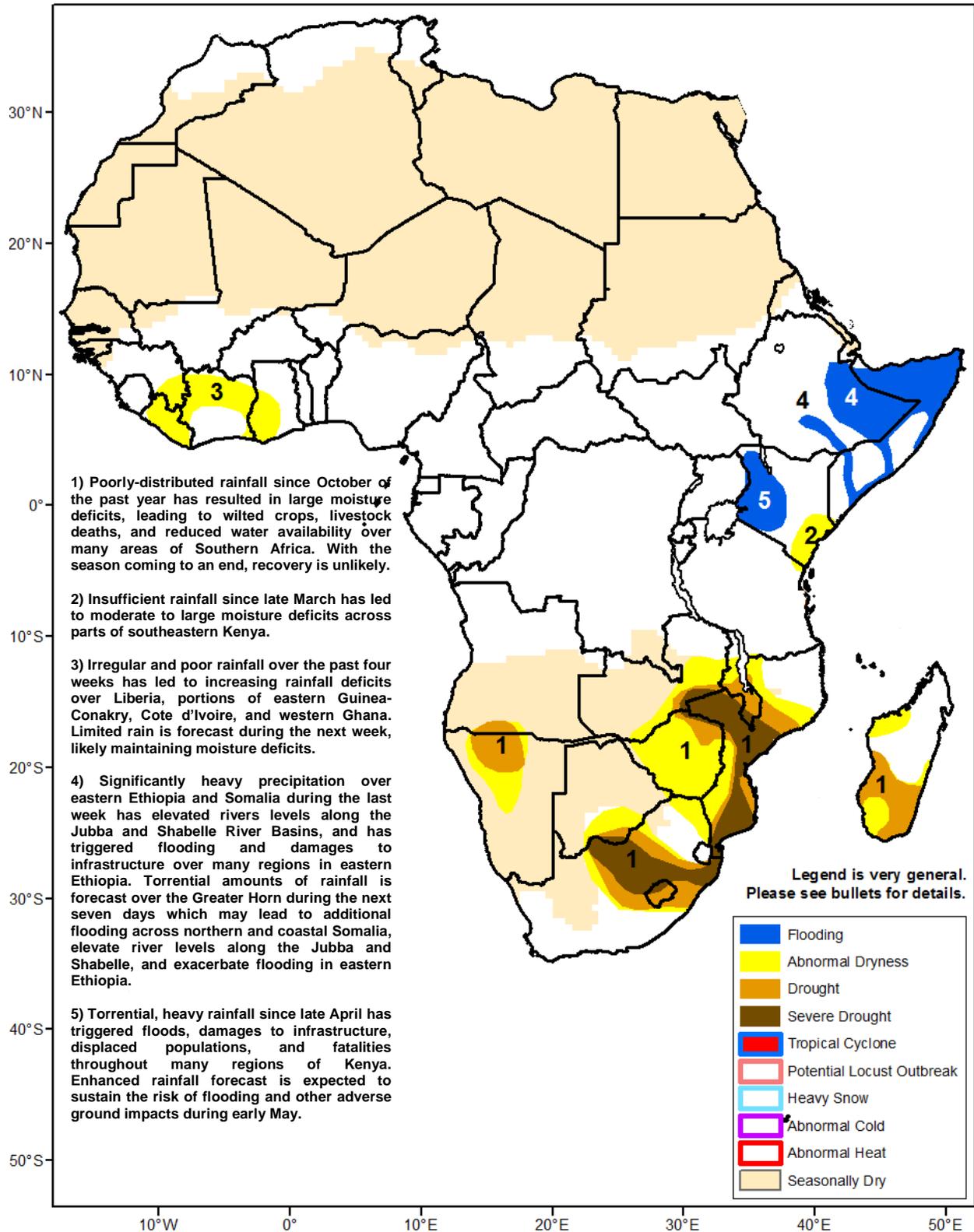




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 5 – May 11, 2016

- Recent heavy rains in East Africa have led to flooding, damages to infrastructure, crop losses, and fatalities.
- Suppressed rainfall continued throughout the Gulf of Guinea region of West Africa.



1) Poorly-distributed rainfall since October of the past year has resulted in large moisture deficits, leading to wilted crops, livestock deaths, and reduced water availability over many areas of Southern Africa. With the season coming to an end, recovery is unlikely.

2) Insufficient rainfall since late March has led to moderate to large moisture deficits across parts of southeastern Kenya.

3) Irregular and poor rainfall over the past four weeks has led to increasing rainfall deficits over Liberia, portions of eastern Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, and western Ghana. Limited rain is forecast during the next week, likely maintaining moisture deficits.

4) Significantly heavy precipitation over eastern Ethiopia and Somalia during the last week has elevated rivers levels along the Jubba and Shabelle River Basins, and has triggered flooding and damages to infrastructure over many regions in eastern Ethiopia. Torrential amounts of rainfall is forecast over the Greater Horn during the next seven days which may lead to additional flooding across northern and coastal Somalia, elevate river levels along the Jubba and Shabelle, and exacerbate flooding in eastern Ethiopia.

5) Torrential, heavy rainfall since late April has triggered floods, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations, and fatalities throughout many regions of Kenya. Enhanced rainfall forecast is expected to sustain the risk of flooding and other adverse ground impacts during early May.

Widespread, heavy rains help provide relief to early season dryness.

Compared to the previous week, a substantial increase in the quantity and spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall was recorded according to satellite rainfall estimates throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. Some of the highest precipitation accumulations (>100mm) were received over many of the more climatological drier areas of the Horn, including far eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and across northern and southern Somalia (Figure 1). Locally heavy rains in central and northern Kenya also reportedly led to severe flooding, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations, and fatalities, in Nairobi the region, as well as, in the Turkana, Marsabit, and Wajir provinces. However, rainfall accumulations remained much lighter across the coast region of southeastern Kenya and in some bimodal areas of northeastern Tanzania.

With the most recent increase in precipitation during the last week, many regions that have experienced a delayed start of seasonal rainfall are now experienced near neutral to above-average moisture conditions. Comparative analysis of rainfall percentiles over the last three weeks depicts a positive trend in seasonal rains, providing much relief to dryness in many portions of central and northern Kenya, as well as, in central and southern Somalia where rains had been poorly distributed and slow to start during March. At present, April rainfall percentiles suggests the largest moisture deficits reside throughout southeastern Kenya, with localized pockets of dryness in southern Somalia and northern Ethiopia (Figure 2). Elsewhere in the Horn, predominately neutral to above-average April rainfall has been received.

During the next week, enhanced seasonal rainfall is forecast to continue over much of the Greater Horn of Africa, with heavy precipitation totals (>100mm) expected over many parts of central and western Kenya, southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. While this forecast is favorable for areas that experienced dryness during March, it is also unfavorable for several areas in Kenya and Somalia that are affected by flooding over the past few weeks.

Moisture deficits strengthen in the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Following an anomalously wet March, low and poorly distributed rainfall has continued across many Gulf of Guinea countries leading to increased moisture deficits since the beginning of April. This includes many regions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Nigeria, where many local areas have experienced between 50 to 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation during the last month. Larger moisture deficits (less than 50 percent of normal) are observed along many coastal areas (Figure 3). For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of light to locally moderate rain, which is expected to sustain moisture deficits during early May.

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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