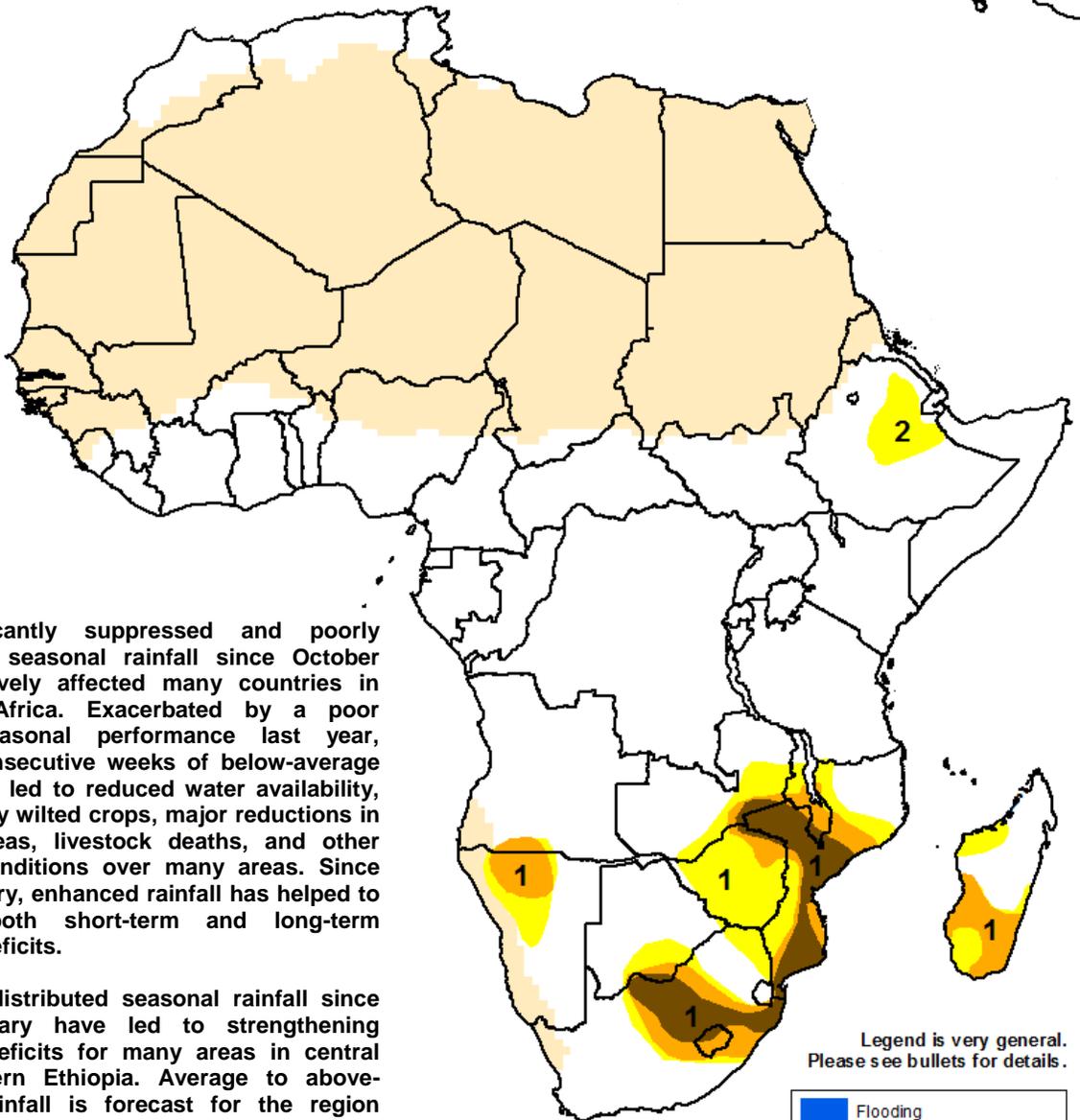




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 07 – April 13, 2016

- Late season rains subside substantially for many areas across southeastern Africa.
- Rain continues to be poorly distributed across Ethiopia maintaining moisture deficits for many belg-producing regions.



1) Significantly suppressed and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. Exacerbated by a poor rainfall seasonal performance last year, several consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall has led to reduced water availability, permanently wilted crops, major reductions in planted areas, livestock deaths, and other adverse conditions over many areas. Since late February, enhanced rainfall has helped to mitigate both short-term and long-term moisture deficits.

2) Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since late February have led to strengthening moisture deficits for many areas in central and northern Ethiopia. Average to above-average rainfall is forecast for the region during the next week.

Legend is very general.  
Please see bullets for details.

Blue	Flooding
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red outline	Abnormal Heat
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

## Belg season rains continued to underperform this past week.

During the last observation period, a similar pattern of rainfall occurred across Ethiopia compared to the previous week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, isolated, heavy rainfall accumulations (>50mm) were registered in the western Oromia, and SNNPR regions of the country, with light to moderate precipitation amounts (10-50mm) observed towards the North (**Figure 1**). Beneficial rainfall improved but was still lacking for some belg-producing areas of Central Ethiopia. Towards the east, little to no rainfall was received throughout the Somali region of Ethiopia, as well as, throughout eastern Kenya and Somalia. Around the Lake Victoria region, moderate to heavy rainfall was observed over Uganda, all of Tanzania, and southwestern Kenya.

While increased, isolated rain fell in the eastern Amhara and Afar regions of Ethiopia recently, many belg-producing areas continue to experience strengthening seasonal dryness characterized by a delayed start and/or an erratic rainfall distribution since February. Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies over the past 30 days depict mainly below-average moisture conditions, with isolated pockets of favorable, above-average conditions (**Figure 2**). At present, the strongest moisture deficits are located across the Afar region and along the higher elevations of the Rift Valley. Outside of Ethiopia, the greatest deficits can be observed in Uganda, despite improvement last week. Delayed plantings have been reported. While emerging dryness in the southern/eastern portion of the Horn may lead to adverse ground impacts, suppressed seasonal rainfall in Ethiopia may exacerbate ground conditions following two consecutively failed rainfall seasons in the region.

During the next week, precipitation forecasts show enhanced rainfall across southern and eastern Ethiopia and neighboring Somalia. Well above normal rainfall totals are possible, which are expected to help alleviate anomalous dryness and moisture deficits in the region. Kenya will also see more widespread rain.

## As the core of heavy rains pushes northward across the continent, southern Africa rapidly dries out.

March featured a dramatically different rainfall pattern than earlier in the season, which decreased or eliminated moisture deficits in many regions. This was likely able to replenish water resources/availability, and may benefit some of the cropping areas that planted later into the season, although many areas had already experienced permanent wilting. Last week exhibited rapid drying in Southern Africa (**Figure 3**). Much of the southern and central part of the region saw little to no rainfall. This may signal the end of monsoon rains for parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, likely locking current levels of dryness. A swath of moderate rain was observed across central South Africa. Some parts of Madagascar picked up beneficial rainfall for another week, slowly chipping away at Moisture deficits. The forecast for next week is for precipitation to be climatologically spread across the region. The monsoon circulation axis and associated region of heaviest rains should stretch from northern Mozambique into Tanzania.

**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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