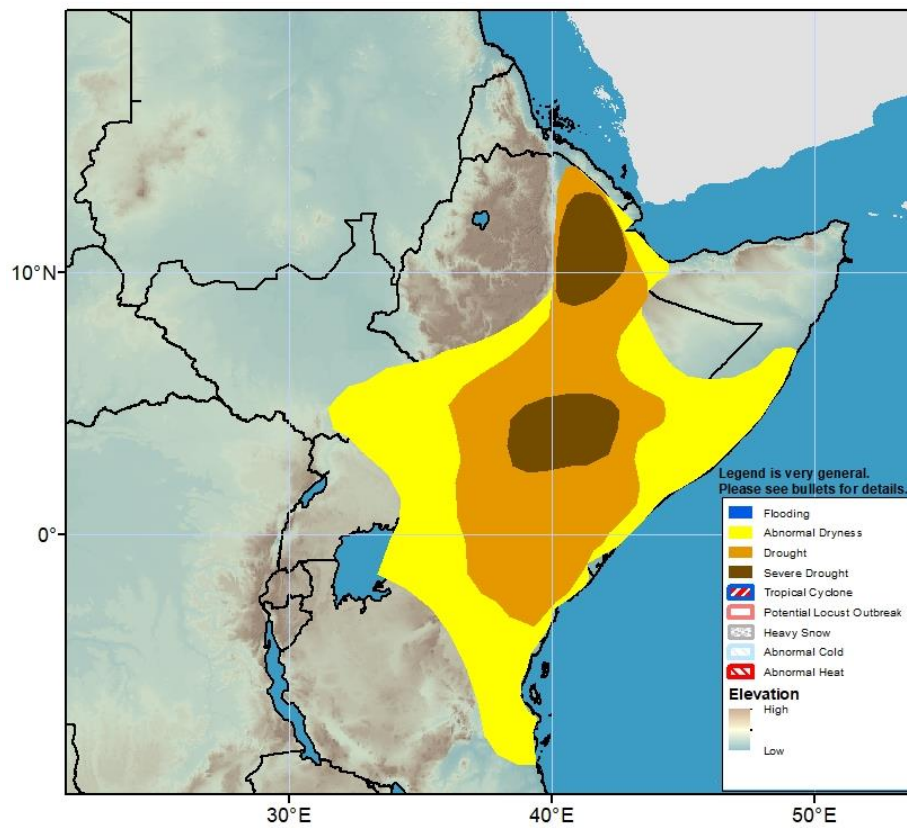


Figure 3: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa

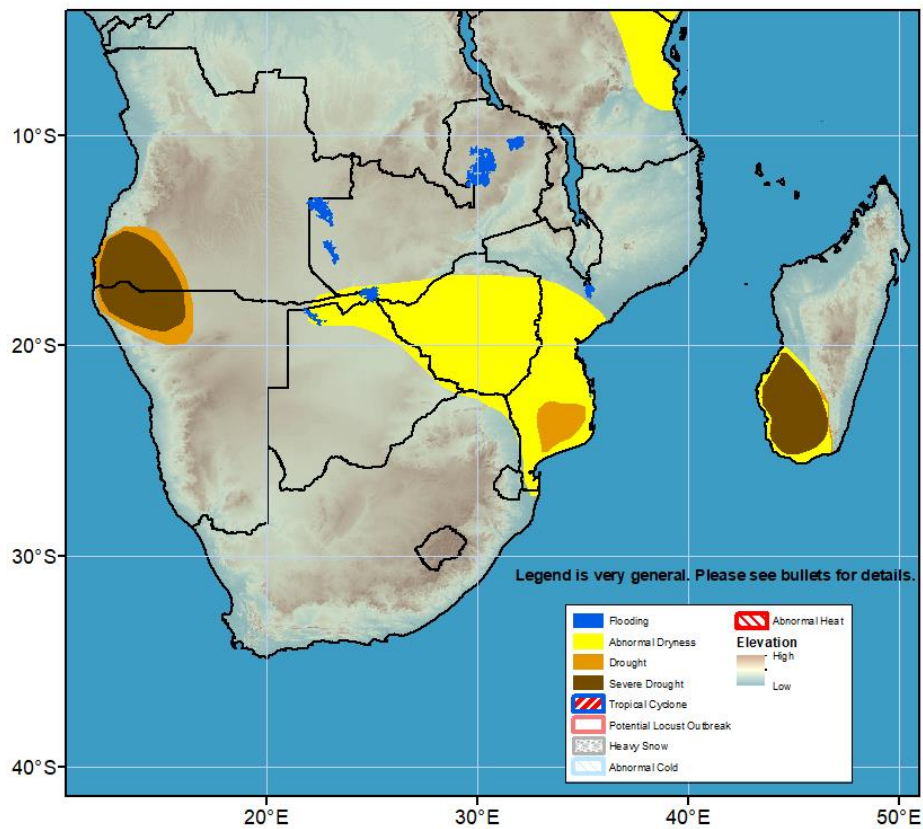


Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa