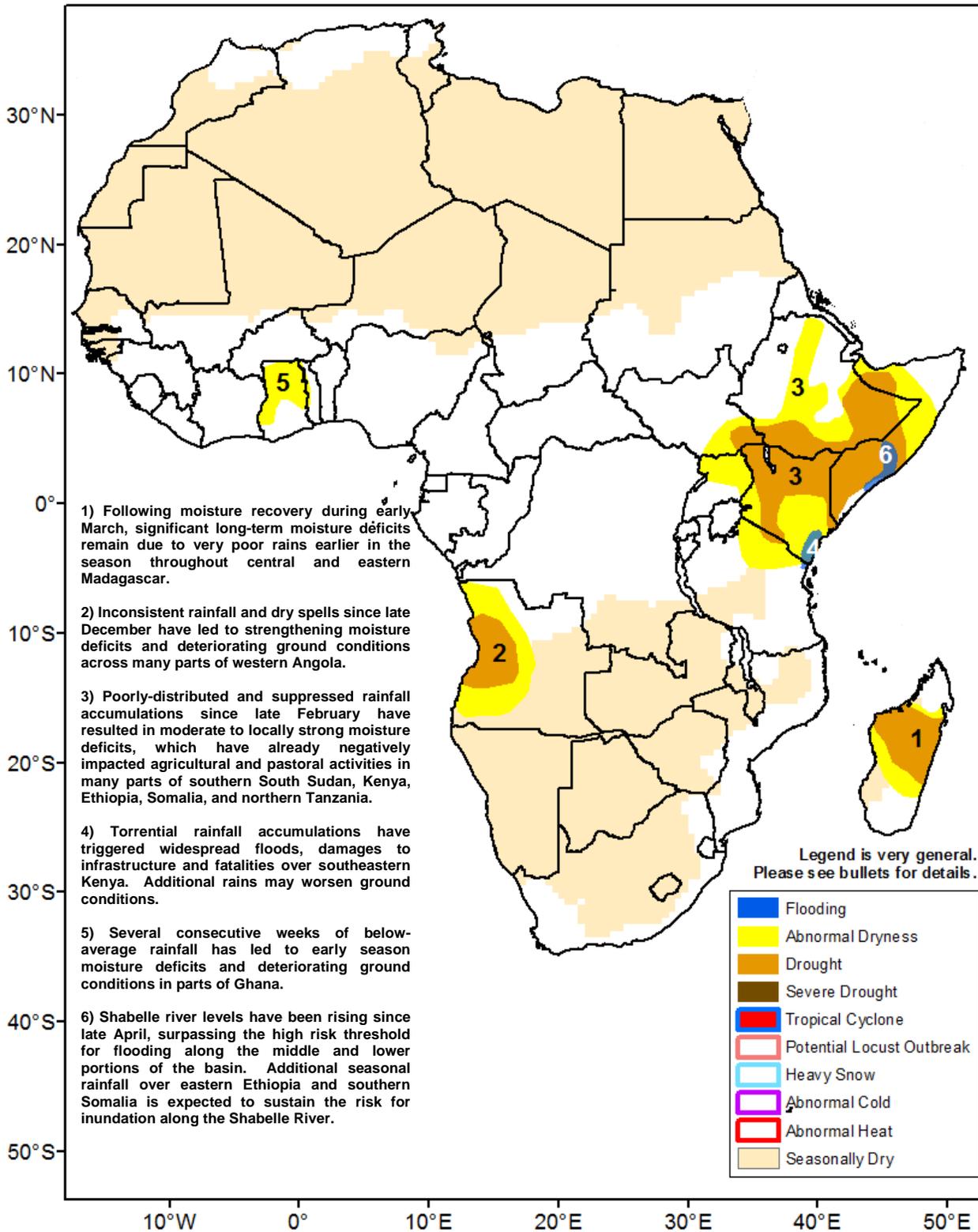




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 18 – May 24, 2017

- Moderate to heavy rains continue over Ethiopia, lessen over many parts of Kenya and Somalia.



Rains intensify over western Ethiopia, as moisture spreads northward.

In the last seven days, a northward shift in the monsoon circulation over East Africa resulted in enhanced rainfall over many parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan, and eastern Sudan, with comparably lower amounts registered across several parts of Somalia and Kenya, where torrential rains and floods were observed earlier in May. According to satellite rainfall estimates, weekly amounts in excess of 100mm were registered in the Gambella, Oromia, and SNNP regions of Ethiopia, as well as over neighboring provinces in South Sudan (Figure 1). In eastern Sudan, an increase in the moisture transport led to unusually early season rainfall over the Khartoum, Kassala, River Nile, and Red Sea provinces of the country. Towards the south, low to locally moderate rainfall accumulations were received across several areas in Kenya that had been affected by floods and damages to infrastructure in previous weeks. Weaker rainfall activity was also observed over Southern Somalia, where water levels along the Shabelle River have risen to near high risk levels for inundation in the basin.

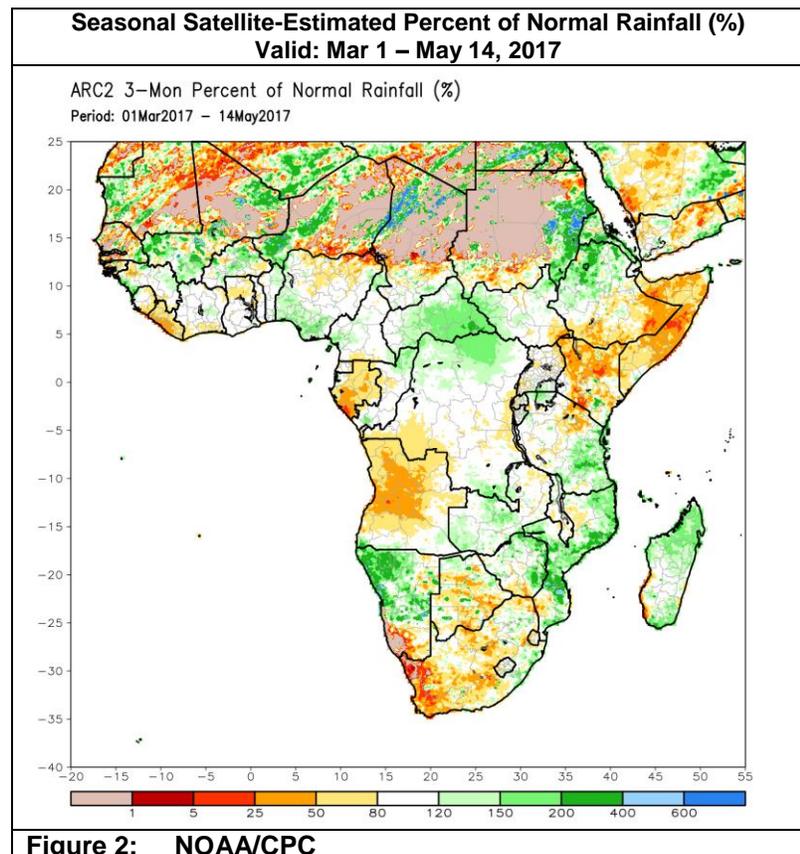
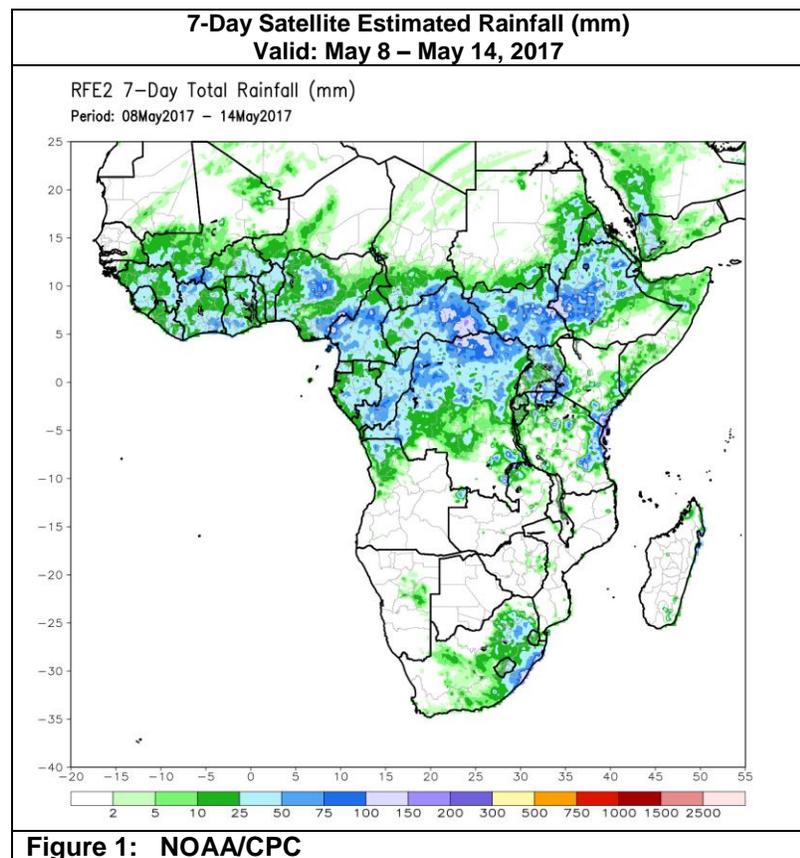
In the wake of flood inducing rains over Kenya during late April and early May, below-average moisture conditions predominately remain across the country. Satellite estimated percent of normal rainfall since the beginning of March depict moderate to locally strong moisture deficits (25-80 percent of normal) mainly in north and south central parts of Kenya (Figure 2). Only pockets of average to above-average rainfall suggest that the recent seasonal moisture recovery was largely localized in the central region and southeast regions of Kenya. Although increased rains did help to alleviate long-term dryness, many of these recovery areas were also negatively impacted with floods.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest a continuation of this past week's rainfall distribution with high rainfall accumulations over western and northern Ethiopia, eastern Sudan and eastern South Sudan. Further south, lower rainfall accumulations are forecast for much of Kenya and Somalia, suggesting that seasonal rainfall for March-May is coming to an end.

Increased rains observed over Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

During the last week, the northward march of the ITCZ/ITF and associated monsoon rainfall was observed throughout West Africa, bringing favorable, early season precipitation amounts (10-25mm) into the lower Sahel regions of Mali, northern Burkina Faso and southern Niger (Figure 1). While much of this rainfall was average to above-average, below average rainfall continued further south across parts of southern Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, which has strengthened moisture deficits.

Precipitation forecasts suggest another week of favorable early season rainfall in the northern Gulf of Guinea region, with the potential for suppressed rains once again further south.



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.