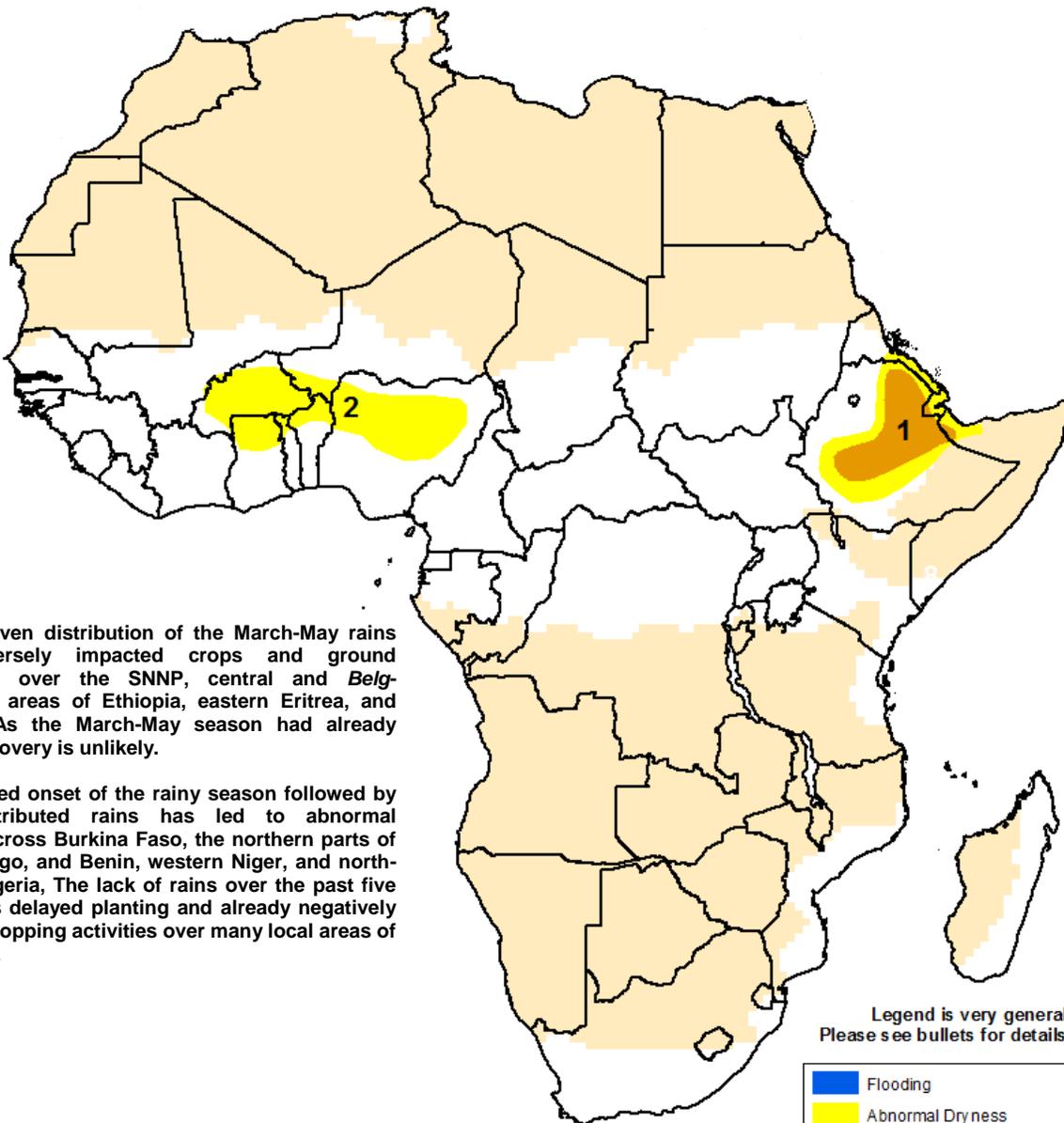




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 11 – 17, 2015

- Abnormal dryness has settled in across West Africa due to insufficient rains since the start of the season.
- Seasonal rains continue in Eastern Africa.



1) An uneven distribution of the March-May rains had adversely impacted crops and ground conditions over the SNNP, central and *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, and Djibouti. As the March-May season had already ended, recovery is unlikely.

2) A delayed onset of the rainy season followed by poorly-distributed rains has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western Niger, and north-central Nigeria. The lack of rains over the past five weeks has delayed planting and already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas of the region.

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

Heavy rains triggered flooding along coastal Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, copious amount of rains were observed along coastal areas of the Gulf of Guinea region of West Africa. Over 150 mm of rainfall fell over Liberia and the southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin, according to the RFE estimates (**Figure 1**). The observed well-above average rains have caused flooding, destroyed homes, and displaced many people near Accra, Lome, and Cotonou of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, respectively. Heavy rains were also recorded across eastern Nigeria and bordering western Cameroon. Meanwhile, light to moderate rains were registered farther north throughout Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, and northern Nigeria. This past week's widespread and increased rains have helped partially offset deficits associated with a delayed onset of the season over many local areas. However, negative seasonal anomalies have persisted throughout the dry portions of West Africa, including southern Mali, Burkina Faso, extending to northern Nigeria. Consistent and adequate rains are needed to fully eliminate rainfall deficits and provide favorable ground moisture for agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas.

Over many local areas of southern Sahel, the onset of the season was delayed by several weeks and was characterized by an uneven rainfall distribution. A time series of rainfall over Po of southern Burkina Faso has revealed cumulative rainfall accounting for only about 22 percent of the average, with mostly three rainy days over the past thirty days (**Figure 2**). Similar pattern has been observed over many locations of the sub-region.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts indicate a return of good rains over West Africa, with high rainfall amounts over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, southern Mali, and northwestern Nigeria. Light rains are, however, forecast over Burkina Faso, the northern parts of Ghana and Togo, and Benin. To the south, locally heavy rains may exacerbate the ground conditions over already-saturated areas of coastal Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

Good rains observed in Eastern Africa.

Widespread, enhanced rains fell across Eastern Africa during the past week. The western and eastern parts of South Sudan and Ethiopia, and northwestern Somalia received heavy rains (**Figure 3**). Moderate rains were observed over northern Uganda, and localized areas of southwestern Kenya and northwestern Tanzania. Over the past thirty days, positive rainfall anomalies have been registered across southern Sudan, much of South Sudan, the northern two-thirds of Ethiopia, and parts of southwestern Kenya. The continuation of favorable rainfall should help replenish soil moisture and benefit agricultural and pastoral activities during the *Kiremt*, June-September, rainy season. During the next week, seasonal, moderate to heavy rains are expected to continue in western Ethiopia. Moderate to heavy rains are expected over localized areas of southwestern Kenya, and western South Sudan. Light rains are forecast in central South Sudan and the southern parts of Sudan and coastal areas of southern Somalia.

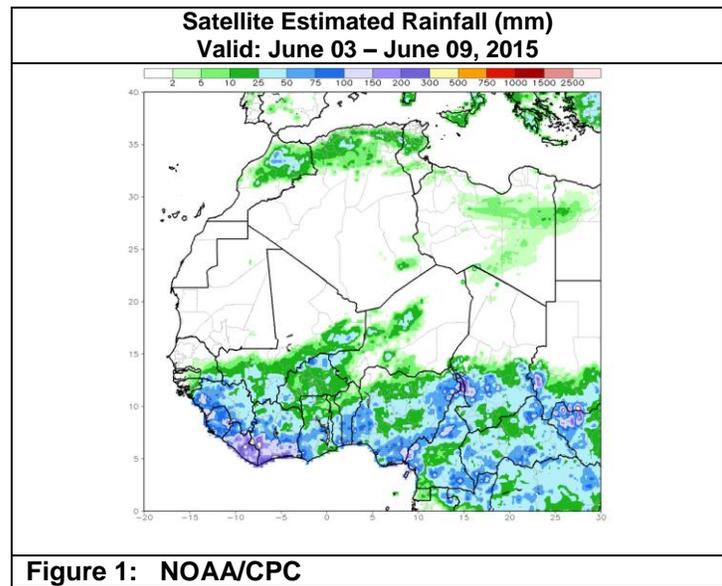


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

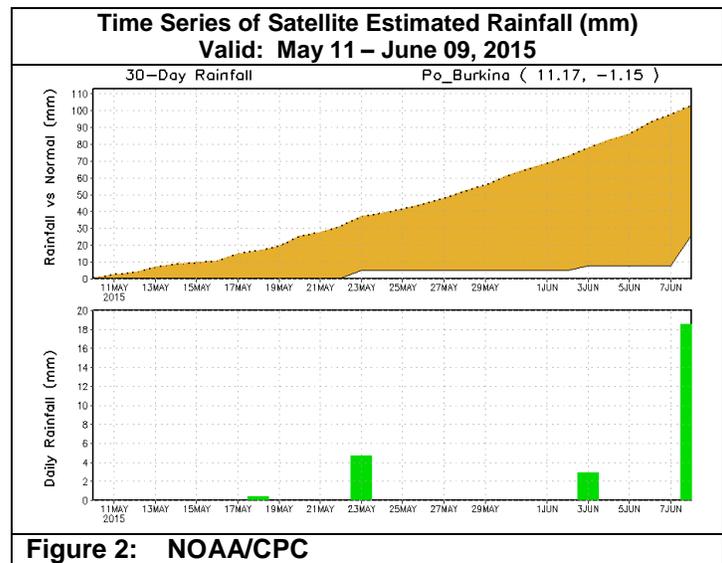


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

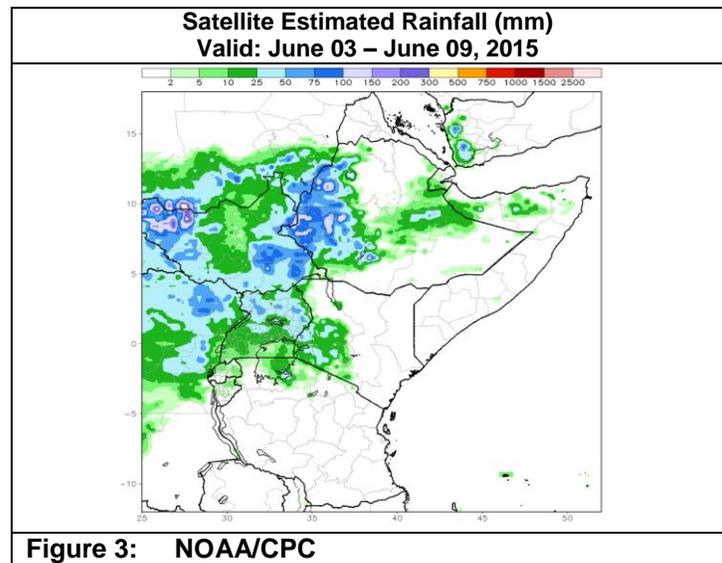


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.