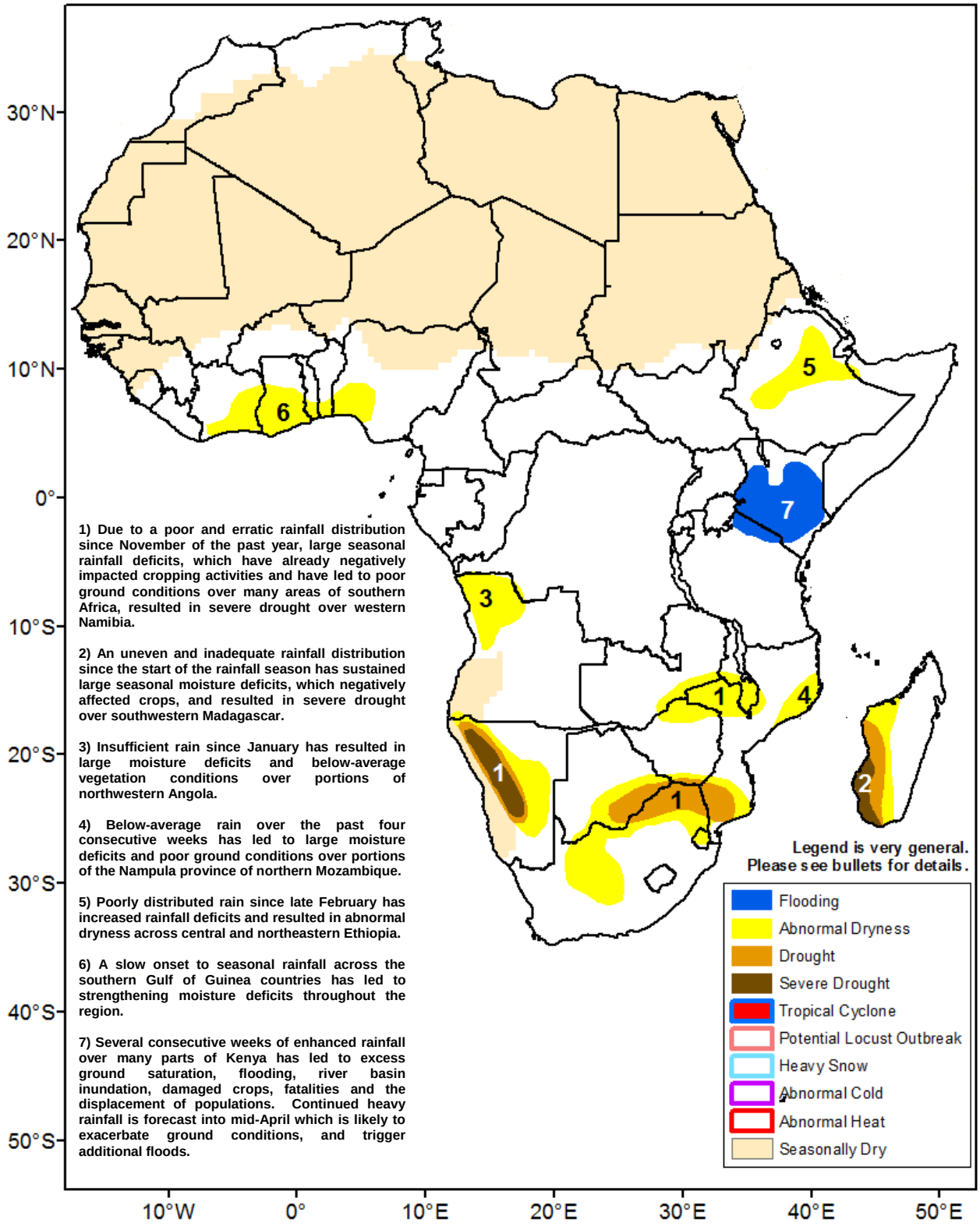
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# April 12 – April 18, 2018

- **Enhanced rainfall received throughout many areas in the Greater Horn during early April.**




**1) Due to a poor and erratic rainfall distribution since November of the past year, large seasonal rainfall deficits, which have already negatively impacted cropping activities and have led to poor ground conditions over many areas of southern Africa, resulted in severe drought over western Namibia.**

**2) An uneven and inadequate rainfall distribution since the start of the rainfall season has sustained large seasonal moisture deficits, which negatively affected crops, and resulted in severe drought over southwestern Madagascar.**

**3) Insufficient rain since January has resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola.**

**4) Below-average rain over the past four consecutive weeks has led to large moisture deficits and poor ground conditions over portions of the Nampula province of northern Mozambique.**

**5) Poorly distributed rain since late February has increased rainfall deficits and resulted in abnormal dryness across central and northeastern Ethiopia.**

**6) A slow onset to seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits throughout the region.**

**7) Several consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall over many parts of Kenya has led to excess ground saturation, flooding, river basin inundation, damaged crops, fatalities and the displacement of populations. Continued heavy rainfall is forecast into mid-April which is likely to exacerbate ground conditions, and trigger additional floods.**

**Increased, widespread rainfall brings some relief to anomalously dry area of Ethiopia.**

During the last week, an increase in the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa, with several locations in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia receiving precipitation for the first time this season. Further south, well distributed rainfall was also received throughout Uganda, Kenya and northern Tanzania, with the highest weekly accumulations (>75mm) recorded near the Lake Victoria region of Kenya, and over several local areas in the Oromia and SNNP provinces of Ethiopia (**Figure 1**). Towards the west, a favorable distribution of rains was recorded throughout South Sudan and southern Sudan.

The recent increase in seasonal rainfall across the Horn was needed, as many Belg producing regions of Ethiopia have experienced a pronounced delay in seasonal rainfall, with moisture shortages having rapidly developed throughout the month of March. While the enhanced precipitation during early April has helped to mitigate anomalous dryness in some areas, there are still many areas in the northern Oromia, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Somali that remain well below-average since early March (**Figure 2**). The largest moisture deficits remain near Dire Dawa over the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, where many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation for period. The continuation of suppressed precipitation in April is likely to adversely impact ground conditions and cropping activities, as there is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains begin their cessation in May over the region.

Further south, significantly high moisture surpluses (100-200mm) continue to encompass much of Kenya and northern Tanzania due to heavy rainfall during March. With last week's moderate to locally heavy rainfall over the Garissa and Isiolo regions, and Tana River basin, saturated ground conditions are likely to sustain the risk for localized flash floods and river basin inundation over parts of Kenya.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest the continuation of significantly heavy rainfall over Ethiopia. Widespread weekly accumulations in excess of 50mm are expected throughout southern and eastern Ethiopia, with higher amounts also expected across many Belg producing areas to help continue to alleviate seasonal dryness.

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**Delayed onset of rains observed across southern Gulf of Guinea countries.**

For the several consecutive weeks, light and poorly distributed rainfall amounts have been observed over southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria according to satellite rainfall estimates. Since early March, early seasonal moisture deficits have increased, leaving many local areas with less than half of their normally accumulated rainfall, which is expected to increase the risk for adverse ground impacts unfavorable for cropping activities.

During the next week, increased and possibly above-average rainfall is forecast for many western Gulf of Guinea countries, with more seasonable rainfall amounts expected for Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria during mid-April.

**Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: April 2 – April 8, 2018**

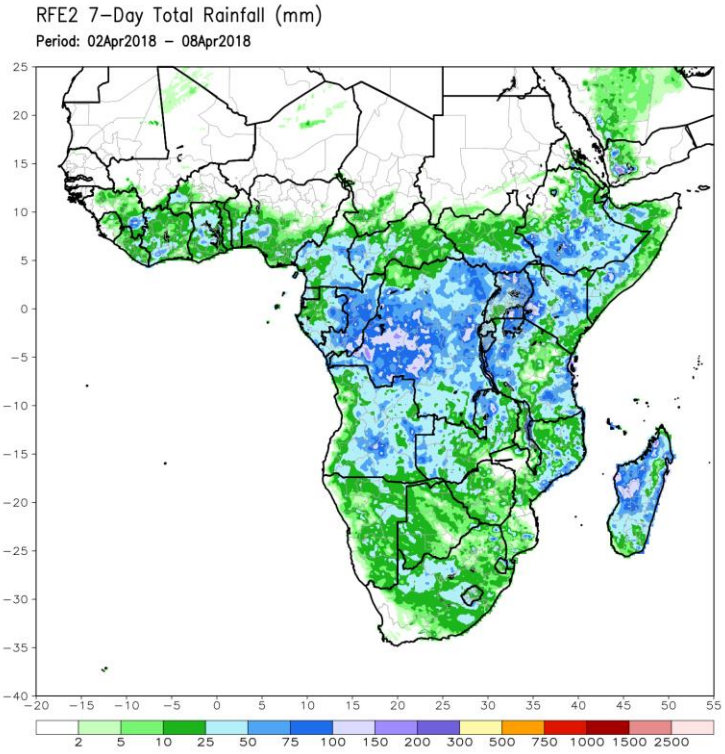


**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: March 10 – April 8, 2018**

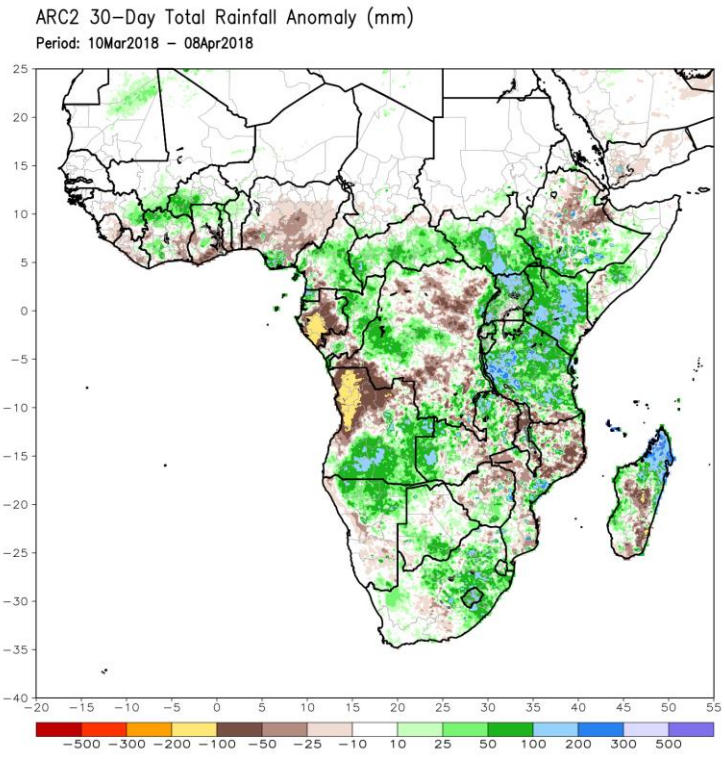


**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**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.**

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