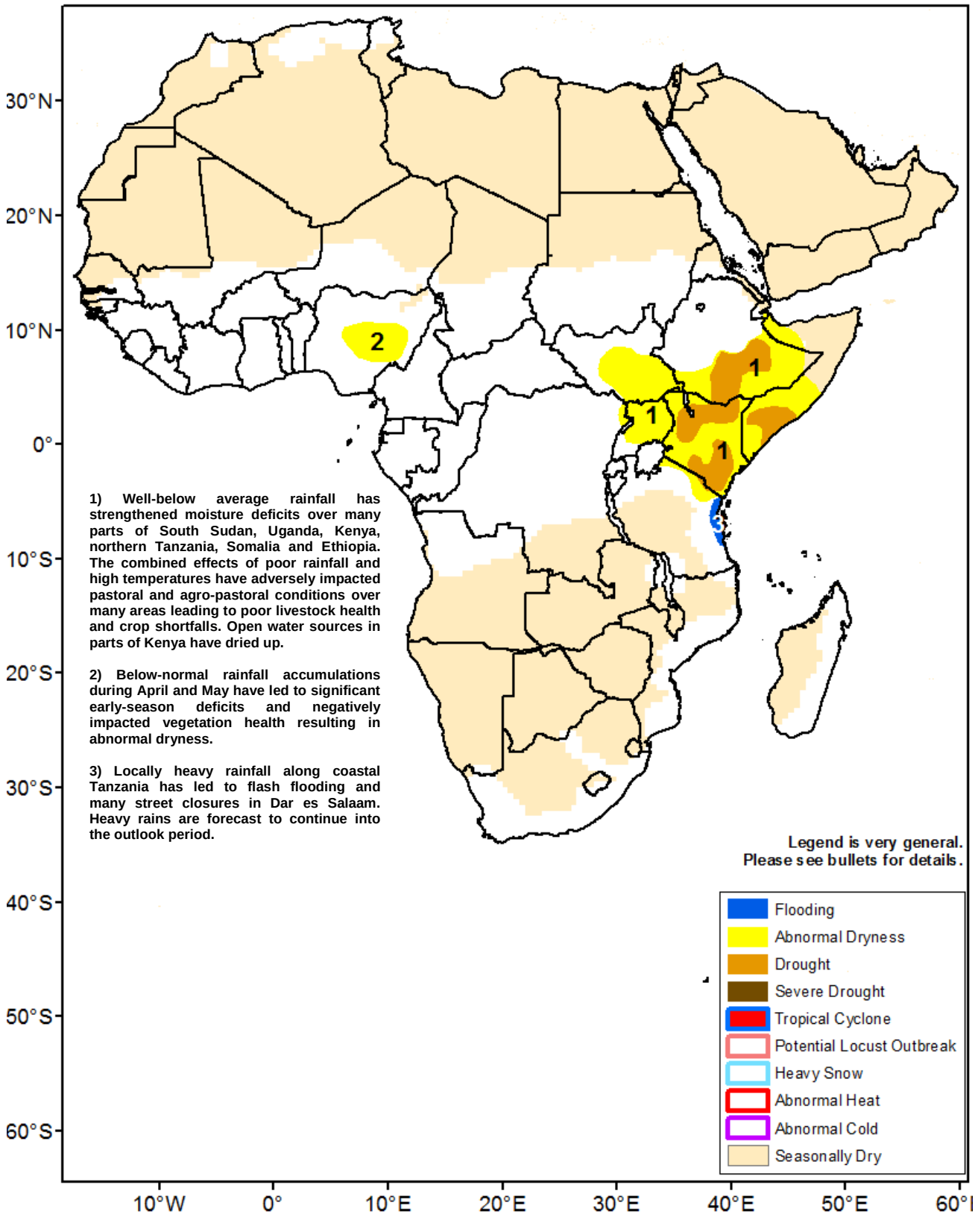
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 23 – May 29, 2019

- **A large increase in rainfall was observed for parts of central Somalia and southern Ethiopia.**
- **A persistent pattern in West Africa continues to limit rainfall in Nigeria and the western Gulf of Guinea region.**



Rains persisted in Somalia and eastern Ethiopia with light to moderate totals this week.

During the last 7 days, above-normal rainfall was observed in the SNNP region of Ethiopia, along with parts of Uganda and South Sudan. Somalia's wet period continued with moderate rain this week. Heavy rainfall totals of as much as 100mm or more were received in southwestern Ethiopia and western South Sudan (**Figure 1**). More moderate rain moved into many parts of northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Heavy rainfall (100-200mm) was recorded in eastern Tanzania by satellite estimates. On the other hand, much of Kenya, parts of southern Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania received very little rainfall. 7-day deficits of at least 10-25mm were prevalent in central South Sudan, as well as in western Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

A period of locally heavy rain encompassing previously dry regions of eastern Ethiopia and Somalia had significant positive impact 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 from March through May. Currently, many regions in Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, and most of Kenya are experiencing less than 80 percent of normal rainfall accumulation. The poorest conditions (<25% of normal) are concentrated over southern and western Kenya, more arid areas of eastern Ethiopia, and neighboring provinces of Somalia (**Figure 2**). Rains over South Sudan continue to be erratic; strengthening anomalous dryness is prevalent throughout the country into late May. For Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, the continuation of suppressed rainfall through May has led to drought-like conditions and is adversely impacting many agro-pastoral and pastoral areas. Additionally, poor rainfall from last year's Oct-Dec rains season is exacerbating 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 favored in eastern DRC, Uganda, and are also possible for coastal Tanzania once again. Light rains are predicted elsewhere.

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

Many parts of Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and cameroon received 25-75mm of rainfall during the past week, and local regions received more than 100mm. Locally heavy rains in southern Mali caused flash flooding in Bamako. Lighter amounts were received in far-western Gulf of Guinea nations. These totals resulted in scattered 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 increasingly drier than normal, but the largest anomalies are present in Nigeria. Negative 30-day anomalies there reach more than 100mm or about 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, Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso. During the next 7 days, the forecast favors an improved rainfall pattern in Nigeria and generally seasonable precipitation elsewhere in the West Africa region, with the greatest rainfall totals along the coast.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: May 15 –May 21, 2019

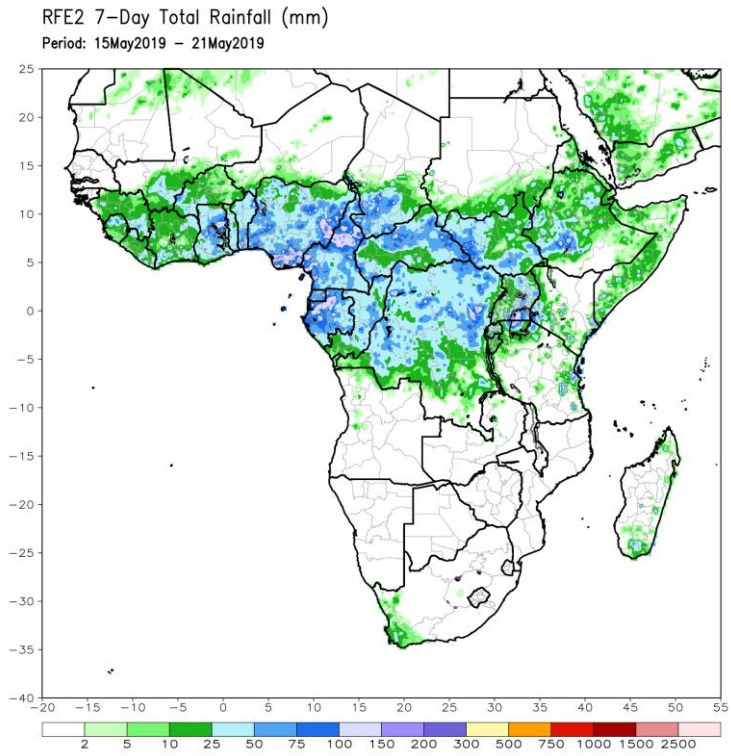


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Mar-Apr Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: March 1 – May 21, 2019

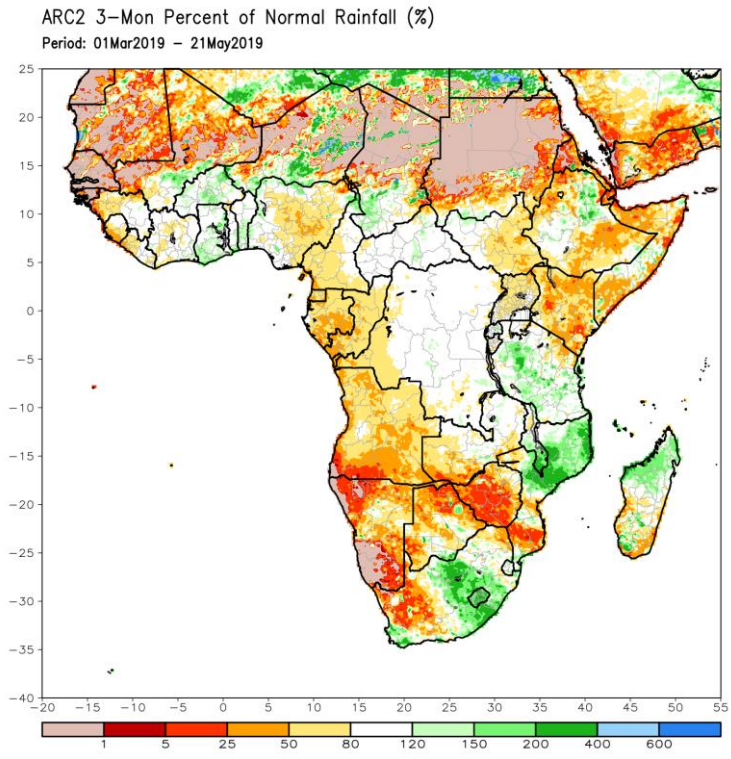


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.