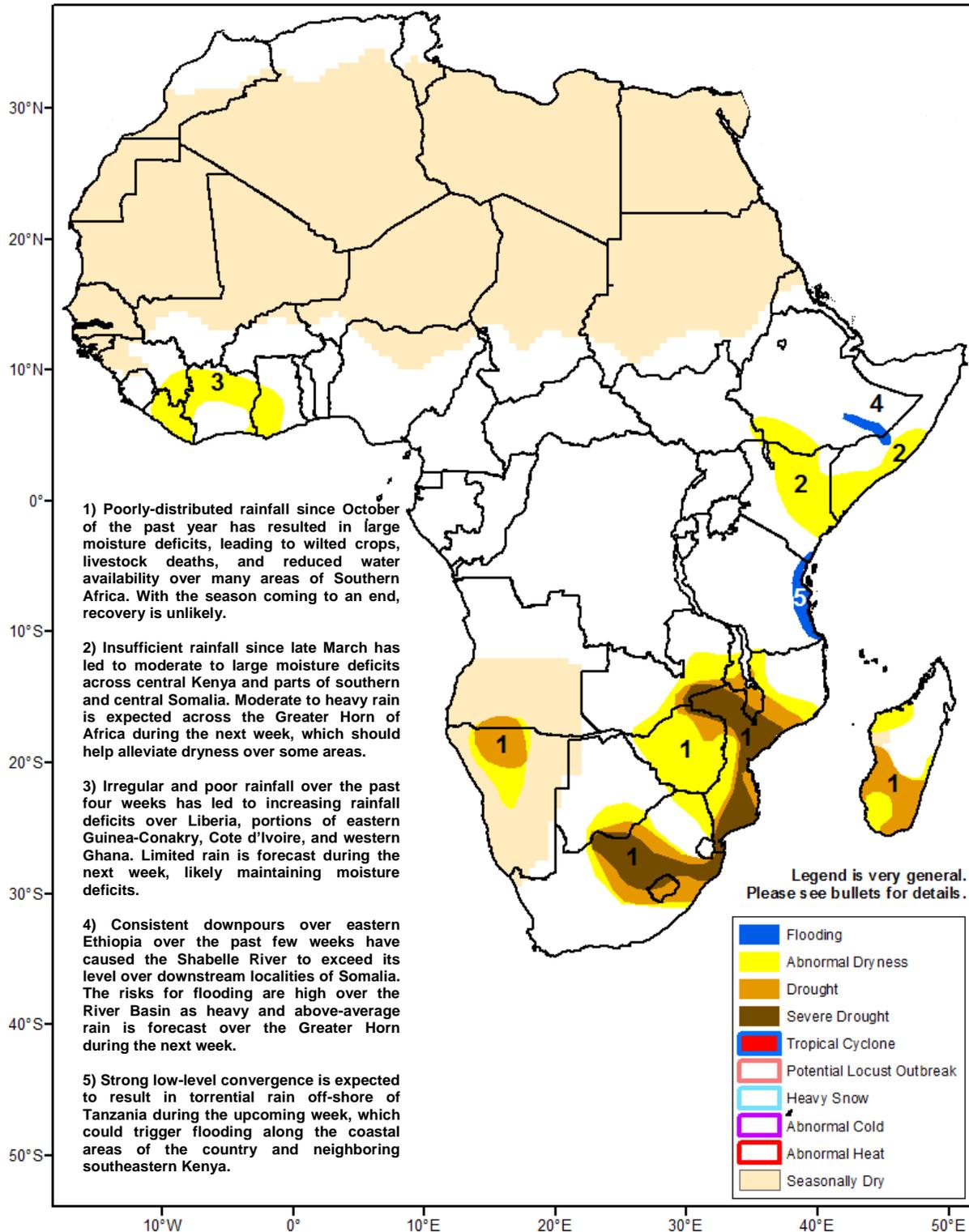




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 28 – May 4, 2016

- While wetness was observed in the north, dryness was recorded in the south of the Greater Horn of Africa.
- Dryness has started to creep in along the Gulf of Guinea.



Reduced rain observed in the Greater Horn of Africa.

After three consecutive weeks of heavy and above-average rainfall, the Greater Horn of Africa saw a reduction in precipitation during the past week. While the bulk of the rain was observed over southwestern Ethiopia, western South Sudan, central Somalia, and the Lake Victoria region of southern Kenya, light to locally moderate rain was received across central and eastern Ethiopia as well as southern Somalia. Little to light rainfall was recorded elsewhere (**Figure 1**). Relative to the long-term climatology, this past week's rainfall was mostly average to below-average over Eastern Africa, which contributed to a further increase in thirty-day rainfall deficits across the dry portions of the sub-region to the south. These included southernmost Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and portions of southern and central Somalia.

An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since late March to present has indicated well below-average rain and dryness over areas over southern Ethiopia, central and eastern Kenya, and southern and central Somalia, with percentiles ranking below the 30th (**Figure 2**). This was mostly attributed to a delayed onset and irregular distribution of rainfall. Recent vegetation conditions as assessed by remote sensing have shown widespread, poor conditions in northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia. Reports have also indicated extreme drought conditions across the Puntland region of Somalia. If poor rainfall continues over the upcoming weeks, it will further adversely impact water resources for pastoral and agricultural activities over many areas. In contrast, well above-average rain and wetness was registered in northeastern Ethiopia and the Somaliland of northern Somalia, where the abundant moisture has improved ground conditions.

During the next week, wet weather patterns are forecast to return over much of the Greater Horn of Africa, with heavy rain over Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia. The forecast copious amounts of rain over upstream eastern Ethiopia are likely to raise the Shabelle River level further and potentially trigger flooding along downstream locations in Somalia. Widespread, light to moderate rain is expected elsewhere.

Dryness observed along the Gulf of Guinea.

Since late March, insufficient rain has been received along the Gulf of Guinea region. This included Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, where moderate to large rainfall deficits have been recorded (**Figure 3**). Only sporadic, light amounts, and infrequent rain have been observed over many areas over the past thirty days. During the past week, little to light rainfall was, generally, received over West Africa. Recent vegetation conditions indices have already indicated poor and worsening conditions, particularly over the far western portions of the sub-region. For next week, model rainfall forecasts indicate light to locally moderate rain only to continue, which may degrade ground conditions further over many local areas of the region.

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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