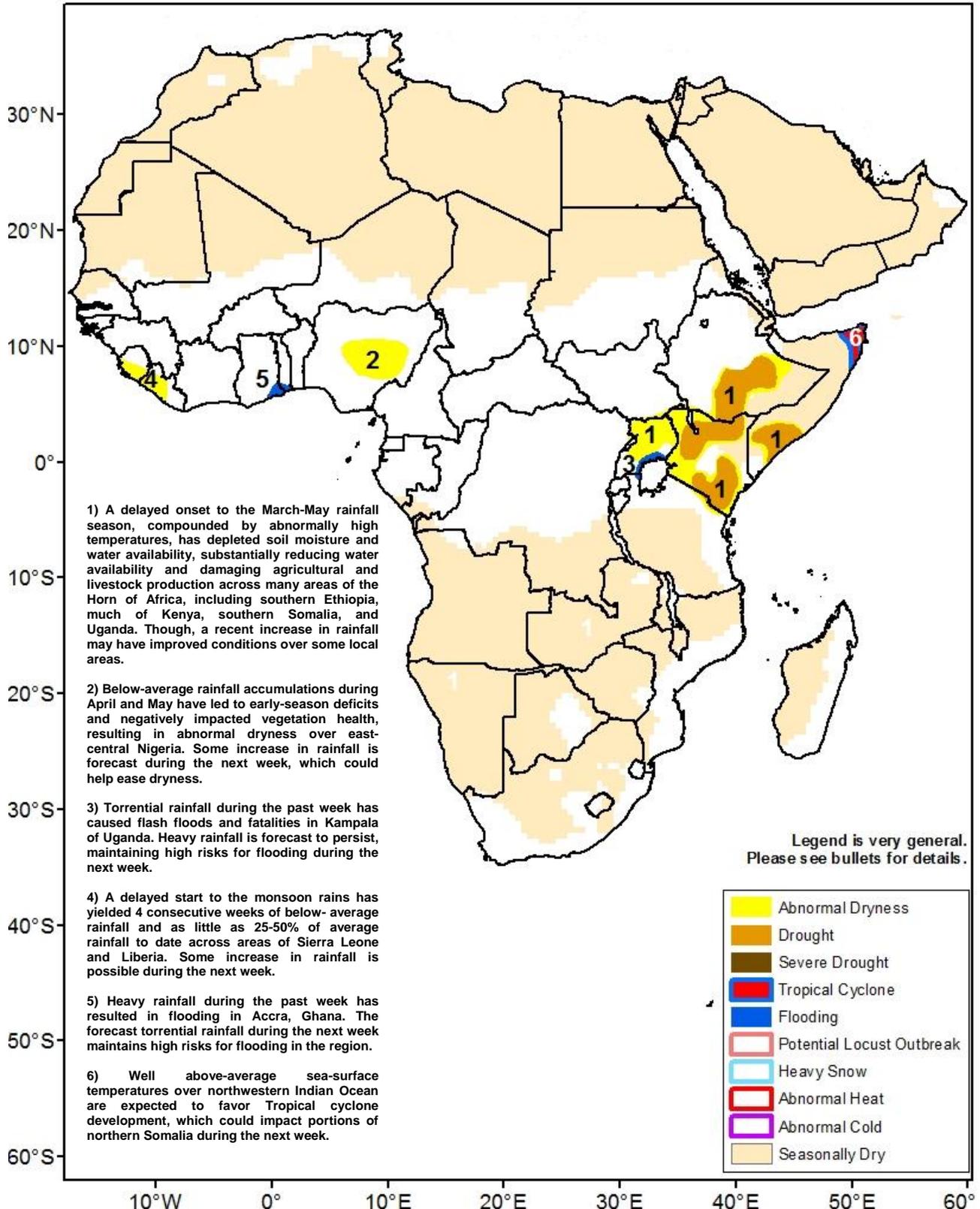




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 6 – 12, 2019

- Moisture deficits persisted over parts of West Africa despite this past week's favorable rainfall distribution.
- Delayed onset to the season and poorly-distributed March-May rain has negatively impacted the Horn of Africa.



Dry conditions persisted in the far western West Africa and eastern Nigeria.

During the past month, above-average rainfall fell throughout areas of the Sahel and the central portions of the Gulf of Guinea, which resulted in wetter than average conditions over Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, and parts of western Nigeria. In contrast, an uneven distribution of rainfall caused thirty-day rainfall deficits to persist across parts of Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, parts of Cote d'Ivoire, and east-central Nigeria (**Figure 1**). During this past week, widespread light to locally heavy rainfall was observed throughout West Africa, with the heaviest (> 75 mm) rainfall over localized areas of the Sahel and along the coastlines, including Accra in Ghana, where flooding was reported. Despite insufficient rainfall over the dry portions of West Africa, near to above-average vegetation conditions were registered along much of the Gulf of Guinea, according to recent vegetation indices.

During the upcoming outlook period, widespread moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over West Africa, with heavy downpours possible over portions of Sierra Leone and Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Should forecasts verify, deficits would gradually subside even dissipate over many areas. However, excessive rainfall may exacerbate conditions over already-oversaturated areas.

Tropical cyclone development over northwestern Indian Ocean could impact parts of northern Somalia.

After wet weather patterns over the past recent weeks, above-average rainfall continued over areas of the Horn of Africa during the past week. Heavy rainfall caused flooding and left many fatalities in the Puntland region of northern Somalia, based on report. Farther west, abundant rainfall was received across much of South Sudan, southern Sudan, and southwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 2**), while light rainfall was registered elsewhere. Since early May to date, above-average rainfall was recorded over previously-dry areas of eastern Africa, which may have helped improve conditions over some localized areas. Those included South Sudan, northeastern Uganda, southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northeastern Kenya. The largest (> 100 mm) thirty-day rainfall surpluses were observed over southwestern Ethiopia, localized areas of northeastern Kenya, and southern Somalia. However, short-term negative anomalies persisted over the western and eastern parts of Ethiopia, western Uganda, and western Kenya.

The delayed onset to the March-May season and uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall has already negatively impacted ground conditions over many areas of eastern Africa, including South Sudan, northern Uganda, southwestern Kenya, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia, according to recent vegetation indices. The return of good rainfall is needed to ensure a favorable onset of the subsequent season for areas such as Ethiopia.

During the next week, warmer than average sea-surface temperature anomalies over the northwestern Indian Ocean are expected to favor Tropical cyclone development, potentially impacting portions of northern Somalia. Heavy rain is also forecast over eastern DRC, Uganda, southwestern Kenya, South Sudan, and western Kenya, increasing risks for flooding over already-flooded areas.

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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