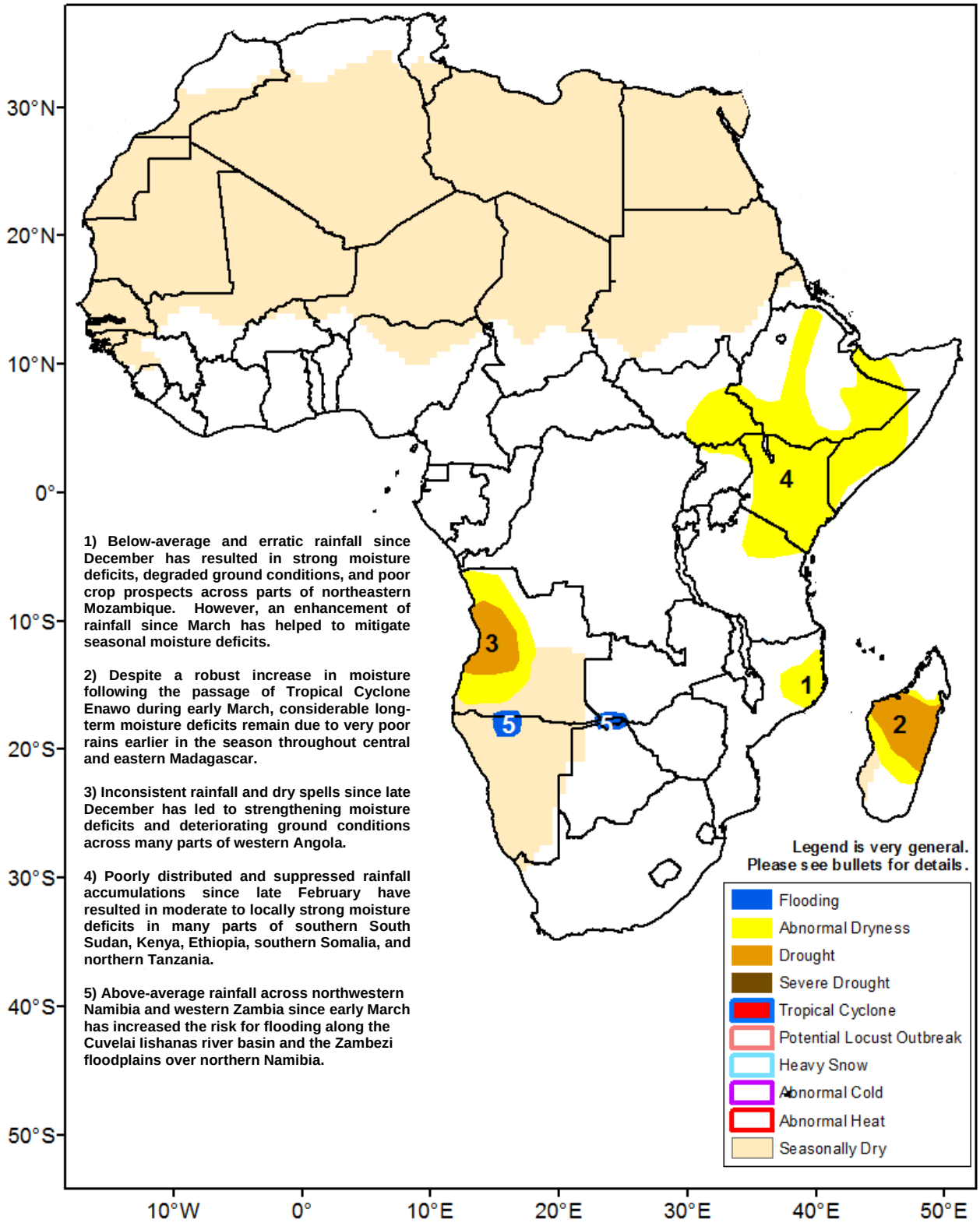
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# April 20 – 26, 2017

- **Continued poor rainfall has strengthened anomalous seasonal dryness throughout many parts of East Africa.**
- **Heavy rainfall amounts received throughout southern Nigeria.**




**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) 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, 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.**

**Seasonal dryness worsens in Ethiopia, and in other parts of the Horn.**

During the last seven days, an unusual spatial distribution of rains was mainly concentrated in western Ethiopia, which left many other regions in the country with insufficient rains and ground moisture. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations were received along the border between Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia with accumulations ranging between 25-75mm, with mostly reduced and poorly distributed amounts throughout the higher elevations of Ethiopia (**Figure 1**). In southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, increased amounts of rainfall were received; however, many anomalously dry portions of central and southern Kenya experienced low rainfall amounts. Locally heavy rains were received in the eastern bimodal areas of Tanzania.

Analysis of the evolution of 30-day precipitation anomalies over the past few weeks depict a broad-scale strengthening of dryness over East Africa. Despite the enhancement of rainfall in model guidance over the past few weeks, wetter conditions have not verified; resulting in sustained seasonal dryness and further decreasing the opportunity for recovery later in the season. Currently, moderate to large moisture deficits (25-100mm) are encompassing much of Kenya, southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia, and portions of Uganda and South Sudan (**Figure 2**). In addition, rainfall activity in the belg-producing regions of Ethiopia has decreased, leading to a strengthening of moisture deficits and elevating risk of adverse impacts on cropping activities.

During the upcoming outlook period, an increase in rainfall is forecast mainly across many parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia, with amounts ranging between 25-50mm. Although rainfall should be favorable, this outlook is not expected to substantially improve abnormal seasonal dryness throughout Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

**7-Day Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: April 12 – April 18, 2017**

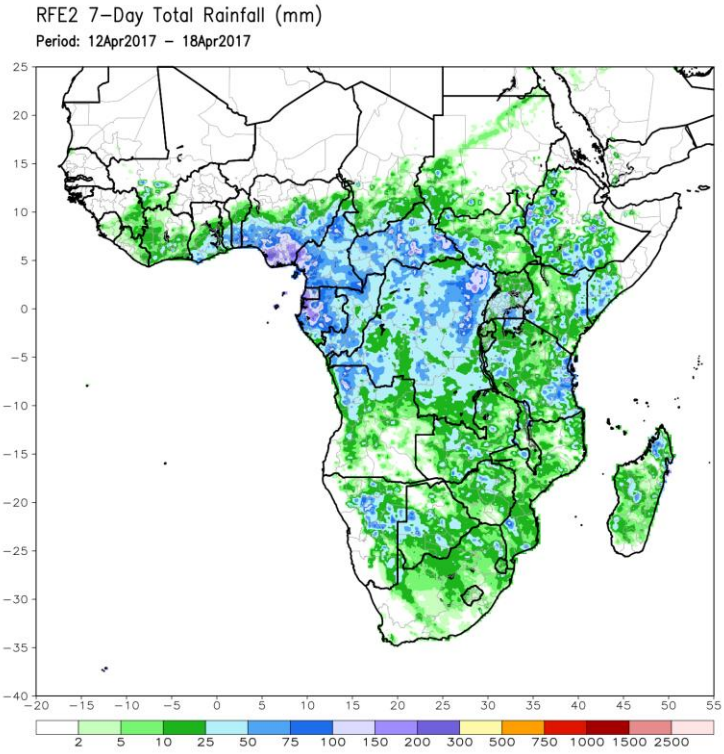



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: March 20 – April 18, 2017**

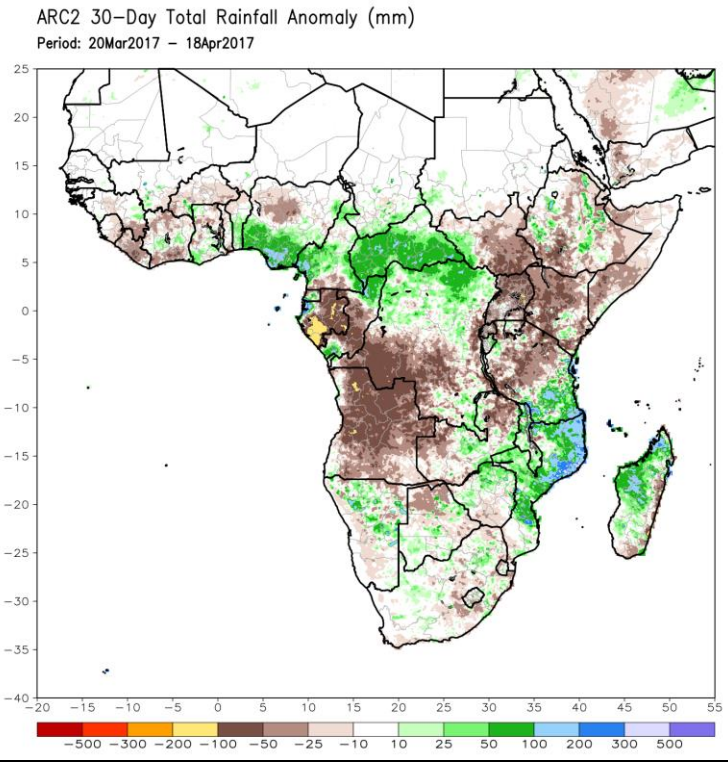



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

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**Increased rainfall received in Nigeria, drier conditions observed over Guinea, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire.**

During the middle of April, widespread and significantly heavy rains were received over Nigeria, with amounts exceeding 100mm over several southern and central provinces. The northward shift of higher rainfall accumulations over portions of central Nigeria is expected to help mitigate early season dryness, however other central provinces remain below-average with deficits ranging between 25-50mm since mid-March (**Figure 2**). Further west, recently suppressed rains have led to strengthening of seasonal dryness across parts of southeastern Guinea, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.

During the next week, precipitation models suggest a return towards more seasonable rainfall during late April. Well distributed weekly rainfall amounts ranging between 25-50mm over several Gulf of Guinea countries.

**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.