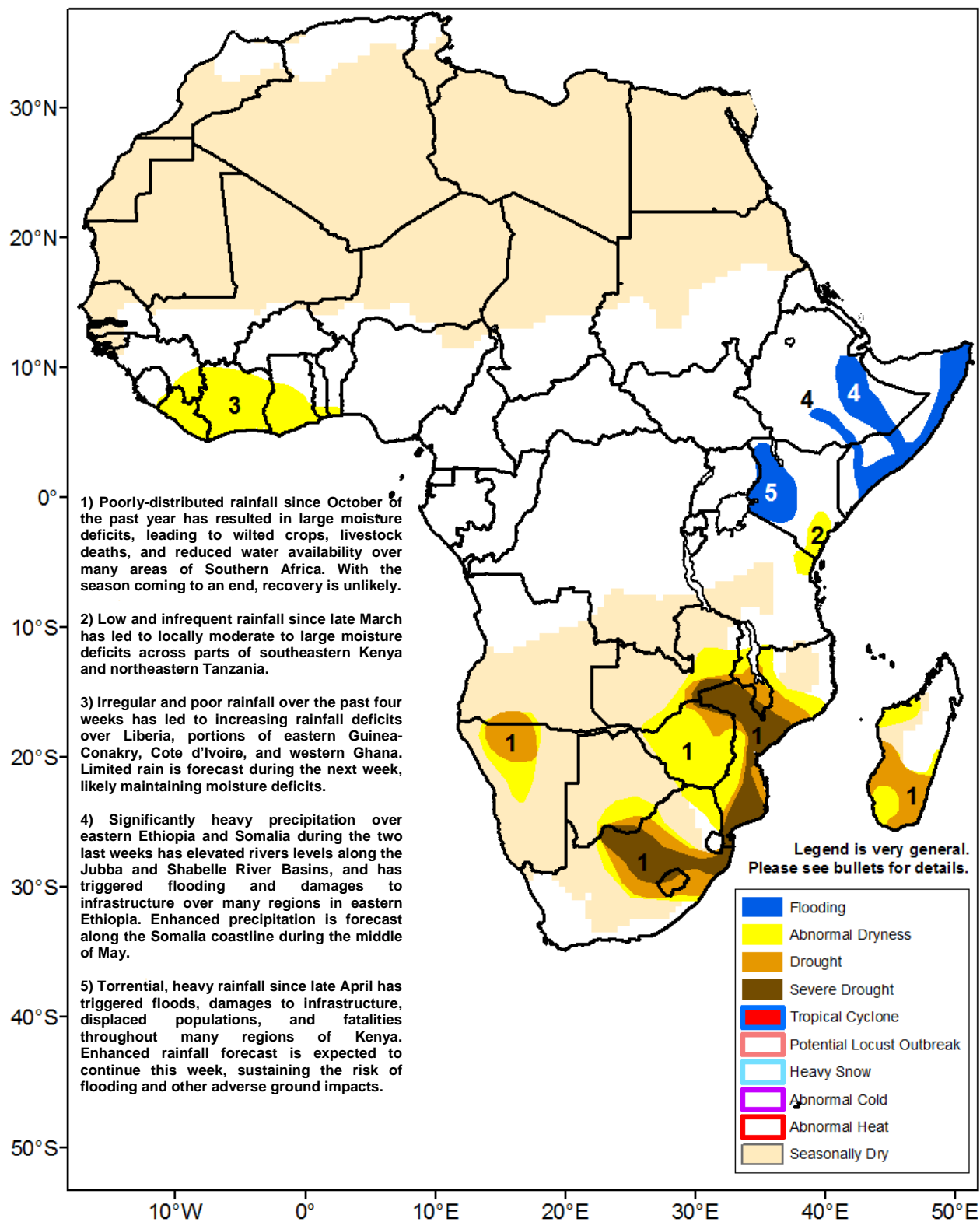




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 12 – May 18, 2016

- Above-average rainfall forecast to continue into mid-May throughout parts of the Greater Horn, sustaining the risk for flooding, adverse ground impacts.
- Little relief to dryness observed over the Gulf of Guinea region of West Africa.



Heavy rains continue throughout Greater Horn.

During late April and early May, much enhanced seasonal precipitation prevailed throughout the Greater Horn of Africa, bringing copious, flood inducing rains across many parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly rainfall accumulations were received over northern Ethiopia and northern Somalia (>150mm), with well distributed moderate and locally heavy amounts also received throughout South Sudan, southern Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and southern Somalia (Figure 1). Weekly rainfall continued to remain low and sporadic across southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania.

Following two consecutive weeks of heavy, above-average rainfall, several regions affected by poor rainfall and anomalous dryness earlier in the season have experienced a favorable recovery. However, this mid-season recovery has not been as pronounced over parts southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania, where seasonal moisture deficits have been sustained which may negatively impact ground conditions. Moreover, the current wet pattern has also adversely affected many areas in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia with localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations and fatalities. Additional rainfall in over the next few weeks is likely to sustain the risk of flooding before the end of the season, as the Jubba and Shabelle River basins have reported elevated levels both up and downstream.

During the upcoming outlook period, little relief to the wet pattern is expected; as weather models suggest a high potential for heavy rainfall along the Somalia coastline (Figure 2). Flood affected portions of southwestern Kenya are also forecast to receive heavy rainfall the next week as well. Portions of central and western Ethiopia are may also experience locally heavy rainfall as well.

Anomalous early season dryness expands throughout Gulf of Guinea region.

Following an anomalously wet March, low and poorly distributed rainfall has continued across many Gulf of Guinea countries leading to increased moisture deficits since the beginning of April. According to satellite rainfall estimates and the seasonal evolution of anomalies, the sharpest deterioration of moisture conditions has occurred over the southern portions of Ghana, Togo, Benin as rainfall deficits have strengthened in excess of 50mm (Figure 3). Here, rainfall has been low and poorly distributed since late March, which is likely to negatively impact early season cropping activities in the region. Model forecast suggest the continuation of average to below-average precipitation over the southern Gulf of Guinea 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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