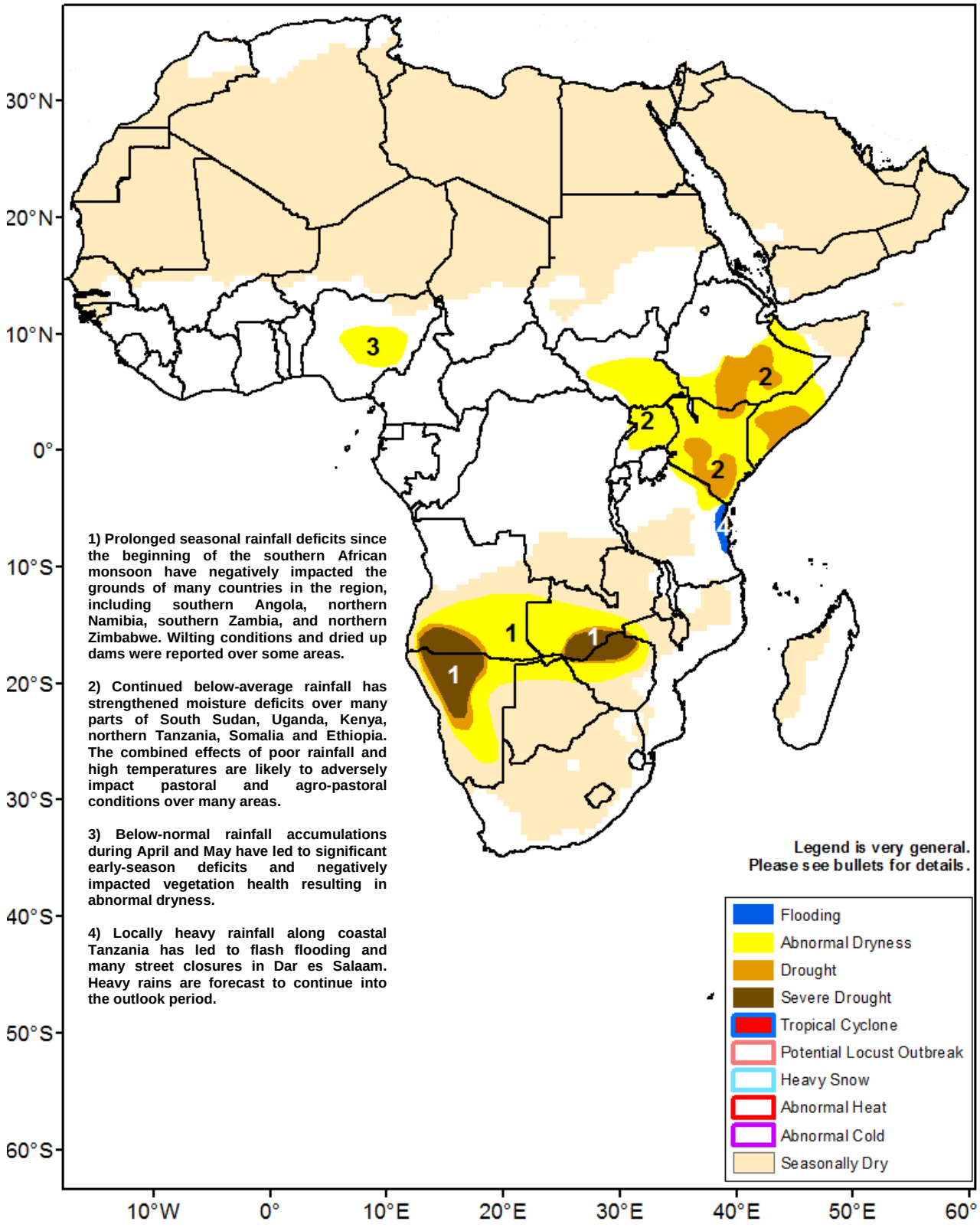
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
## May 16 – May 22, 2019

- **Suppressed rain persisted for much of the greater horn but rain increased over southern Ethiopia and Somalia.**
- **Another week of suppressed rainfall has led to abnormally dry conditions in Nigeria.**




**1) Prolonged seasonal rainfall deficits since the beginning of the southern African monsoon have negatively impacted the grounds of many countries in the region, including southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, and northern Zimbabwe. Wilting conditions and dried up dams were reported over some areas.**

**2) Continued below-average rainfall has strengthened moisture deficits over many parts of South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, northern Tanzania, Somalia and Ethiopia. The combined effects of poor rainfall and high temperatures are likely to adversely impact pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions over many areas.**

**3) Below-normal rainfall accumulations during April and May have led to significant early-season deficits and negatively impacted vegetation health resulting in abnormal dryness.**

**4) Locally heavy rainfall along coastal Tanzania has led to flash flooding and many street closures in Dar es Salaam. Heavy rains are forecast to continue into the outlook period.**

**Rains were heavier and more widespread in East Africa but still below average for many areas.**

During the last 7 days, a significant increase in rainfall was widespread throughout Ethiopia and Somalia. This was the first significant rain in weeks for northern Somalia and parts of eastern Ethiopia. Heavy rainfall totals of as much as 100mm or more were received in southern Ethiopia and central Somalia (**Figure 1**). More moderate rain moved into many parts of South Sudan and Uganda. Heavy rainfall (100-200mm) was recorded in eastern Tanzania by satellite estimates. These heavy rains in a short period of time flooded many streets in Dar es Salaam. On the other hand, much of Kenya, southern Somalia, and parts of Tanzania received very little rainfall. 7-day deficits of at least 10-25mm were prevalent in Ethiopia and western Kenya.

With expanding and locally heavy rain spreading into previously dry regions of eastern Ethiopia and Somalia, some positive impact was made on longer-term anomalies. Still, much of East Africa remains below average in total seasonal performance due to the suppressed and sporadic rainfall activity that prevailed throughout March, April, and early May. Currently, many regions in Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are experiencing less than 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation, with the poorest conditions (<25 percent of normal) concentrated over more climatologically arid areas of southeastern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and neighboring provinces of Somalia (**Figure 2**). Until heavier than normal rains spread over South Sudan this past week, strengthening of anomalous dryness was prevalent throughout the country in April. For Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, the continuation of suppressed rainfall into May has led to drought-like conditions and is likely adversely impacting many agro-pastoral and pastoral areas. Additionally, poor rainfall from last year's Oct-Dec rains season is likely to exacerbate ground conditions, increasing the concern for water shortages and food insecurity throughout the Greater Horn.

During the outlook period, models suggest increased precipitation over Ethiopia and northern Somalia, where rains could be locally heavy. Heavier rains are also likely in coastal Tanzania once again, as well as in eastern DRC and Uganda. Light rains are predicted elsewhere.

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**Seasonal deficits are expanding in Nigeria as well as Western Gulf of Guinea countries.**

Many parts of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria received 25-75mm of rainfall during the past week. Lighter amounts were received in far-western Gulf of Guinea nations. These totals resulted in negative anomalies both in the western Gulf of Guinea countries and in Nigeria. Over the last month, the far-western Gulf of Guinea countries have been slightly drier than normal, but the largest anomalies are present in Nigeria. Negative 30-day anomalies there reach more than 100mm or less than 50 percent of normal. Though rainy days have still been relatively frequent, adverse impacts to vegetation health are evident in both NDVI and VHI. Conversely, positive 30-day anomalies reach 50-100mm in Ghana and Burkina Faso. The forecast favors further suppression of rain in Nigeria during the outlook period, but generally seasonable precipitation elsewhere in the West Africa region.

**7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)**
**Valid: May 8 –May 14, 2019**

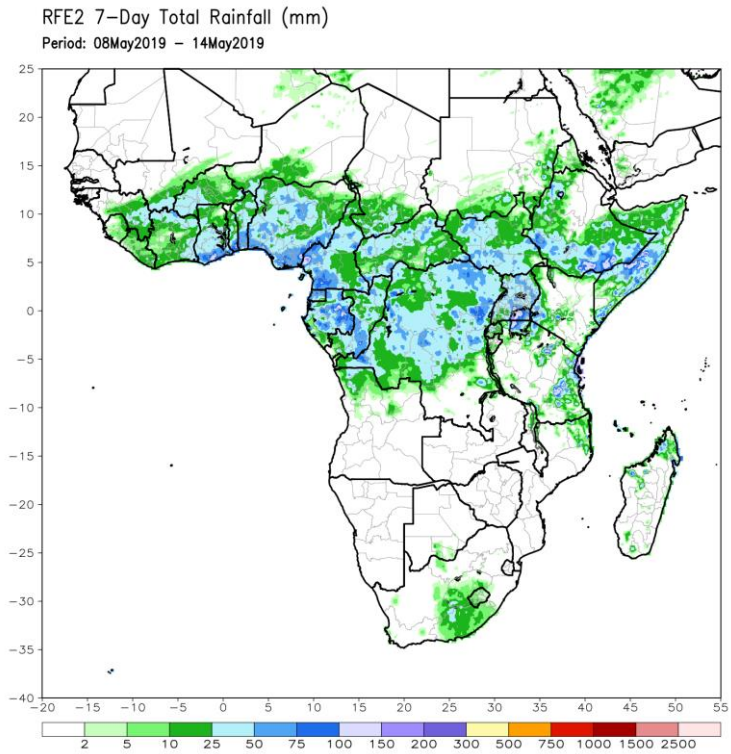


**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Mar-Apr Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)**
**Valid: March 1 – May 14, 2019**

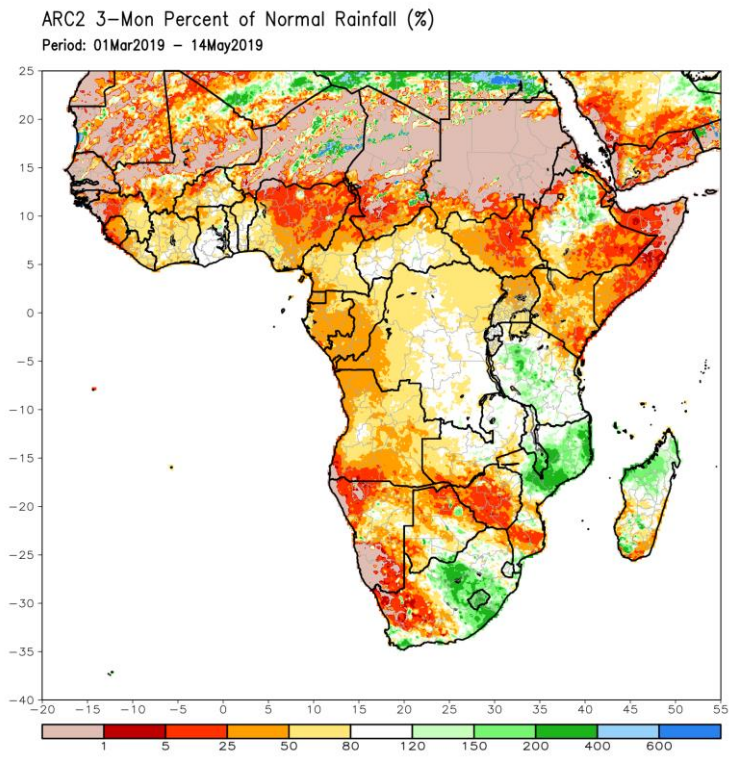


**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**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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