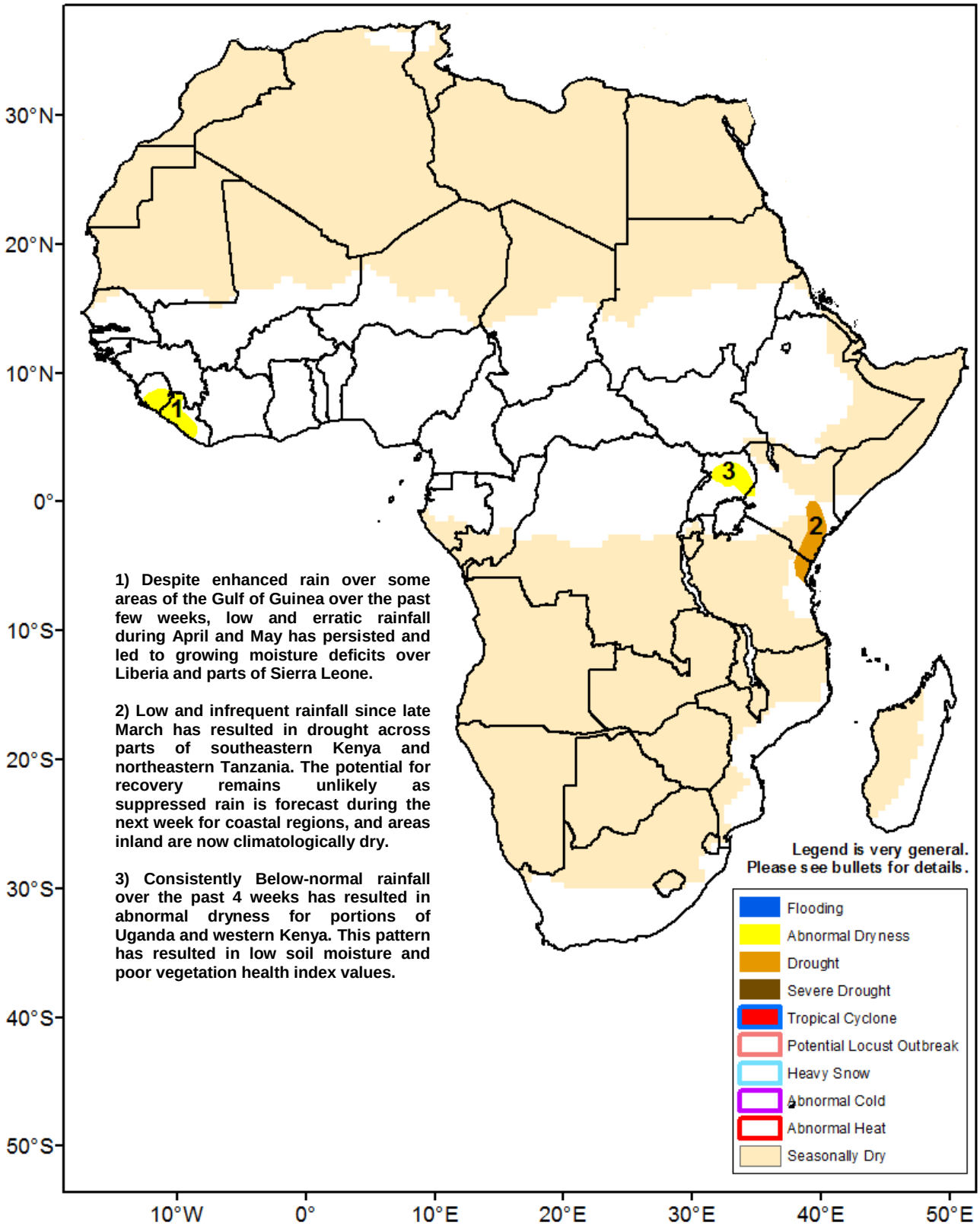
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
June 16 – June 22, 2016

- **Dryness is developing In Uganda and the Lake Victoria region.**
- **Enhanced rainfall next week may decrease moisture deficits in far western Africa.**



1) Despite enhanced rain over some areas of the Gulf of Guinea over the past few weeks, low and erratic rainfall during April and May has persisted and led to growing moisture deficits over Liberia and parts of Sierra Leone.

2) Low and infrequent rainfall since late March has resulted in drought across parts of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania. The potential for recovery remains unlikely as suppressed rain is forecast during the next week for coastal regions, and areas inland are now climatologically dry.

3) Consistently Below-normal rainfall over the past 4 weeks has resulted in abnormal dryness for portions of Uganda and western Kenya. This pattern has resulted in low soil moisture and poor vegetation health index values.

Increased rainfall this past week, helped to diminish deficits for some areas, but resulting in flooding for others.

Over the past 7 days, the heaviest rainfall was recorded in western portions of the Gulf of Guinea region. Parts of Guinea, southern Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana all received in excess of 150mm of rain according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Locally heavy rainfall in coastal Ghana reportedly resulted in flooding around Accra and Cape Coast. Many other areas throughout the western African region received near-normal rains for the week. Some of the driest areas of southern Sierra Leone and coastal Liberia largely missed out on the heaviest rains, so deficits remain little changed.

An analysis of the cumulative rainfall anomalies during the last 30 days still reveals an area of abnormal dryness in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Rainfall deficits range between 25-100mm there (**Figure 2**). Other local areas of deficits are evident in southern and central Nigeria. Rains have been frequent, if not as heavy as normal, so concern about ground impacts is minimal to this point. The precipitation anomaly field indicates that many other areas such as Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana have been wetter than normal during the past month or so. Most of central Africa has been wet as well.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest that rainfall will be above normal for most of the region. Local areas may see in excess of 100-150mm of rain. This is especially likely for areas in Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria. Widespread heavy rain may pose continued flooding risk for already wet areas like southern Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana. On the other hand, the pattern could eliminate abnormal dryness in far western Africa.

Suppression of rains for southern and eastern parts of the region raises concerns over dryness.

During the past week, the heaviest rainfall was confined to western Ethiopia according to satellite rainfall estimates. More than 200mm of rain was recorded in spots. Moderate, near-normal rains occurred for a large swath of Sudan into western South Sudan. Meanwhile, rainfall was significantly suppressed in southeastern South Sudan, Uganda, and through the Lake Victoria region of Kenya. Since this is another in several consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall for these regions, rainfall deficits have rapidly increased. As evidenced in **Figure 3**, 30-day deficits totaling more than 100mm now exist in Uganda and western Kenya. Negative anomalies are observed to stretch across much of the greater horn, while 30-day rainfall has been ample in western Ethiopia and the Sudans. With substantiation from soil moisture estimates and vegetation health indices, it is likely that effects of abnormal dryness are being felt on the ground in Uganda. Additionally, both a delayed start and an early end to the April-May (Gu) rains in southern Somalia is expected to adversely affect cropping there. Crop yields are expected to be reduced in the key producing areas of the Lower Shabelle and Bay. Drier-than-normal weather is forecasted for Uganda once again next week, while Western Ethiopia should see more heavy rains.

Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 8 – June 14, 2016

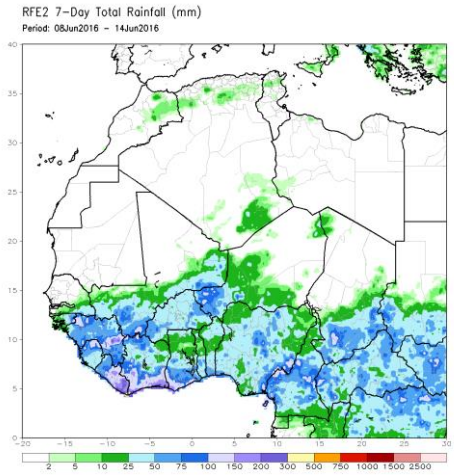


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimate Rainfall anomalies
Valid: May 16 – June 14, 2016

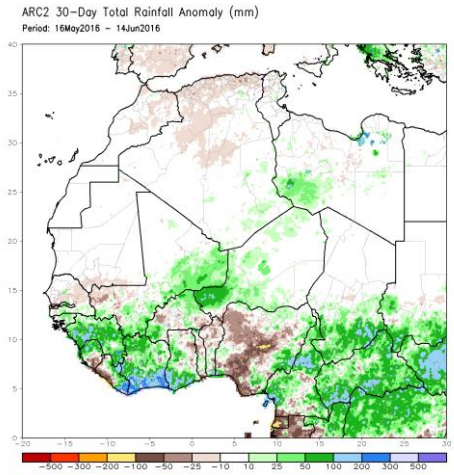


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly
Valid: May 16 – June 14, 2016

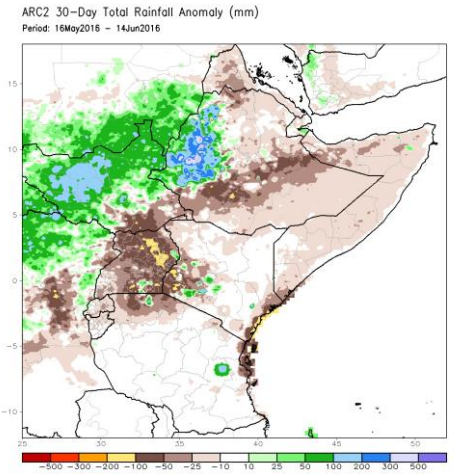


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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