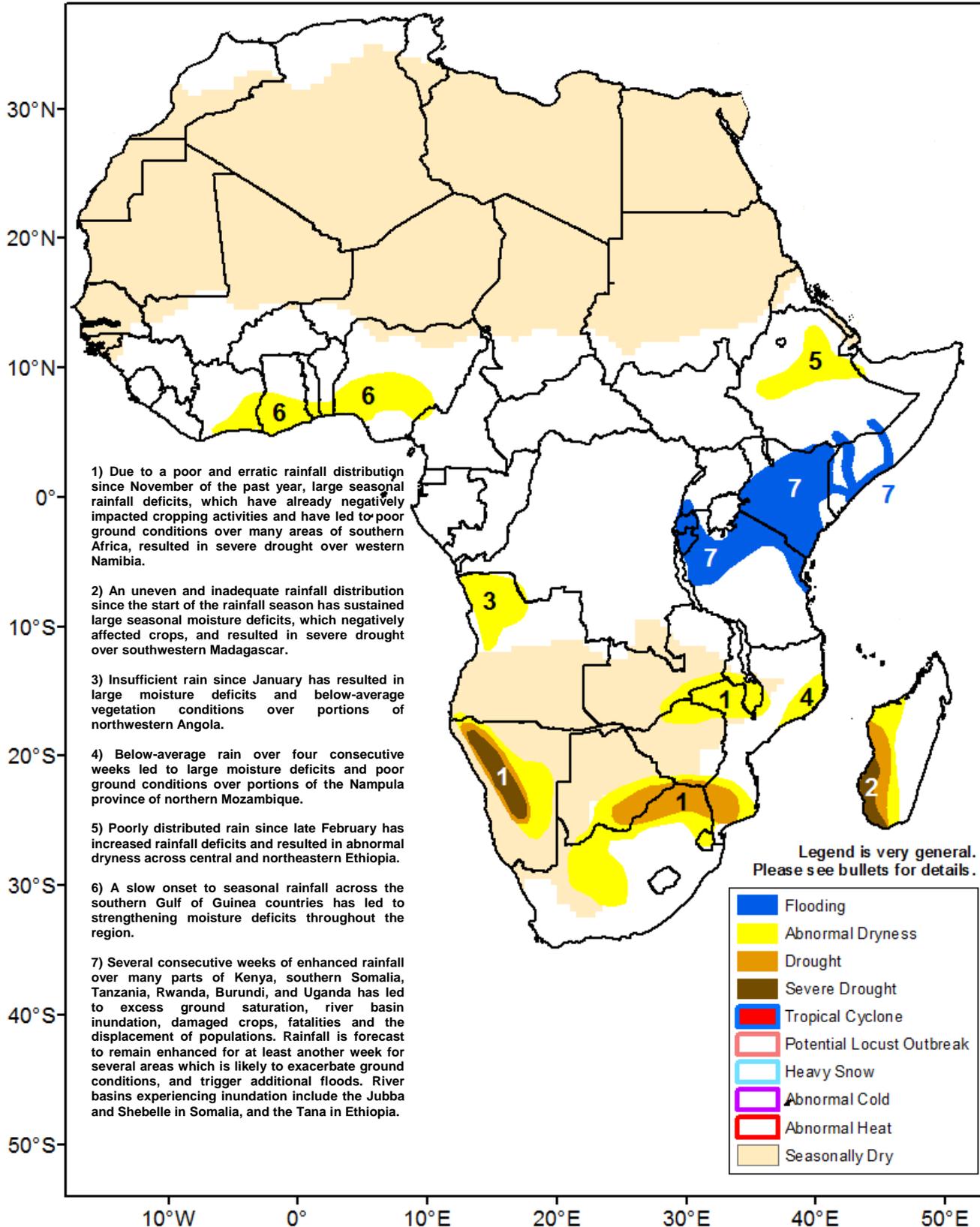




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 3 – May 9, 2018

- Enhanced, flood inducing rains continue throughout many areas in the Greater Horn during April.



Belg-producing regions of Ethiopia received near-average quantities of rain this past week

During the last 7 days, the most torrential rains were more limited in scope than they had been during the previous weeks over the Greater Horn of Africa. According to satellite estimates, the heaviest 7-day totals (>100mm) occurred in western and coastal parts of Kenya, as well as local parts of SNNPR in Ethiopia (Figure 1). Moderate rains continued over northern Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia. Light to moderate amounts of rain were also observed over many parts of Kenya, while South Sudan and Uganda received more rain than normal. To the south, central and eastern parts of Tanzania saw a significant reduction in rainfall. The continuing heavy rains caused widespread flooding issues and fatalities in many parts of Kenya and along the Jubba and Shebelle river basins.

April brought near-average amounts of rain to many Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia that had experienced a pronounced delay in seasonal rainfall, and rapidly developing moisture shortages during the month of March. While the enhanced precipitation during April has helped to mitigate anomalous dryness in some areas, there are still many areas in the northern Oromia, Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Somalia that remain well below average since early March (Figure 2). The largest moisture deficits remain near Dire Dawa over the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, where many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation for period. The return of suppressed precipitation would be likely to adversely impact ground conditions and cropping activities, as there is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains begin their cessation in May over the region.

Further south, extremely large seasonal moisture surpluses (100-300+mm) continue to encompass much of Kenya and northern Tanzania due to heavy rainfall during March and April. The majority of areas in in Southern Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania have already received more than their average seasonal rainfall through the end of May according to the SPP product.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest the continuation of heavy rainfall over several parts of East Africa. 7-day accumulations in excess of 50mm, and locally higher, are expected in southern Ethiopia, western Kenya, and central portions of Somalia. Typical late April rainfall is expected to help continue to alleviate seasonal dryness in Belg-producing areas.

Delayed onset of rains observed across southern Gulf of Guinea countries.

For several consecutive weeks, light and poorly distributed rainfall amounts have been observed over southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria according to satellite rainfall estimates. During the previous 7 days, suppression of rains continued across most of the region. However, parts of northern Cote d'Ivoire and neighboring areas received above normal rainfall, in some cases more than 50mm. Since early March, seasonal moisture deficits have increased, leaving many local areas with half of their normally accumulated rainfall, which is expected to increase the risk for adverse ground impacts unfavorable for cropping activities.

During the next week, near average rainfall is expected for the western half of the Gulf of Guinea region, while suppression is expected to persist in the eastern half 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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