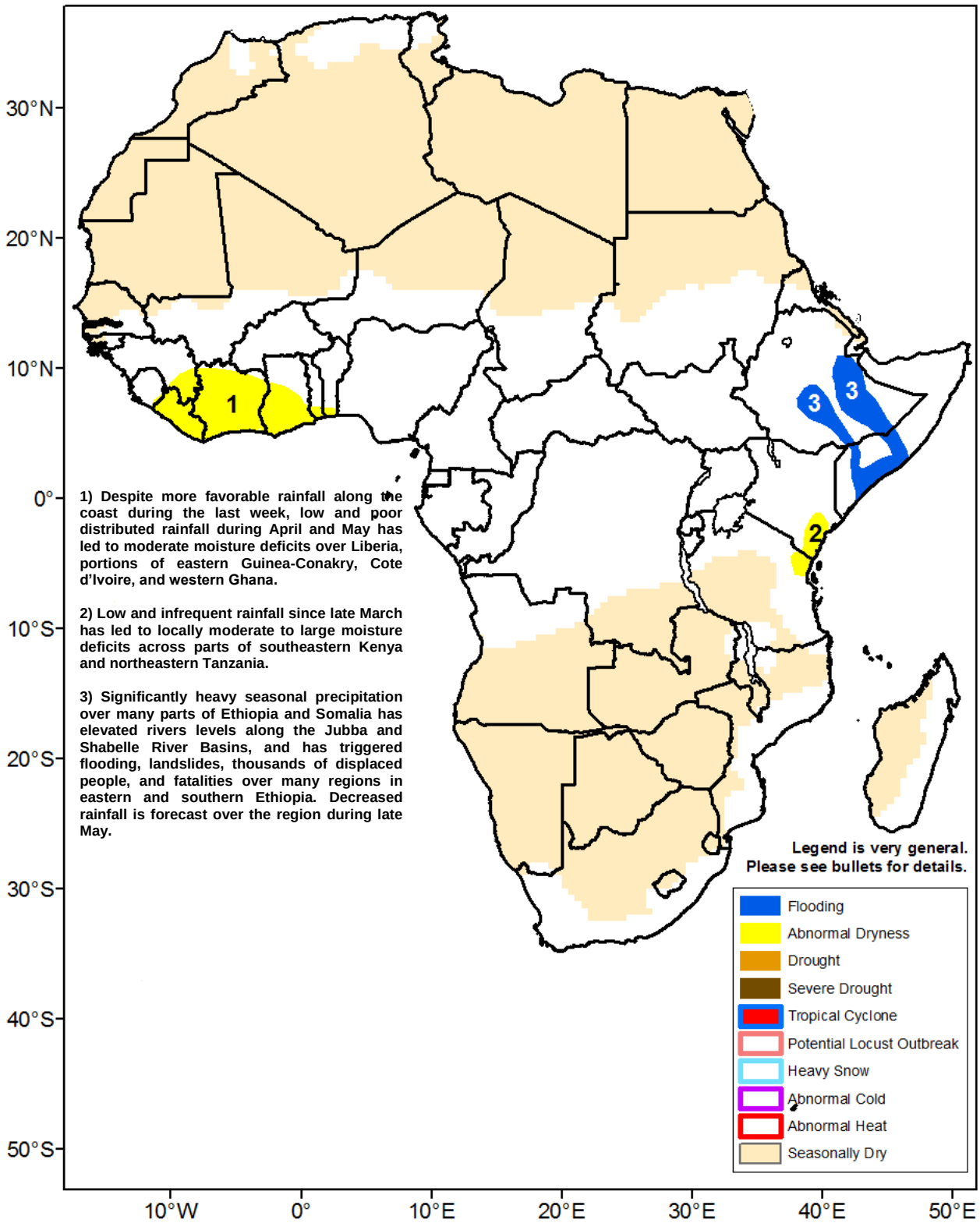
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 26 – June 1, 2016

- **High risk of river flooding continues throughout the Shabelle River basin in southern Somalia.**
- **Increased rains over parts of West Africa have led to improved moisture conditions across coastal Gulf of Guinea region.**



Thousands displaced due to floods along Shabelle River.

During the last week, a sharp decrease in rainfall was observed over many anomalously wet areas in the Greater Horn. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly rainfall accumulations were received across western Ethiopia and South Sudan, with many regions seeing over 75mm of precipitation. In the south, moderate to locally heavy rainfall accumulation were received across Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. In eastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and throughout much Somalia little to no precipitation amounts were received for the first since the beginning of the March-May rains season (**Figure 1**).

Despite the recent decrease in precipitation associated with the weakening of the March-May monsoon season, many local areas in southern Somalia reportedly experienced flooding, damages to crops and infrastructure, leading to the displacement of thousands along the Shabelle River during the last week. Many floods and other adverse ground impacts during the month of May have been attributed to persistent, heavy rainfall over many regions of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. Since late April, many local areas have received at least twice their normal rainfall accumulation (>200 percent of normal), with some local areas in central Ethiopia, and northern Somalia received nearly 4 times their normal rainfall amount over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). The excess rains and ground moisture continues to impact many downstream areas along the Shabelle River basin in eastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia.

During the upcoming outlook period, a seasonable decrease in rainfall is expected to continue, with little to no rain forecast for southern Somalia, eastern Ethiopia and eastern Kenya. Drier forecast conditions are likely to help provide relief to the overly saturated ground conditions to many anomalously wet portions of the Horn. However, the highest rainfall accumulations remain forecast further west across western Ethiopia and South Sudan, where the Ethiopia's Kiremt rains will soon be underway by early June.

Moisture recovery observed in coastal parts of Gulf of Guinea region.

In late May, increased rains were received across the Gulf of Guinea region, with locally heavy amounts (>75mm) received across southern portions of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria according to satellite rainfall estimates. Analysis of changes in rainfall anomalies depicts a marked improvement in 30-day moisture conditions for many Gulf of Guinea countries (**Figure 3**). For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of enhanced rainfall throughout the region, which is expected to help relieve anomalous dryness stemming from poor rains in April and early May.

Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 15 – May 21, 2016

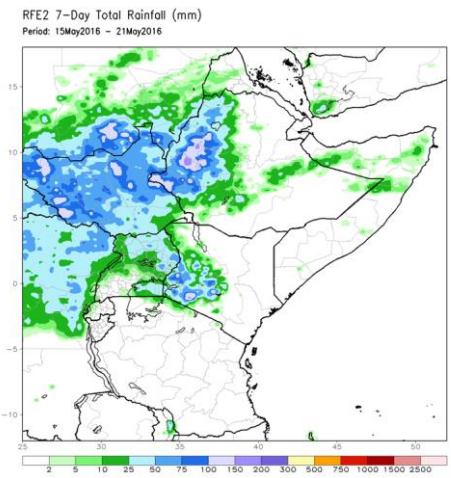


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimate 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: April 22 - May 21, 2016

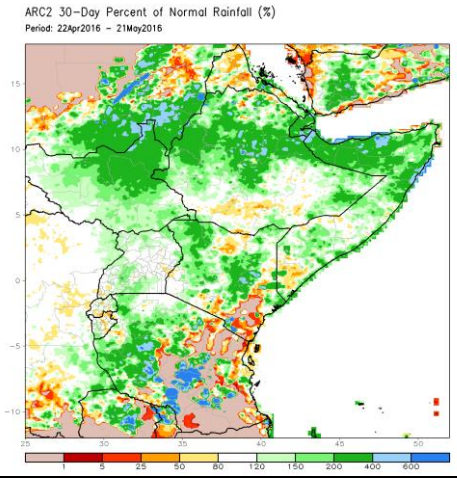


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated 30-Day Rainfall Anomaly Tendency (mm)
Valid: April 23 – May 22, 2016

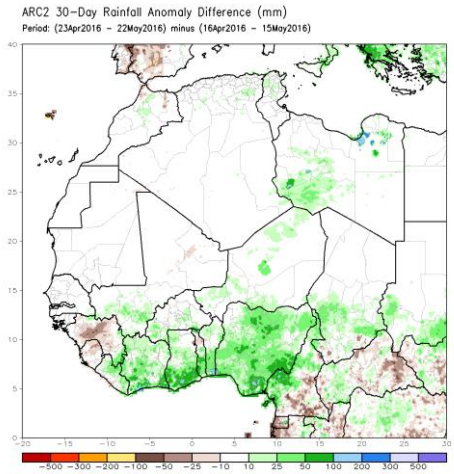


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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