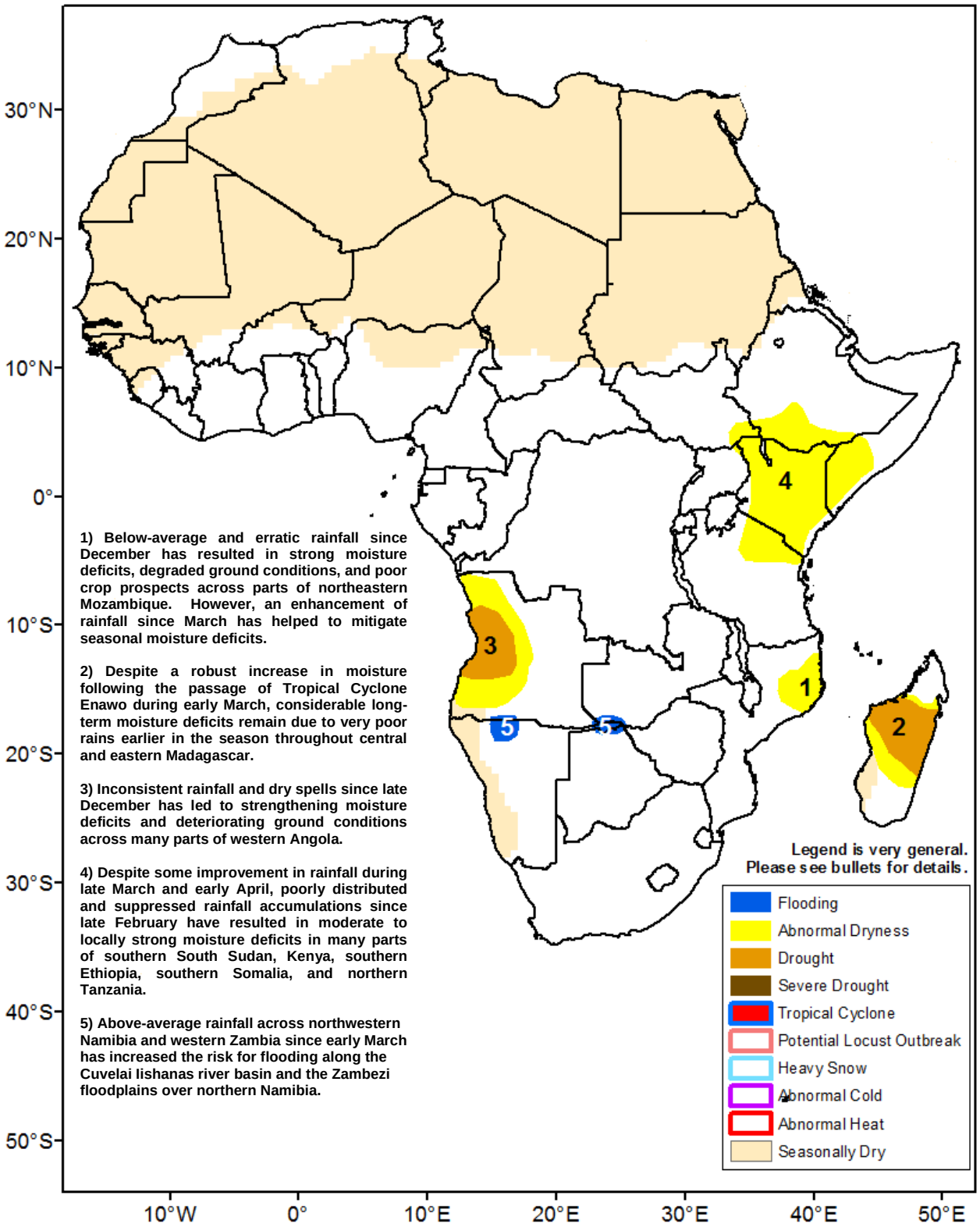
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# April 13 – 19, 2017

- **Below average rainfall forecast over East Africa expected to strengthen early season dryness.**
- **Well distributed weekly rains helps improve early season dryness across the Gulf of Guinea region.**




**1) Below-average and erratic rainfall since December has resulted in strong moisture deficits, degraded ground conditions, and poor crop prospects across parts of northeastern Mozambique. However, an enhancement of rainfall since March has helped to mitigate seasonal moisture deficits.**

**2) Despite a robust increase in moisture following the passage of Tropical Cyclone Enawo during early March, considerable long-term moisture deficits remain due to very poor rains earlier in the season throughout central and eastern Madagascar.**

**3) Inconsistent rainfall and dry spells since late December has led to strengthening moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions across many parts of western Angola.**

**4) Despite some improvement in rainfall during late March and early April, poorly distributed and suppressed rainfall accumulations since late February have resulted in moderate to locally strong moisture deficits in many parts of southern South Sudan, Kenya, southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northern Tanzania.**

**5) Above-average rainfall across northwestern Namibia and western Zambia since early March has increased the risk for flooding along the Cuvelai Iishanas river basin and the Zambezi floodplains over northern Namibia.**

**Improved rains registered in Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania during early April.**

During the last seven days, an increase in precipitation was received across several regions where seasonal rainfall was slow to begin during the spring season across the Greater Horn of Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, well distributed weekly accumulations ranging between 10-25mm with locally higher amounts were recorded along the Jubba and Shabelle river basin of southern Somalia, with comparable amounts registered in parts of central and eastern Kenya. Further south, a more robust increase in seasonal rainfall was also measured over the eastern provinces of Tanzania; however, seasonal rains remained relatively low across the bimodal areas of the country along the southern Kenya border. Further west, a seasonable distribution of rainfall was received across Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan (**Figure 1**).

Despite the increase in rainfall during early April, several previous weeks of suppressed rainfall during March has led to early season dryness across portions of Kenya, southern Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Sudan and southern Somalia. Analysis of the evolution of 30-day rainfall anomalies since early March suggests little change in the seasonal moisture deficits across Kenya and Tanzania. In Ethiopia, moisture deficits have slightly strengthened over parts of the SNNP, Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regions, however, more neutral to above-average conditions in the Afar region are being observed further north (**Figure 2**).

During the next week, decreased rains forecast across southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya (5-10mm), with more light to locally moderate rainfall amounts expected for southern Kenya, northern Tanzania and Ethiopia. This outlook is not expected to improve abnormal seasonal dryness throughout Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, and southern Ethiopia.

**7-Day Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: April 02 – April 08, 2017**

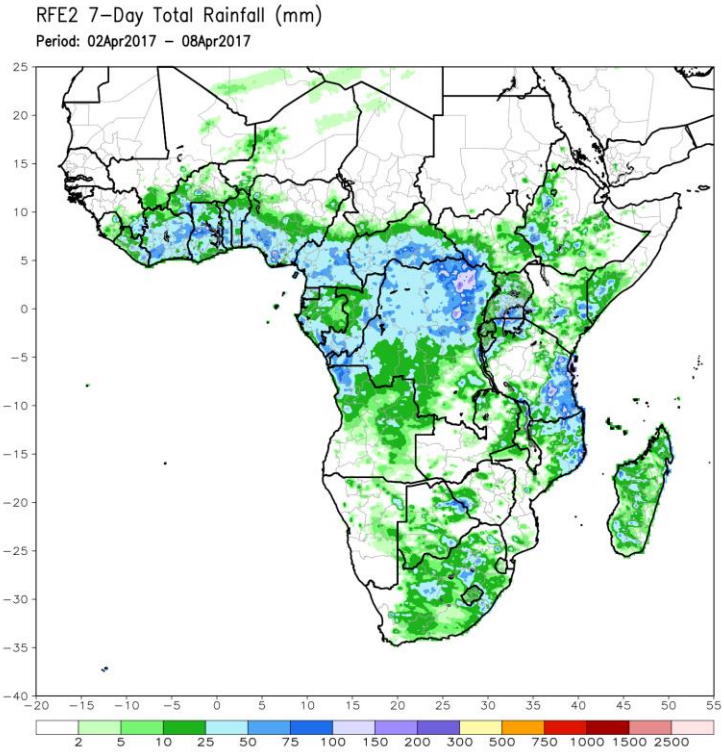



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

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**Increased rainfall received in West Africa.**

Compared to the last several weeks, a more vigorous distribution of early season rainfall was observed over West Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly rainfall accumulations were recorded across central Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana (>50mm), with a well-covered distribution of rainfall (>25mm) from Guinea to Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The shape this past week's rainfall distribution, however, has not changed much since March, as tilt in the ITCZ/ITF over Nigeria has left several central Nigerian provinces lacking in rains compared to other areas towards the west.

During the past week, precipitation models an eastward shift of the heavier rainfall over Nigeria, which is expected to help alleviate early season dryness. Conversely, a decrease in seasonal rainfall is expected over much of Cote d'Iviore, Ghana, Togo and Benin during the middle of April. Portions of Liberia and Sierra Leone are forecast to receive increased rains.

**30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: March 10 – April 08, 2017**

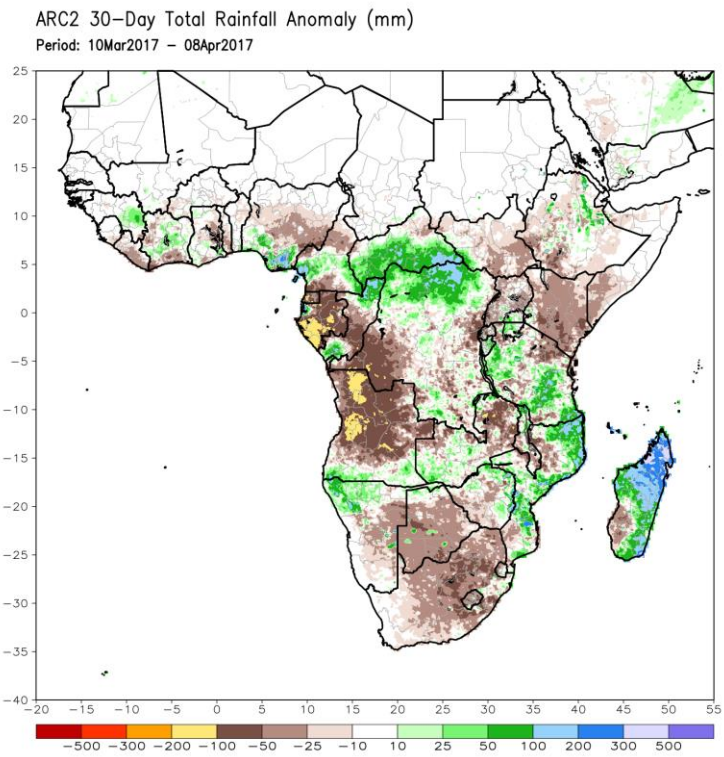


**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**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.