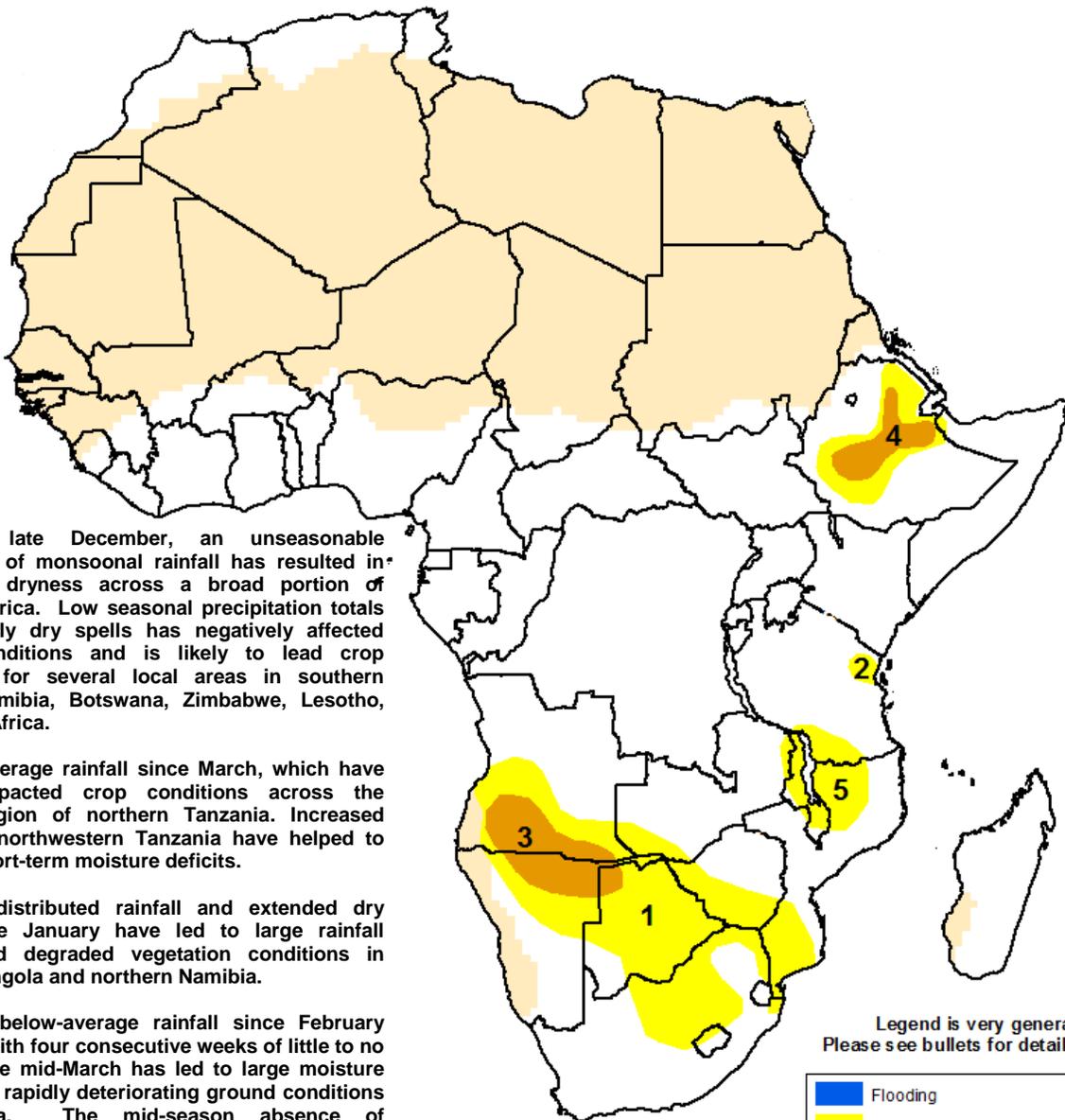




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 23 – April 29, 2015

- Very poor rains across northern Ethiopia expected to negatively affect “Belg” season cropping activities.
- Average to above-average rains continue across parts of Kenya, Tanzania, and southern Somalia.



1) Since late December, an unseasonable distribution of monsoonal rainfall has resulted in anomalous dryness across a broad portion of southern Africa. Low seasonal precipitation totals and untimely dry spells has negatively affected ground conditions and is likely to lead crop reductions for several local areas in southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and South Africa.

2) Below-average rainfall since March, which have already impacted crop conditions across the bimodal region of northern Tanzania. Increased rains over northwestern Tanzania have helped to alleviate short-term moisture deficits.

3) Poorly distributed rainfall and extended dry spells since January have led to large rainfall deficits and degraded vegetation conditions in southern Angola and northern Namibia.

4) Erratic, below-average rainfall since February combined with four consecutive weeks of little to no rainfall since mid-March has led to large moisture deficits and rapidly deteriorating ground conditions in Ethiopia. The mid-season absence of precipitation is likely to adversely affect cropping activities for several “Belg” producing areas of the country.

5) Late season moisture deficits associated with an early cessation of the southern Africa monsoon has negatively affect cropping conditions for parts of northern Malawi and northern Mozambique.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Nearly a month of little to no rainfall has been observed in northern Ethiopia.

Since the beginning of April, there has been little shift in the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. Consistent with the first week in April, enhanced rains were received across much of eastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, Kenya and northern Tanzania, with a pronounced suppression of precipitation in northern Ethiopia. The highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were observed in southern Somalia, with well-distributed but lesser weekly amounts received towards the south (**Figure 1**). A slight reduction in rainfall has also been observed near the Lake Victoria region, which is expected to provide some relief to flooding conditions in northern Tanzania and western Kenya.

While rainfall has shown a general increase since the middle of March, poorly distributed rainfall over northern Ethiopia has led to a considerable strengthening of seasonal dryness and mid-season moisture deficits. Analysis of satellite rainfall estimates and frequency of precipitation suggest that much of northern Ethiopia has registered less than 3 days of rainfall since the middle of March (**Figure 2**). In eastern Amhara region, analysis of the evolution of seasonal precipitation shows only a brief period of shower activity during the second dekad of March, followed by four consecutive weeks of no rainfall. Further south in the Oromia province, rainfall has been more frequent but below-average in quantity since March. Combined with a late onset of seasonal rainfall, the continuation of anomalously dry conditions throughout April is expected to adversely impact cropping and pastoral activities in the region.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of suppressed rainfall for northern Ethiopia, with the potential for average to above-average rainfall over the pastoral regions of eastern Ethiopia. The continuation of poor mid-season belg rains is expected to worsen already moisture stressed regions of the country. Further south, average to above-average rainfall remains forecast for much of southern Kenya, Uganda, northern Tanzania and southern Somalia.

Prevailing dryness observed in West Africa during middle of April.

During the last week, a large-scale suppression of rains was observed according to satellite rainfall estimates and gauge reports over West Africa. Although seasonal rainfall is typically confined across the Gulf of Guinea region with moderate shower activity throughout Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, little to no rains were recorded, except along coastal areas of these countries mainly during the 2nd dekad in April (**Figure 2**). The suppressed rains were likely associated with strong, anomalous northerly winds which transported much dry air into the region. For the upcoming week, precipitation forecasts suggest another week of below-average rainfall across parts of southern Nigeria and Cameroon.

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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