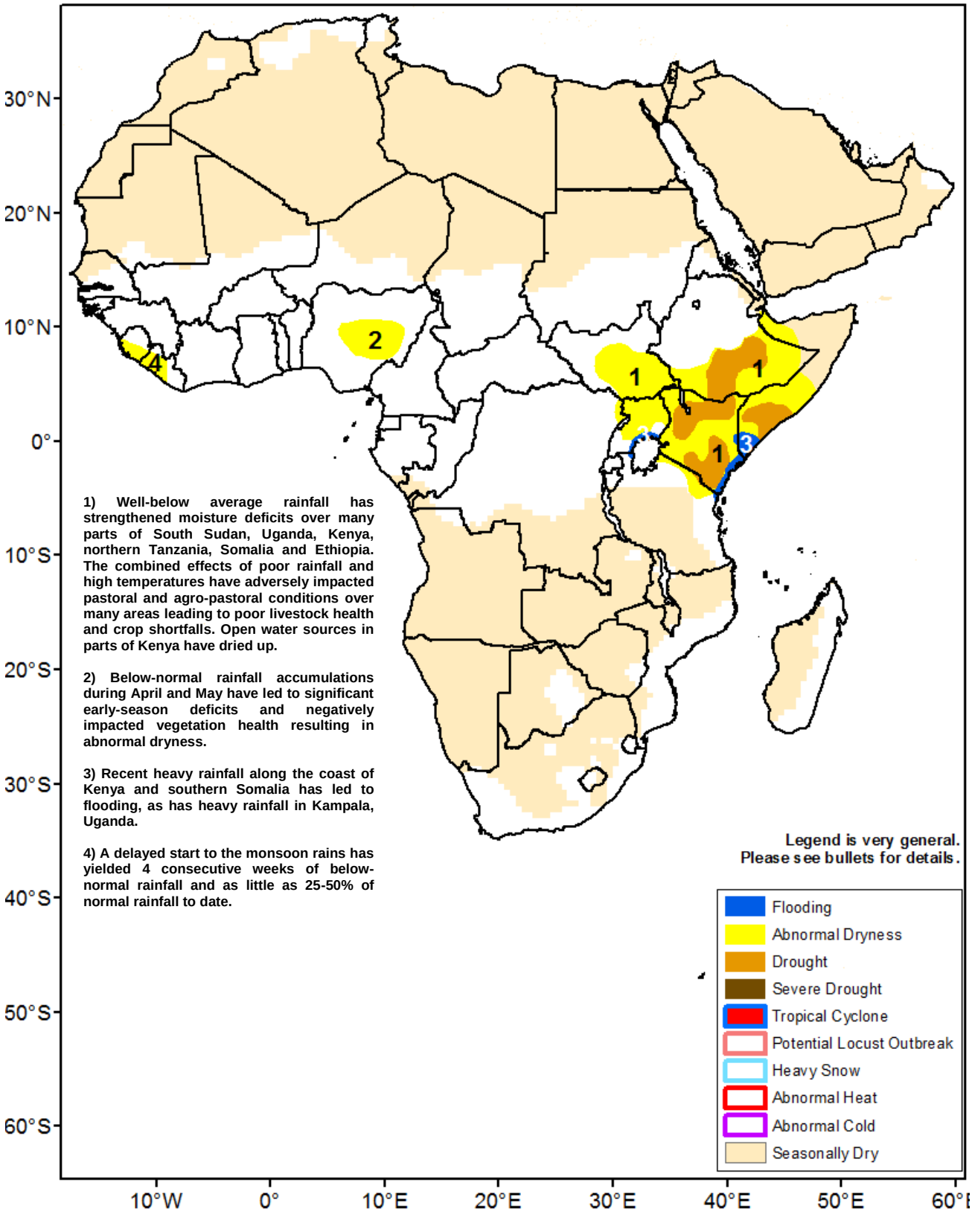
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 30 – June 5, 2019

- More locally heavy rain led to reports of flooding and late reductions to seasonal rainfall deficits in East Africa.
- A persistent pattern in West Africa continues to limit rainfall in the western Gulf of Guinea region.



Heavy rains affected several areas, including coastal Kenya and Southern Uganda.

During the last 7 days, heavy and abnormal rain was observed in southern Somalia and the coastal strip of Kenya. Totals of more than 150mm were received according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). This led to reports of flooding in the area. Flooding was also reported in and around Kampala, Uganda in association with a recent downpour. More moderate rain moved into many parts of western Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and South Sudan. Heavy rainfall (100+mm) was also recorded in eastern DRC. Yemen received above-normal rainfall as well. Conversely, much of Kenya and northern Somalia remained seasonably dry.

The continuation of abnormal late-season heavy rain in parts of the horn has further eroded short and long-term deficits for areas of southern Somalia and Kenya. Though beneficial for water availability and some pastoral activities, the recent rain is late to help cropping activities. 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, and areas of eastern Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). Rains over South Sudan continue to be erratic; strengthening anomalous dryness is observed in the west with some improvement to the east. For Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, suppressed seasonal rainfall has led to drought-like conditions and adversely impacted 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 much of the region. Somalia, western Ethiopia, Uganda, and eastern DRC are likely to see enhanced rains. Heavier totals may exceed 100mm.

Seasonal deficits are deepening in far-western Gulf of Guinea countries.

West Africa observed seasonable rainfall coverage during the last week. Lighter and below-normal rainfall was observed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. An increase in rain occurred for many parts of Nigeria where 7-day totals locally exceeded 100mm according to satellite estimates. Some abnormally heavy rainfall (50-100mm) was received in Mali as well. Much of the rest of the Gulf of Guinea region received anywhere from 10-50mm during the past week. These totals resulted in minimal departures form average for the period. Over the last month, the far-western Gulf of Guinea countries have been increasingly drier than normal, with the largest anomalies present in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and southwestern Cote D'Ivoire. Coastal areas of Sierra Leone and Liberia register less than 50 percent of normal rainfall (**Figure 2**). Though recent increases in rain have helped conditions in parts of Nigeria, areas of fairly substantial seasonal deficits remain. During the next 7 days, the forecast favors an enhanced rainfall pattern from southern Ghana extending around the Gulf of Guinea Coast and south to Congo. Near-normal totals are expected elsewhere in West Africa.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: May 22 –May 28, 2019

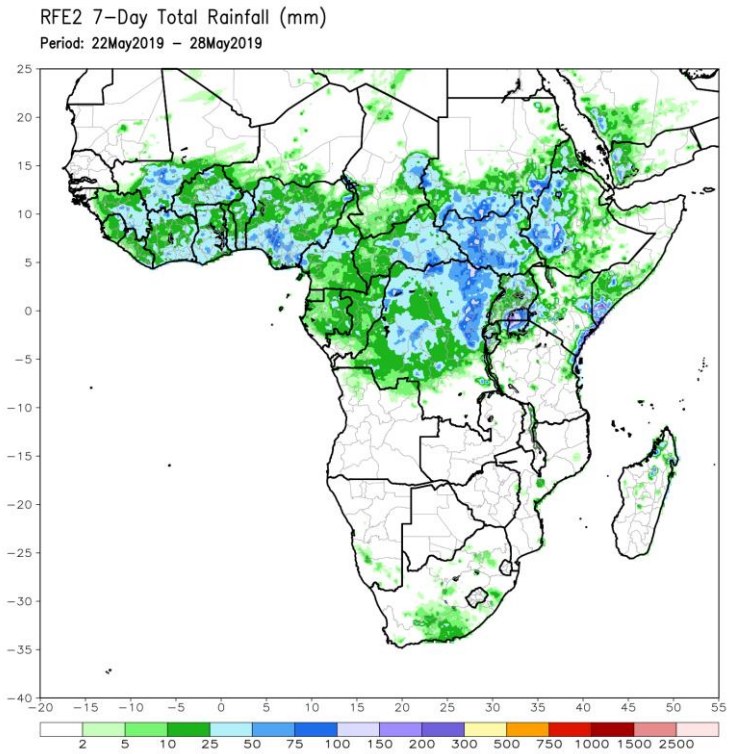


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Mar-Apr Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: March 1 – May 28, 2019

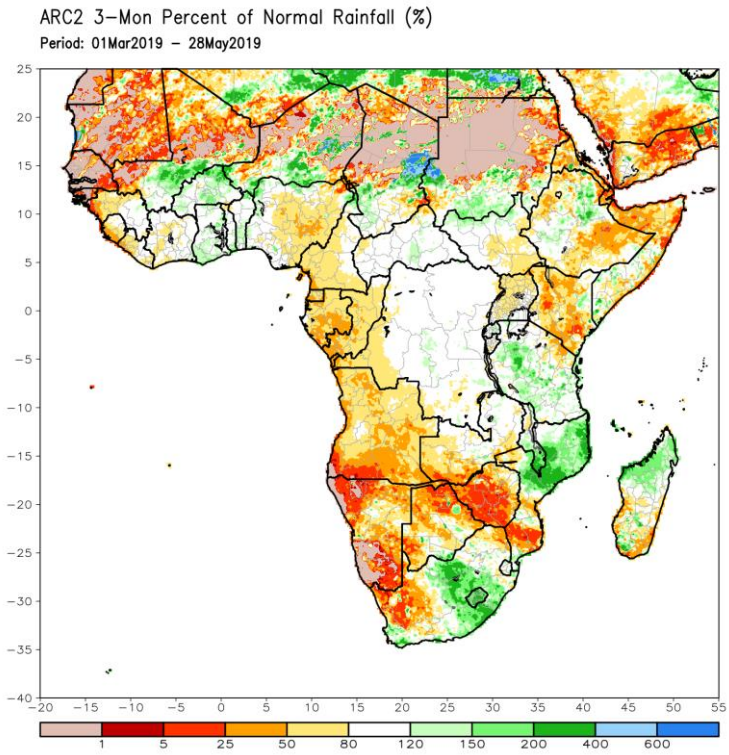


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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