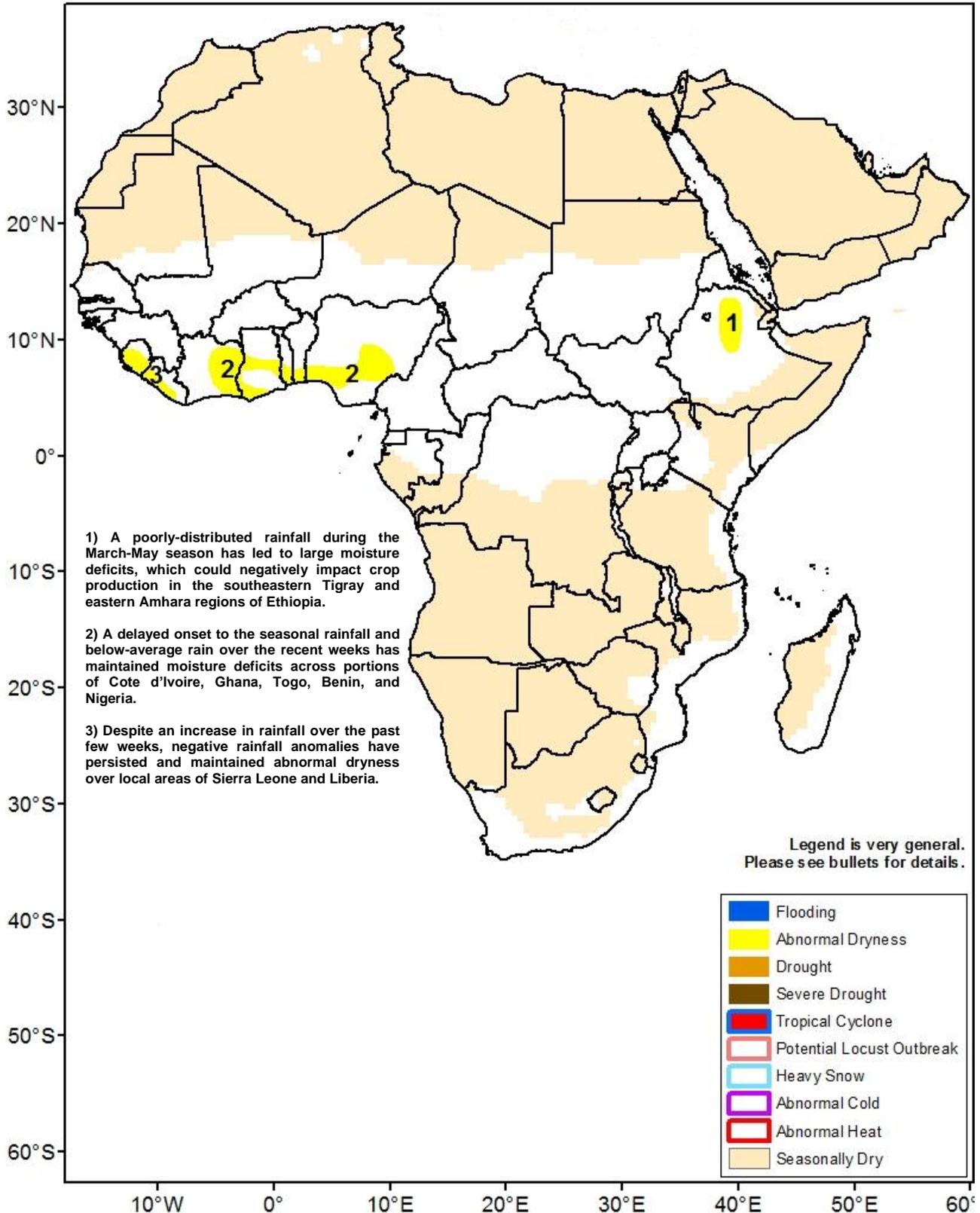




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 21 – 27, 2018

- Insufficient rain over the recent weeks has maintained abnormal dryness along the Gulf of Guinea.
- A poor March-May seasonal performance has resulted in abnormal dryness over north-central Ethiopia.



A slight increase in rainfall observed over West Africa during the past week

During the past week, a slight increase in rainfall was observed over West Africa. Scattered, moderate to heavy rain fell over Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and southern Chad, while light rain was widespread elsewhere (Figure 1). The heaviest rain was recorded over western Cote d'Ivoire and southern Nigeria, where rainfall totals exceeded 100 mm. Farther north, light to locally moderate rain was also received throughout southern Senegal, The Gambia, western Mali, western and southern Niger. Due to stronger than normal and moist anomalous southwesterly flow, this past week's rain was above average over the far western West Africa and parts of the Gulf of Guinea region, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Cote d'Ivoire, and southern Nigeria. However, the weekly totals remained below-average along southeastern Cote d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, southern Benin, and southwestern Nigeria.

Over the past thirty days, eastern Cote d'Ivoire, western Ghana, and parts of central Nigeria received between only 50-80 percent of their average rainfall due to an erratic rainfall distribution in the region. Many areas of the Gulf of Guinea have experienced an intermittent rainfall regime and below-average cumulative rainfall. The return of a favorable rainfall distribution is needed to overcome moisture deficits and relieve dryness over many local areas.

For next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast across the Sahel region of West Africa, while light rain is expected in eastern Cote d'Ivoire, southern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

Rainfall surpluses received over much of eastern Africa over the past thirty days

Enhanced rain over the past four weeks has resulted in wetness, with percent of normal rainfall exceeding 200 percent over eastern South Sudan, eastern Sudan, Eritrea, west-central Ethiopia, western Kenya, and many areas of Yemen (Figure 2). The wetter than average conditions were attributed partially to anomalous southwesterly moist flow from the Congo Air Boundary and associated lower-level convergence, bringing consistent rain onto the region. During the past week, enhanced and above-average rain continued over western Ethiopia, western Yemen, eastern and southern Sudan, and Eritrea. In contrast, suppressed and below-average rain was received in eastern South Sudan, parts of western Ethiopia, and Uganda. As the June-September season progresses, positive rainfall anomalies have been observed over west-central Ethiopia, northern South Sudan, southern Sudan, parts of Eritrea, western Yemen, while negative anomalies have emerged over portions of western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan.

As far as vegetation conditions are concerned, most areas of eastern Africa showed favorable conditions, except western Ethiopia, where the Vegetation Health Index indicated unfavorable conditions. The continuation of the June-September season should help provide adequate soil moisture for cropping activities during the current cycle.

For next week, seasonal rainfall is expected to continue over eastern Africa, with moderate to heavy rain over western Ethiopia, Eritrea, western and eastern Sudan. Meanwhile, moderate rain is forecast over South Sudan, eastern Sudan, and southwestern Kenya.

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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