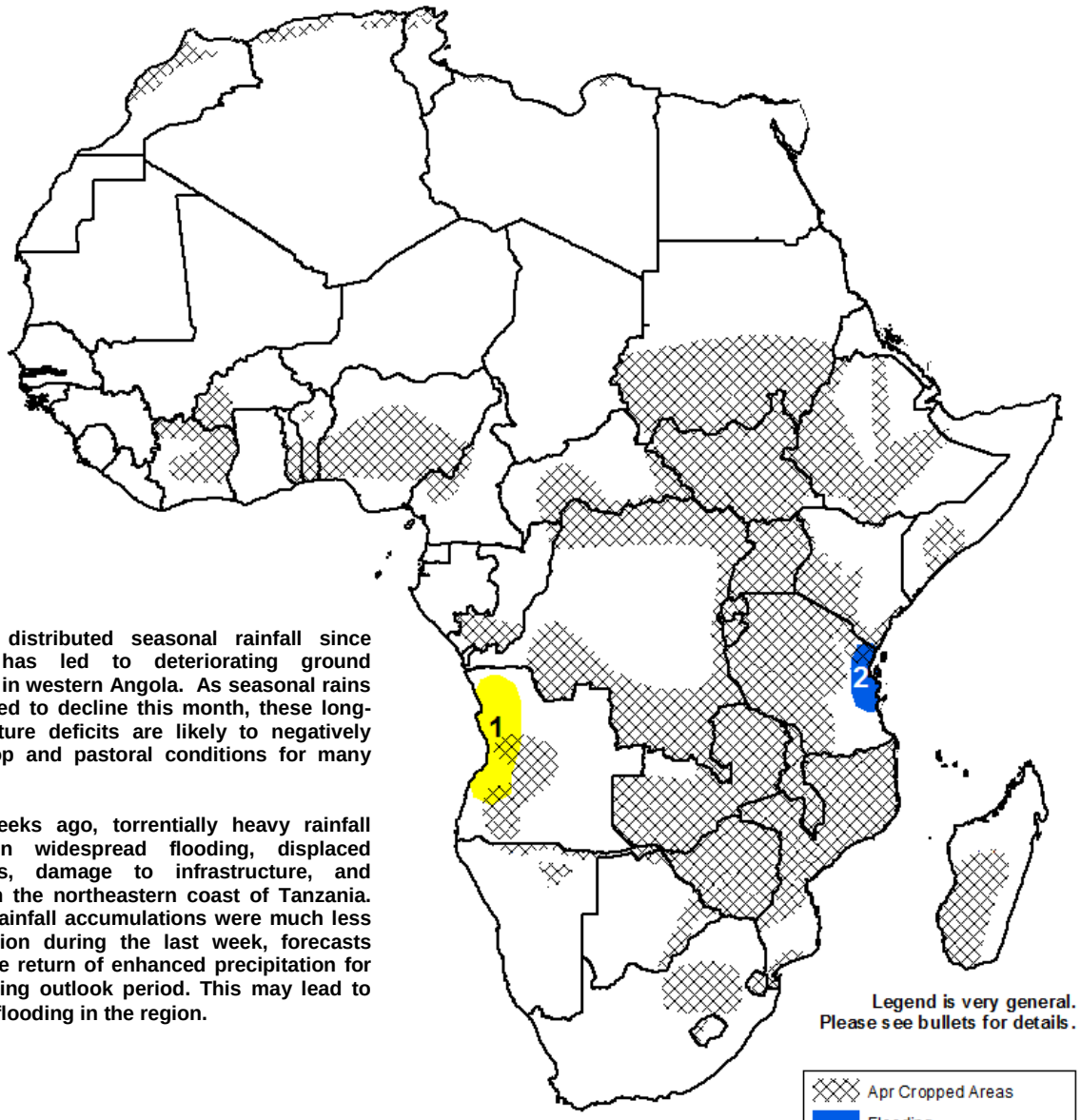
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 24 – April 30, 2014

- **Decreased amounts of precipitation were observed across parts of Ethiopia during the middle of April.**



1) Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since February has led to deteriorating ground conditions in western Angola. As seasonal rains are expected to decline this month, these long-term moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions for many areas.

2) Two weeks ago, torrentially heavy rainfall resulted in widespread flooding, displaced populations, damage to infrastructure, and fatalities in the northeastern coast of Tanzania. Although rainfall accumulations were much less in the region during the last week, forecasts suggest the return of enhanced precipitation for the upcoming outlook period. This may lead to additional flooding in the region.

Reduced rainfall observed over parts of Ethiopia.

During the last week, moderate to locally heavy seasonal rains continued throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. The heaviest rainfall accumulations were received in eastern Kenya, and in southern Somalia, where some local areas along the Juba and Shabelle River basins experienced as much as 150mm of precipitation during the last week (**Figure 1**). In Ethiopia, the highest rainfall totals were mainly observed across the Gambella and SNNP region with more moderate amounts extending into the western Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and western Amhara regions for the third consecutive week. However, a sharp reduction of weekly precipitation was observed in the Belg-producing areas of the eastern Amhara, and eastern Tigray provinces. Further south, favorable, and well-distributed rains continued throughout many areas in South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. Near average amounts of rainfall were also received throughout northern Tanzania and central and eastern Kenya, although these rains were more isolated.

Following a period of increased rainfall during late March and early April throughout the Belg-producing regions of Ethiopia, both the distribution and quantity of seasonal rains have gradually decreased, resulting in developing short-term moisture deficits across the eastern Amhara, Tigray and Oromia regions. Over the last 30 days, satellite rainfall anomaly estimates depict anomalously dry conditions settling over the highland areas and eastern lowland areas of Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). In addition, anomalously dry conditions have also begun to develop across many parts of western Kenya and eastern Uganda since late March. Conversely, anomalously wet conditions have developed across a broad portion of South Sudan, eastern coastal Tanzania, and southern Somalia due to the enhanced rainfall in these regions during the last two weeks.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest the potential for locally heavy rainfall over parts of eastern Tanzania, with more seasonal amounts throughout Ethiopia. Meanwhile, suppressed rainfall is expected over parts of eastern Kenya and in southern Somalia in late April.

Many portions of tropical Africa experiencing an above-average ITF position.

During the second dekad of April, the mean dekadal position of the inter-tropical front (ITF) remained above it climatologically normal position throughout many countries in tropical Africa (**Figure 3**). The greatest anomalous position occurred throughout many parts of Chad and Sudan, where strong southerly flow, and lower-level convergence, led to increased amounts of early season precipitation in the region. In the Gulf of Guinea region, the ITF was remained closer to its climatological normal position, with the majority of seasonal rains mainly confined to the south of Burkina Faso.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 13 – April 19, 2014

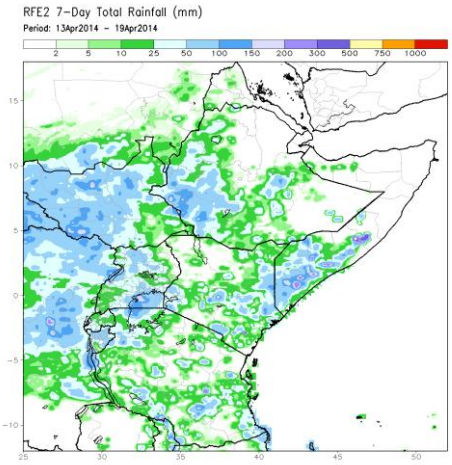


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 21 – April 19, 2014

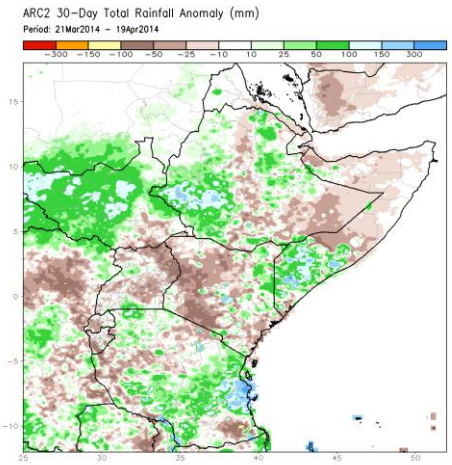


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) Position
Valid: April 11 – April 20, 2014

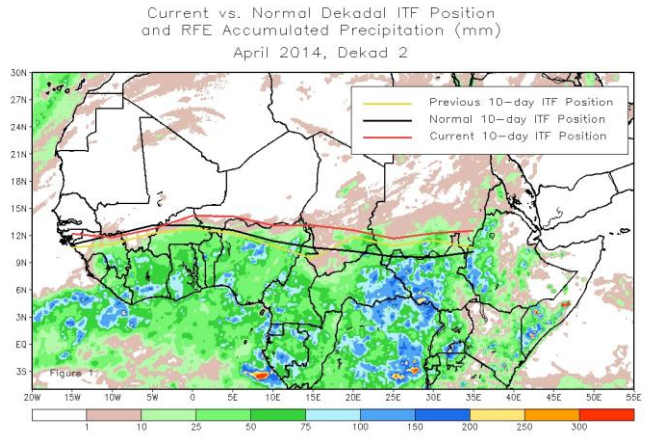


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.