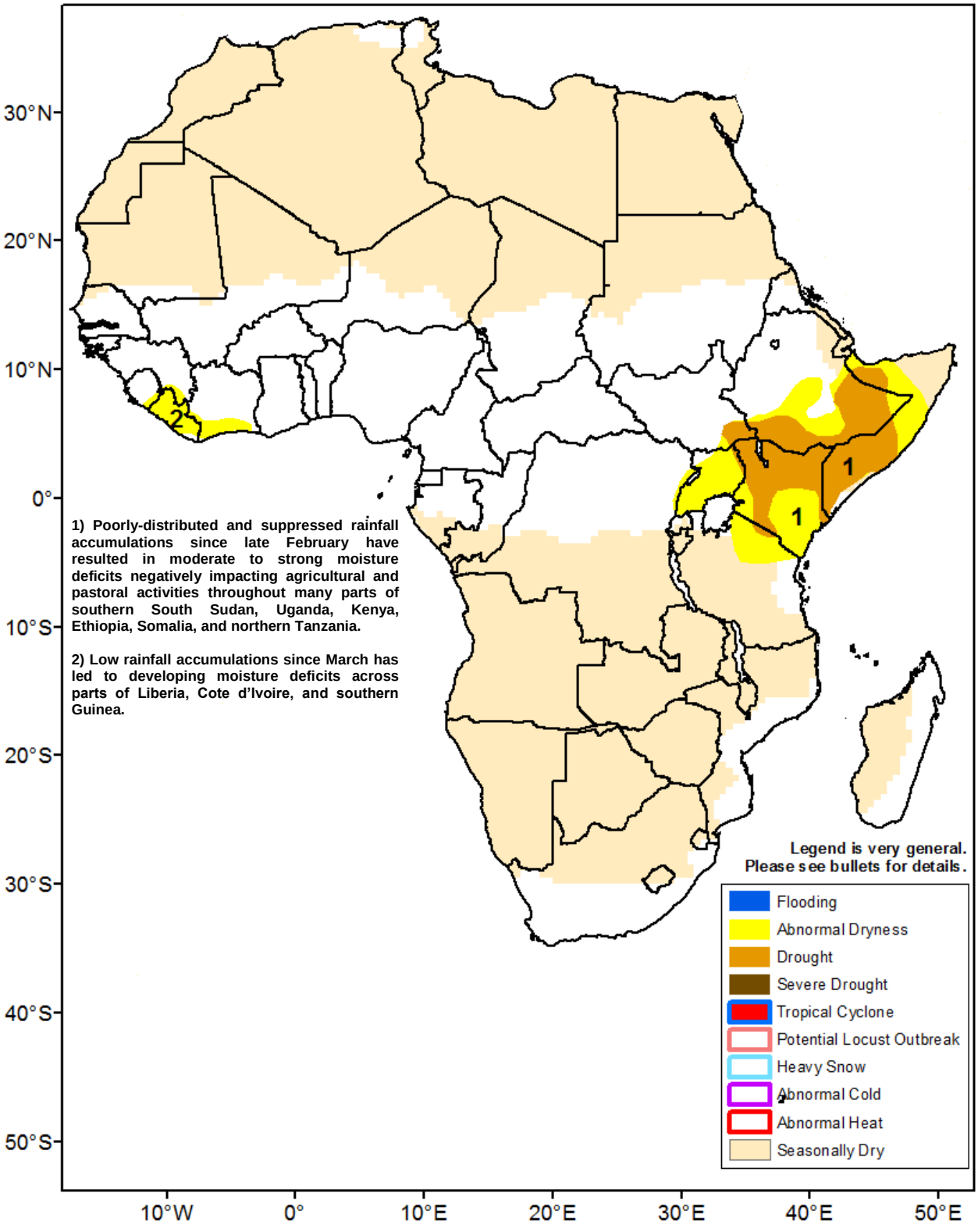
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
June 8 – June 14, 2017

- **Abnormal seasonal dryness strengthens over the southern Gulf of Guinea countries.**



Early season rains continue over parts of Sahel.

During the last seven days, seasonal rainfall over West Africa continued to increase and shift northwards into parts of the Sahel. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) were received over the southern portions of the Gulf of Guinea countries, with more moderate, but well distributed rainfall amounts received towards the north (**Figure 1**). A surge of rainfall and moisture was observed across parts of western and central Niger during the last week. Further West, the return of drier conditions was also observed over parts of Senegal.

As of early June, there has been little change to the performance of West Africa rainfall, and in distribution of seasonal moisture anomalies. Analysis of the latest 30-day precipitation anomalies depicts generally average to above-average rainfall conditions in northern portion of West Africa (lower Sahel), with pockets of below-average conditions in the Gulf of Guinea countries. The anomalous early season wetness is mainly prevalent over southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger, where many local areas have received nearly twice as much rainfall as they normally receive for the month of May (**Figure 2**). This surplus in moisture is expected to benefit ground conditions for subsequent cropping activities for the season. Conversely, suppressed rainfall towards the south has led to a steady increase in moisture deficits mainly over Liberia, and in some provinces over southern Cote D'Ivoire. Over the last couple weeks, rainfall has improved over northern Ghana.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest an enhancement over parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, Burkina Faso and western Niger, where parts of eastern Liberia, southern Cote d'Ivoire and southern Ghana are likely to see suppressed rainfall by the middle of June. The continuation of low rainfall totals in these areas is likely to strengthen early season dryness and may negatively impact ground conditions for cropping activities.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 29 – June 4, 2017

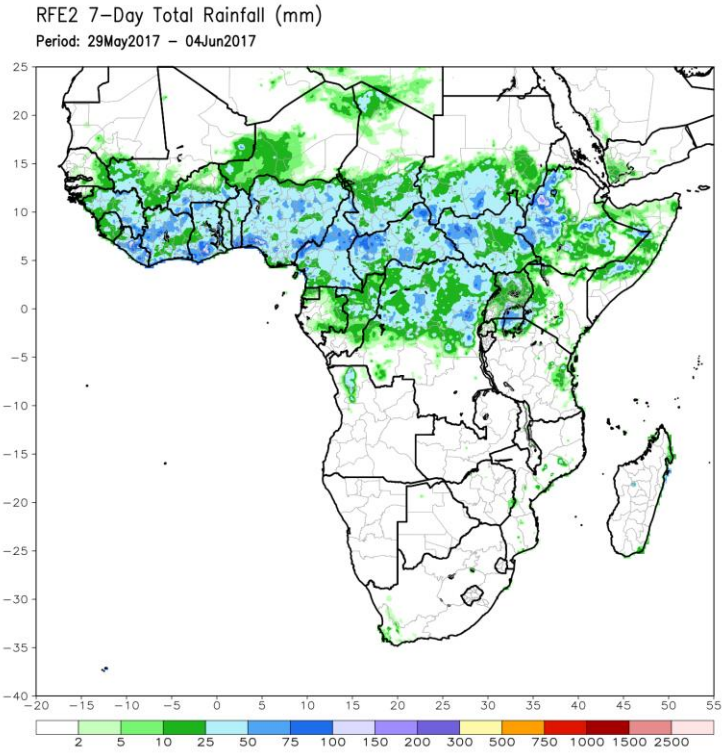


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Seasonal Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: May 6 – June 4, 2017

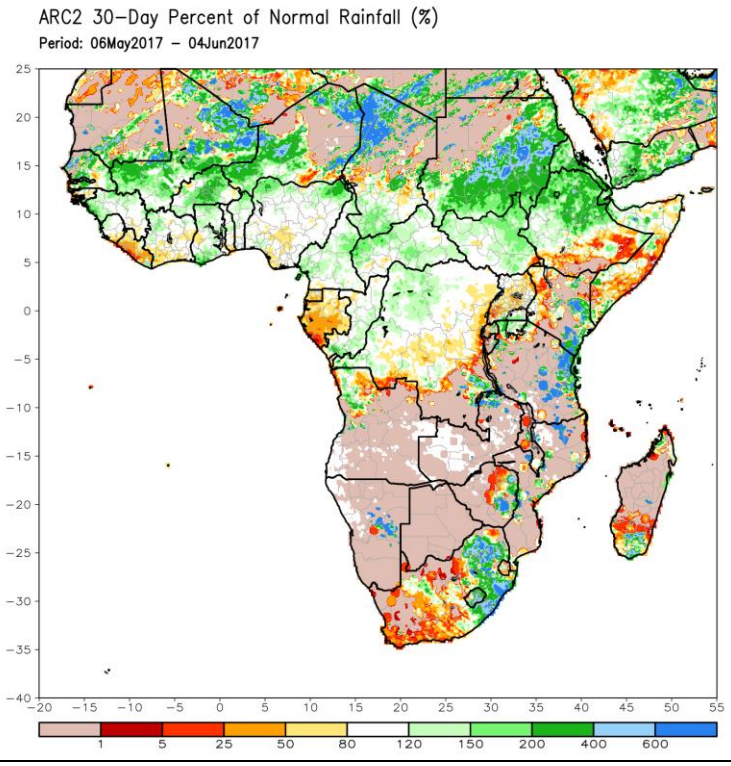


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Widespread, anomalously wet rainfall continues over western Ethiopia and Sudan.

While much of the East Africa experienced a very poor Mar-May rains season, the performance of seasonal rainfall further north in Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan has been uncharacteristically early and wet compared to climatology. Many areas of western Ethiopia have experienced several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall, which has led to a strengthening of moisture surpluses throughout the region. Analysis of latest 30-day precipitation anomalies suggests many areas having received more than twice their normal accumulation (**Figure 2**), with similar positive anomalies observed as far as southwestern Sudan. This is expected to be favorable for both pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, however, continued heavy rains over these areas also increases the risk for flooding into June.

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.