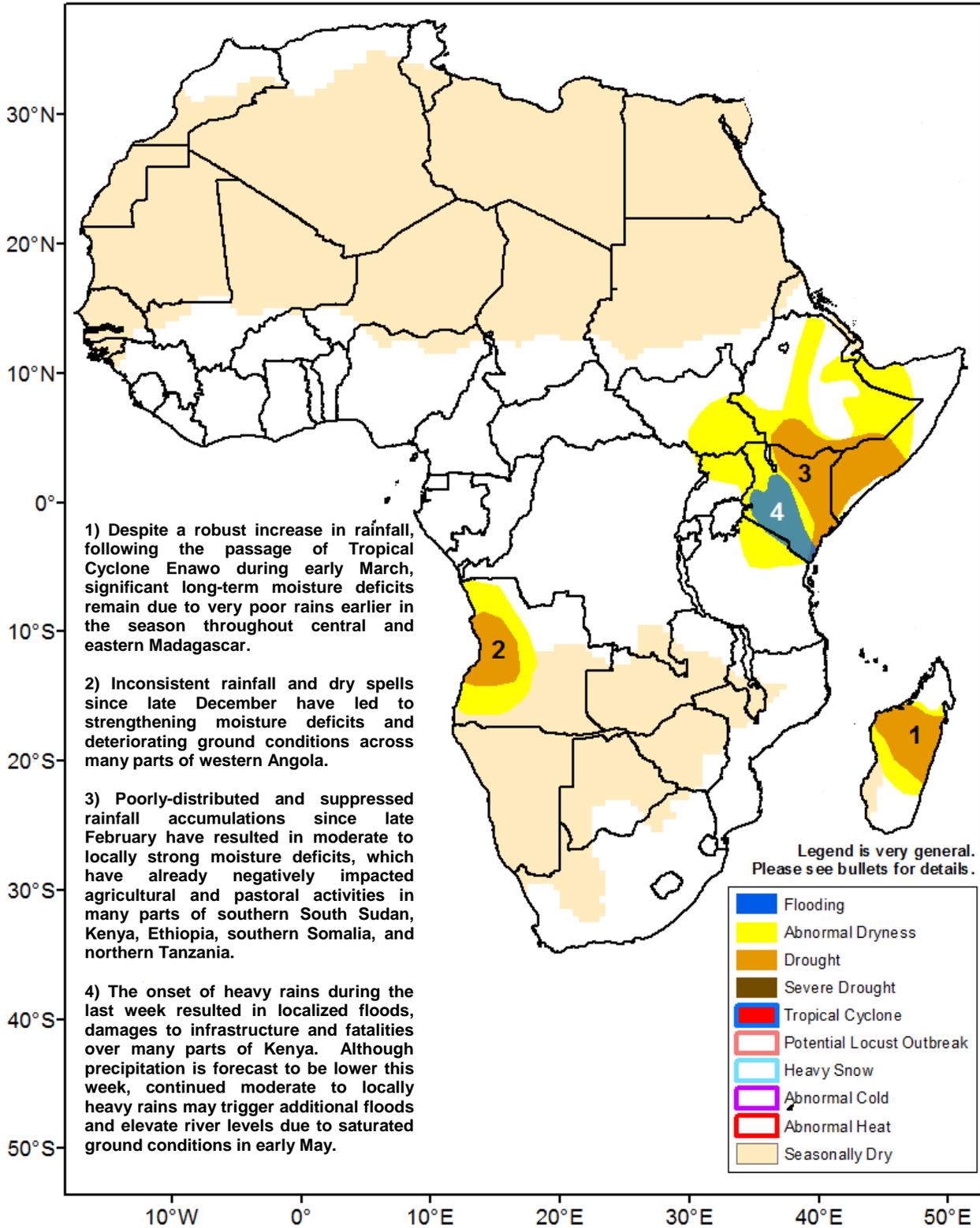




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 4 – May 10, 2017

- Heavy rains in Kenya and Somalia help alleviate seasonal dryness but trigger localized floods.
- Delayed seasonal rains have led to developing moisture deficits throughout parts of West Africa.



Increased rains received in parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

During the last week in April, a much needed enhancement of seasonal rainfall was received over the Greater Horn of Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, widespread amounts of at least 5-10mm were registered, with the highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>75mm) recorded over the southern provinces of Somalia (**Figure 1**). In addition, moderate rainfall accumulations were also received over many belt-producing areas of Ethiopia, signaling the first week of favorable rainfall since early April. However, the onset of heavier rainfall totals in Kenya resulted in numerous flooding events, damages to infrastructure and fatalities over several provinces of the country.

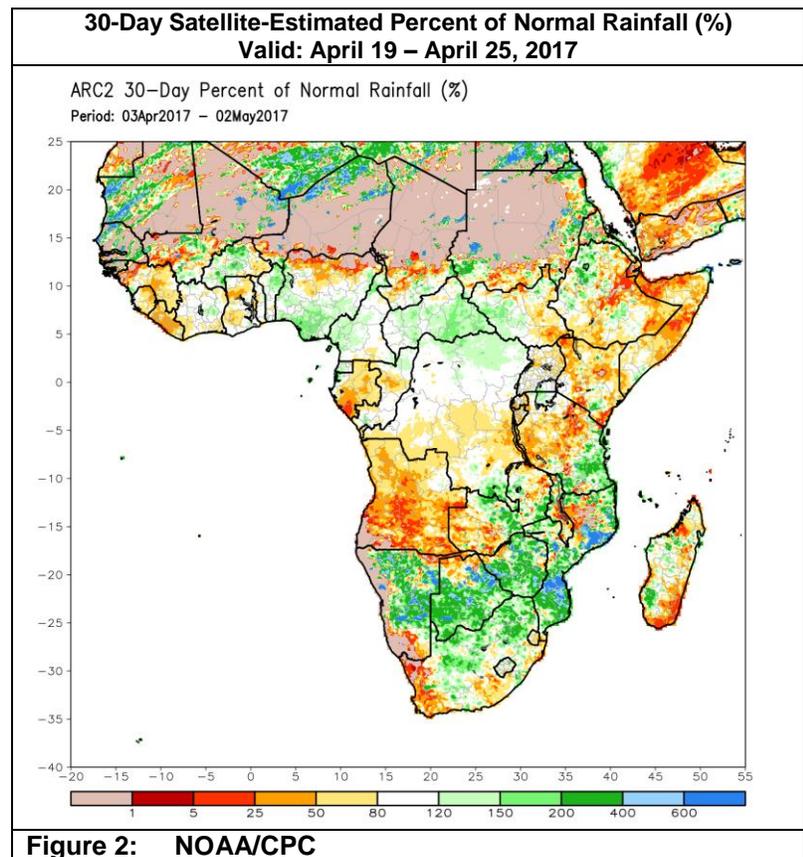
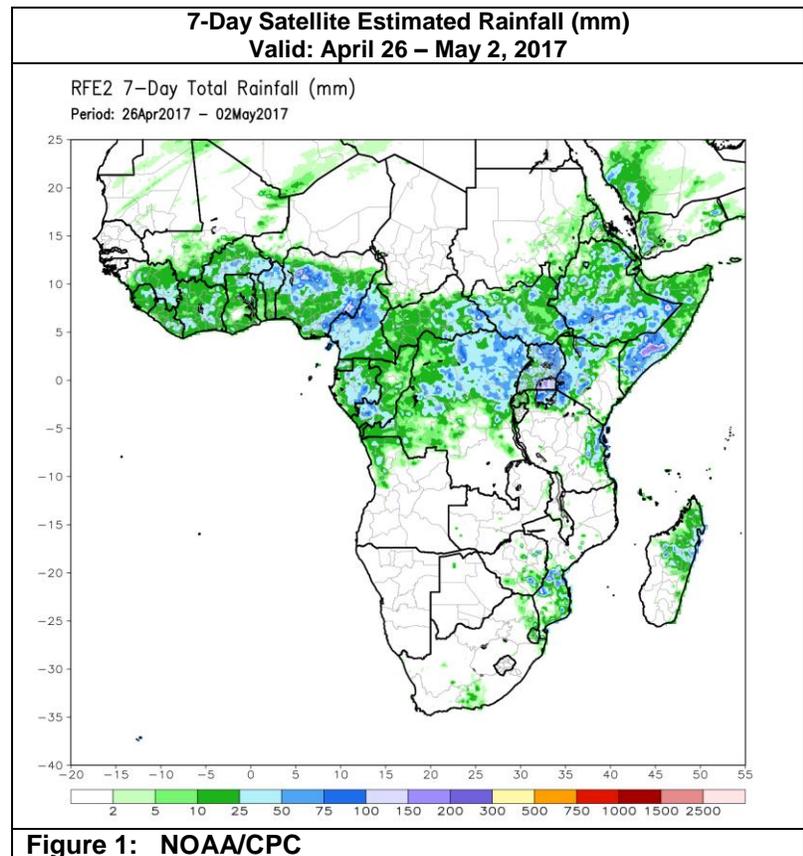
Despite the increase in rainfall, both the spatial and temporal distribution of seasonal rainfall has remained quite poor across much of East Africa. Analysis of percent of normal rainfall depicts largely dry conditions with many areas experiencing less than half their normal rainfall accumulation mainly over Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia during the last month (**Figure 2**). Neighboring portions of Uganda, South Sudan and northern Tanzania have also experienced a decline in rains, which have also led to rapid strengthening of moisture deficits over the past several weeks. In addition, the latest increase in rainfall activity over East Africa is likely too late with respect to developing crops, although, higher rainfall totals is expected to help replenish water availability and improve conditions in pastoral regions.

For the upcoming outlook period, a continuation of average to above-average rainfall is forecast during early May which is expected to continue to help alleviate seasonal dryness over Somalia and Ethiopia. However, this enhancement of seasonal rainfall may trigger additional flooding in Kenya.

Developing Dryness observed in Guinea and Liberia.

In the last week, several Gulf of Guinea countries experienced a favorable spatial distribution of rainfall; however, weekly totals were relatively light. In parts of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, below-average rainfall has been registered over the past several weeks, where some local areas have received less than half of their rainfall accumulation for the month of April (**Figure 2**). Much of this dryness has been associated with a significantly anomalous ITCZ/ITF position during the middle of April, with had limited seasonal moisture fluxes and suppressed much seasonal rainfall.

During the next week, increased rainfall amounts are forecast over much of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia which is expected to help alleviate early season dryness. Further north, increased amounts of precipitation are expected over southern Burkina Faso, southern Mali, and northern Nigeria, as the ITCZ/ITF continues its northward advancement into 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.