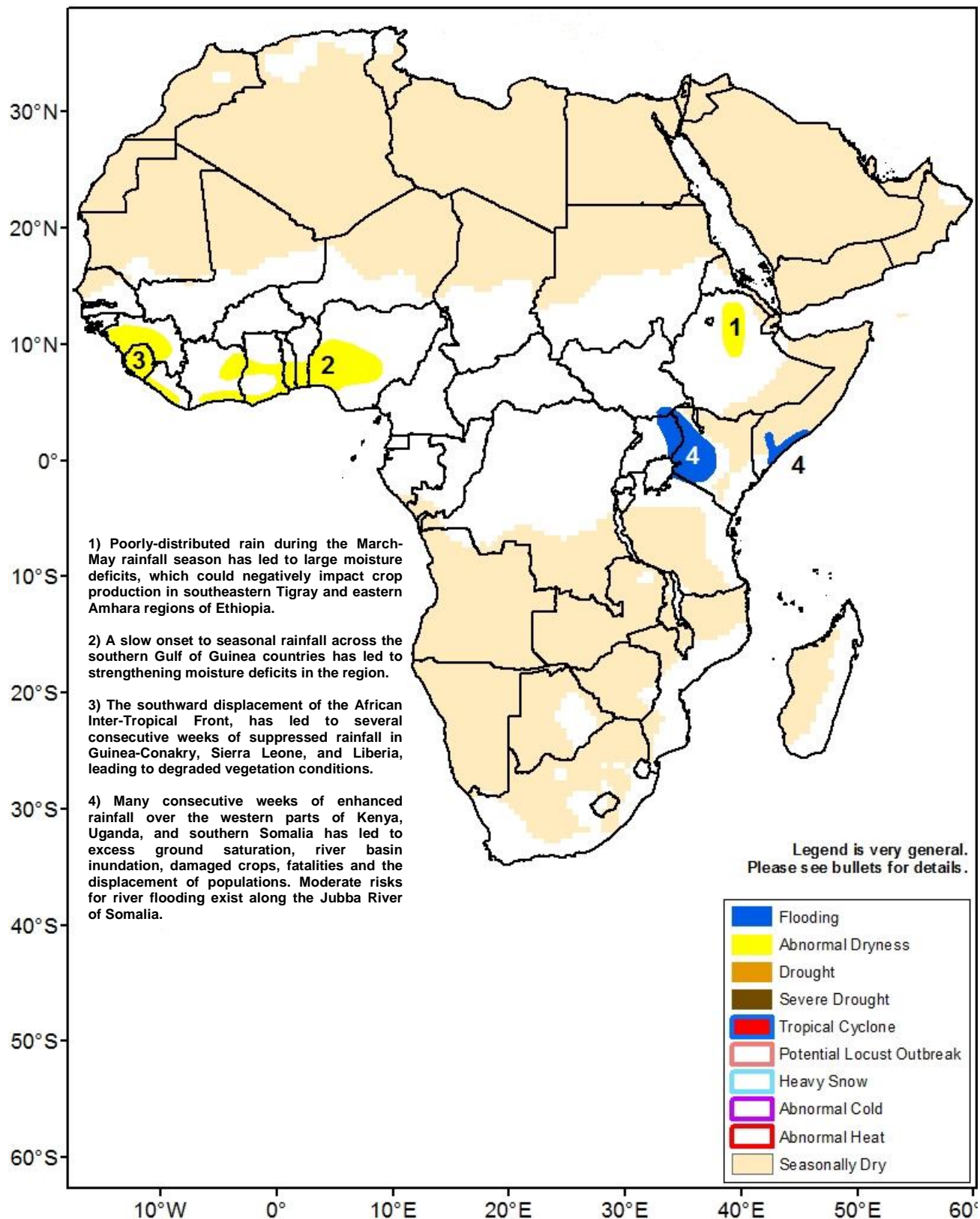




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 7 – 13, 2018

- Despite an increase in rain during late May, abnormal dryness has persisted over many areas of West Africa.
- High risks for flooding remain over parts of Kenya as heavy rain is forecast during the next week.



## Wetter than average conditions observed across much of the Horn of Africa

An analysis of the cumulative rain since April showed that above-average rain prevailed across much of eastern Africa, except northern Ethiopia, where below-average rain was registered (**Figure 1**). In northern Ethiopia, the dryness resulted from a delayed onset of the seasonal rain, followed by prolonged dry spells. In contrast, ample rain fell over the southern portions of eastern Africa. Over Kenya, rainfall surpluses exceeded 300 mm over some areas. The well above-average rain was attributable to low-level convergence of anomalous southwesterlies and stronger than normal cross-equatorial flow during the period. This resulted in flooding, fatalities, and damaged infrastructures over many areas. Farther north, in Yemen, the passage of Tropical cyclones Sagar and Mekunu during the recent weeks has, in general, resulted in average to above-average rain across the country.

As a response to an uneven rainfall distribution over the past several weeks, below-average vegetation conditions were observed across western and northern Ethiopia, while favorable and above-average conditions were registered elsewhere. As the June-September rainfall season progresses, favorable rain is needed to improve ground conditions and aid cropping activities over many local areas.

During the next week, abundant rain is forecast across western and central Ethiopia, western and central Kenya. This, therefore, maintains elevated risks for flooding over many already-saturated and flood-prone areas in the region.

## Scattered, moderate to heavy rain observed over West Africa during the past week

During the past week, scattered, moderate to heavy rain fell over West Africa. This included Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, parts of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and southern Chad (**Figure 2**). Moderate to heavy rain also fell in eastern Liberia, southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, northern Benin, coastal and central Nigeria, while light rain was received elsewhere. Despite some increase in rainfall during middle and late May, the slow onset to the season and erratic rainfall distribution over the past few weeks has maintained thirty-day moisture deficits over many areas of West Africa, including Guinea-Conakry, parts of Mali, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and portions of central Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Over far western West Africa, the anomalous southerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front during early and mid-May contributed to insufficient rain over Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone.

As a result, recent Vegetation Health and Normalized Difference Vegetation anomaly indices showed deteriorated conditions over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, as well as portions of central Benin and western Nigeria, but neutral to above-average conditions elsewhere. The continuation of an uneven rainfall distribution over the upcoming weeks could negatively impact agricultural activities over many local areas or the region.

During the next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Mali, northern Cote d'Ivoire, and western Burkina Faso, which should help to erode deficits and improve ground conditions over many areas. Heavy rain also is expected in northwestern Nigeria, while limited with little to light rain is forecast across the 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.**

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