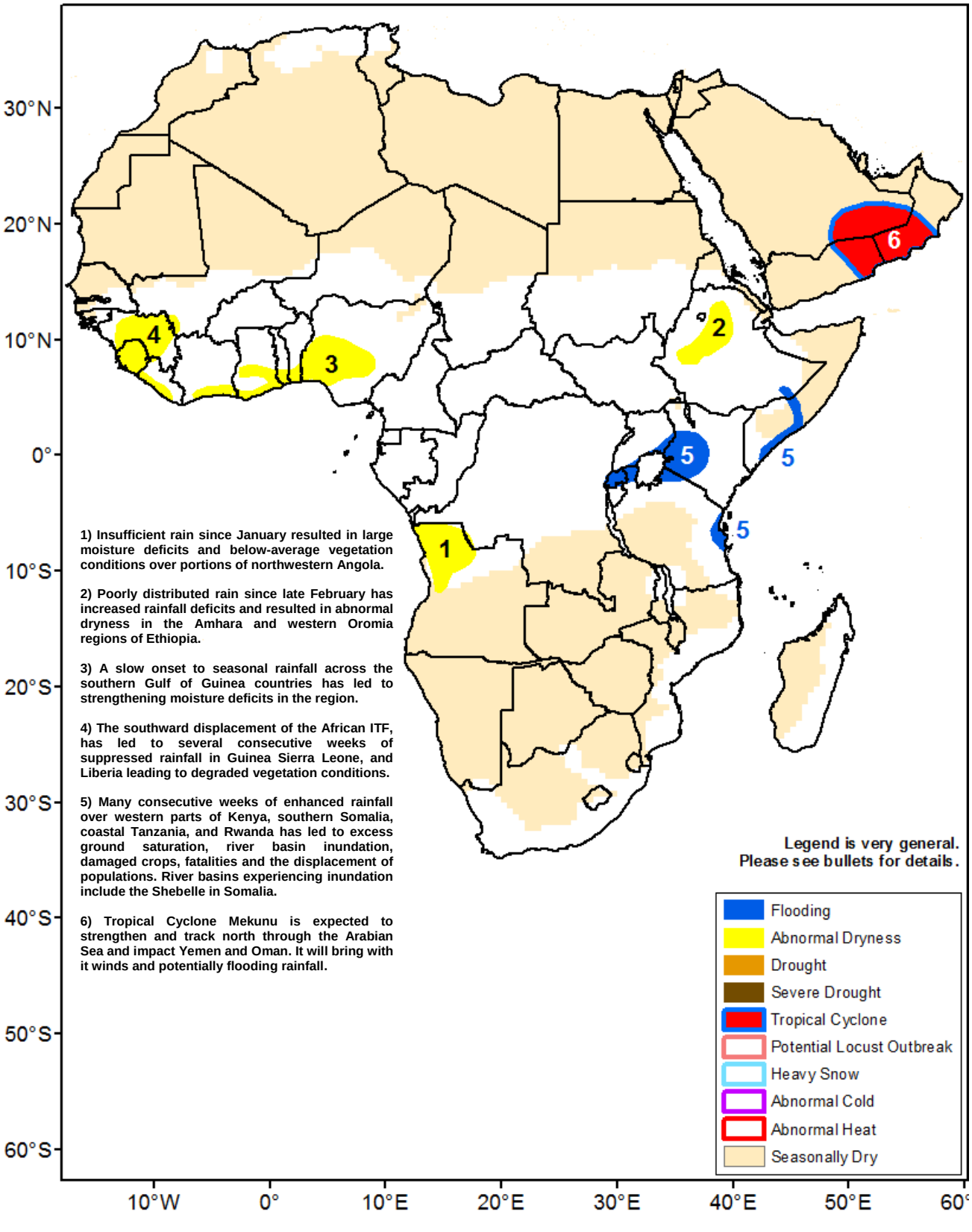
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 24 – May 30, 2018

- **A rare tropical cyclone impacted parts of Yemen and the horn of Africa with winds and flooding.**
- **In West Africa, a pattern of suppression of rains has returned to the region.**



1) Insufficient rain since January resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola.

2) Poorly distributed rain since late February has increased rainfall deficits and resulted in abnormal dryness in the Amhara and western Oromia regions of Ethiopia.

3) A slow onset to seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits in the region.

4) The southward displacement of the African ITF, has led to several consecutive weeks of suppressed rainfall in Guinea Sierra Leone, and Liberia leading to degraded vegetation conditions.

5) Many consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall over western parts of Kenya, southern Somalia, coastal Tanzania, and Rwanda has led to excess ground saturation, river basin inundation, damaged crops, fatalities and the displacement of populations. River basins experiencing inundation include the Shebelle in Somalia.

6) Tropical Cyclone Mekunu is expected to strengthen and track north through the Arabian Sea and impact Yemen and Oman. It will bring with it winds and potentially flooding rainfall.

Tropical cyclone Sagar has impacted parts of the East Africa region with heavy rains and winds.

Tropical Cyclone Sagar took a rare path through the Gulf of Aden and made landfall in northwestern Somaliland. The storm induced heavy rains along coastal Yemen, northern Somalia, Djibouti and parts of Ethiopia. Although rainfall totals were not well observed in these areas, there were numerous reports of flooding, and even wind damage. Several other parts of the East Africa region received enhanced rains. These included, western Kenya, South Sudan, neighboring parts of Ethiopia, and Uganda. Rainfall totals exceeded 100mm and locally 200mm in these regions during the past 7 days according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Northern Ethiopia received little rain this week and observed 7-day deficits of up to 25mm. Seasonal dryness is setting in across eastern Kenya. Flooding continues to be a concern for many areas that continue to see repeated weeks of enhanced rains. The Shebelle River in Somalia continues to run near flood stage.

Western and, increasingly, northern provinces of Ethiopia exhibit seasonal rainfall deficits. Heavy rains 2 weeks ago started to shrink moisture deficits. Still, 30-day moisture deficits in several areas are between 25 and 50mm (**Figure 2**) and less than 50% of normal. Concurrently, vegetation health has degraded rapidly as evidenced by the vegetation health index. Meanwhile in Yemen, the season so far is slightly drier than normal in the east and wetter to the west. However this appears to have affected vegetation conditions little.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest the continuation of heavy rainfall over western Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi, South Sudan and Western Ethiopia. Another tropical cyclone, Mekunu, is strengthening east of the horn. It is expected to track northward towards the Arabian Peninsula and make landfall somewhere near the Oman-Yemen border, where it is likely to bring heavy rains and winds up to 75kts.

A suppressed rainfall pattern quickly returned to West Africa during the last week.

Rainfall was mainly light or moderate across the region during the past 7 days. Heavy rainfall totals approaching 100mm were only observed very locally in parts of southeastern Nigeria, and northern Benin. Most of the rest of the region received around 25mm or less during the period. The extent of rains pushed a little farther north through Sierra Leone and Guinea than previous weeks, but total amounts were still quite light and suppressed below normal. Moisture deficits are growing rapidly and negative anomalies are well greater than 50mm during the 30-day period **(Figure 2**). A poor and delayed start to rains is also now being observed in Burkina Faso and southern Mali. VHI indicates that poor rainfall performance is negatively affecting vegetation in these areas. Some improvement to seasonal deficits has been observed in southern Nigeria, but many other areas along the Gulf of Guinea remain abnormally dry.

During the next week, the forecast calls for enhanced rain in the east and suppression of rain in the west. A sharp rainfall gradient in rainfall is likely keep northern parts of Sierra Leone and Guinea, along with parts of southern Mali dry, degrading conditions there further. Between the areas of enhanced and suppressed rains, seasonable rainfall totals of between 25-50mm are expected.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 16 – May 22, 2018

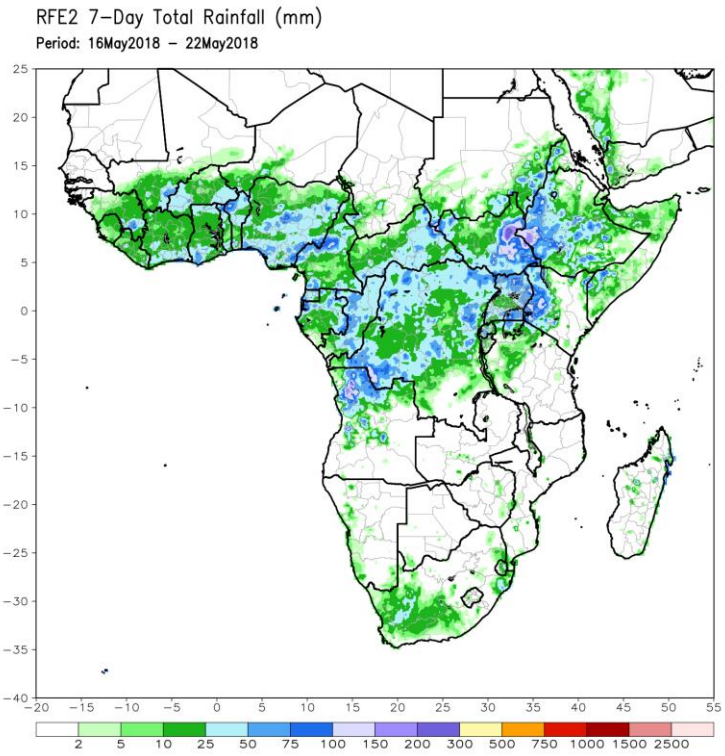


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: April 23 – May 22, 2018

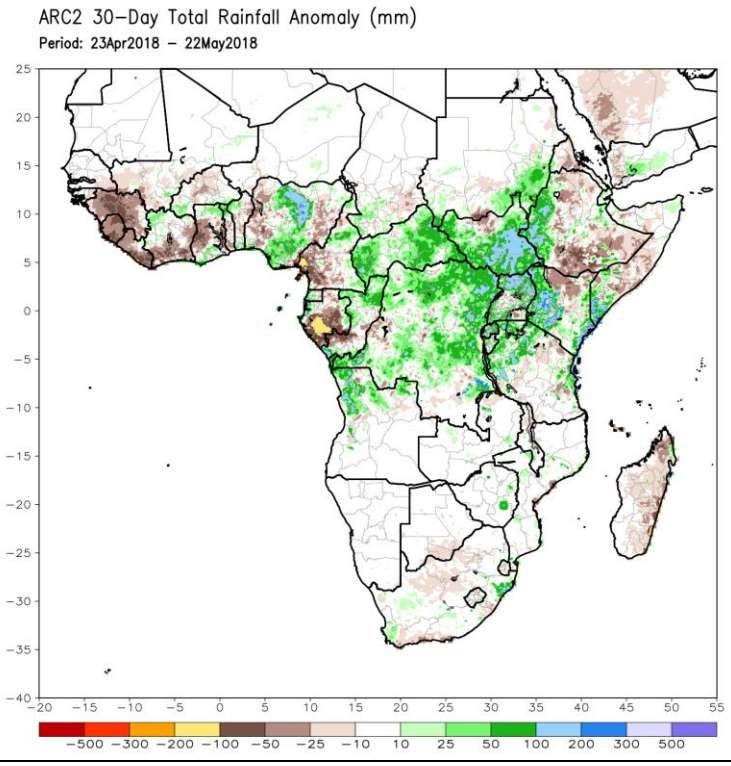


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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