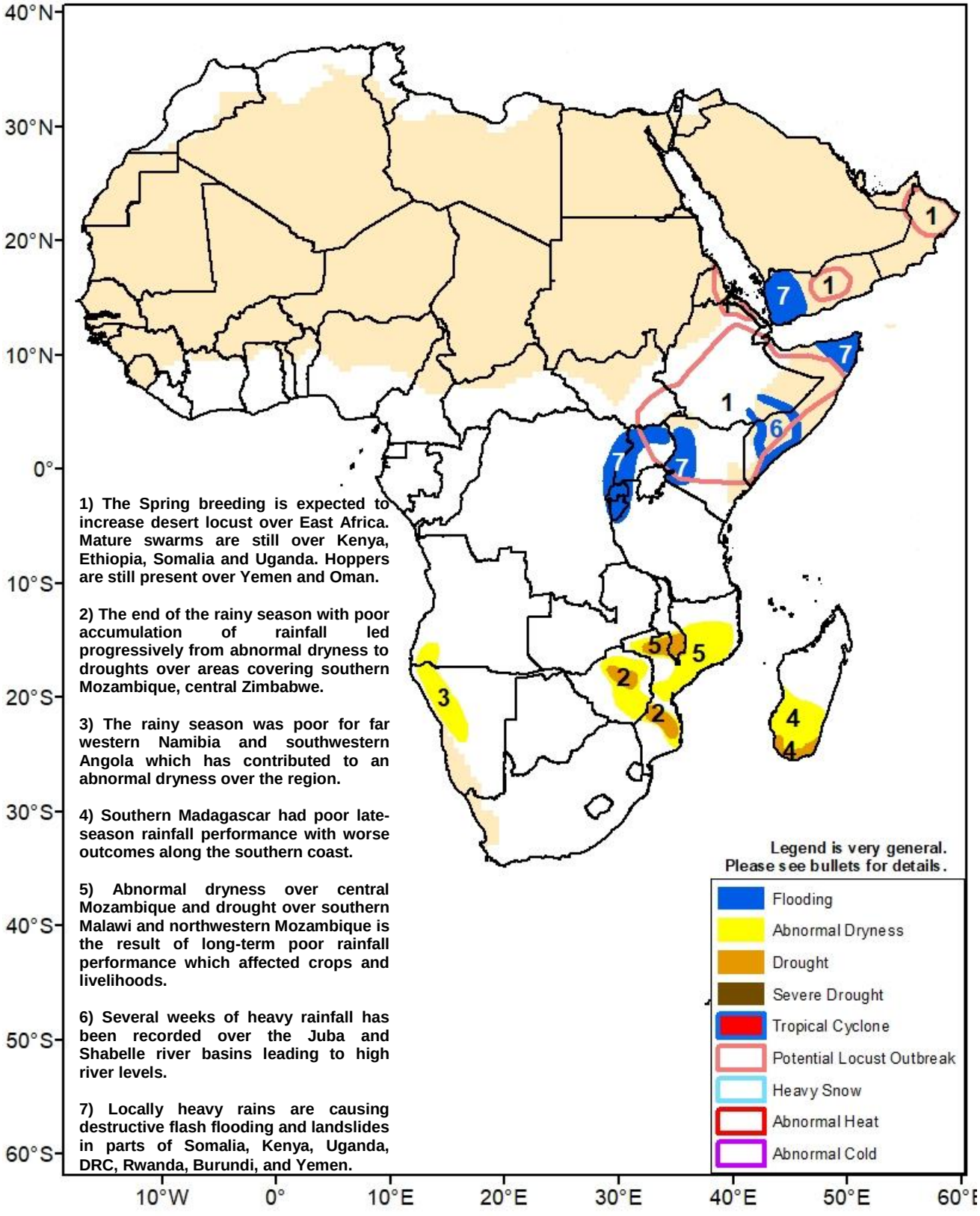
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 7 – May 13, 2020

- **Ongoing heavy rains in East Africa continue flash flooding and river flooding in many areas.**
- **Rains have been well-distributed over West Africa during the past few weeks.**



1) The Spring breeding is expected to increase desert locust over East Africa. Mature swarms are still over Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. Hoppers are still present over Yemen and Oman.

2) The end of the rainy season with poor accumulation of rainfall led progressively from abnormal dryness to droughts over areas covering southern Mozambique, central Zimbabwe.

3) The rainy season was poor for far western Namibia and southwestern Angola which has contributed to an abnormal dryness over the region.

4) Southern Madagascar had poor late-season rainfall performance with worse outcomes along the southern coast.

5) Abnormal dryness over central Mozambique and drought over southern Malawi and northwestern Mozambique is the result of long-term poor rainfall performance which affected crops and livelihoods.

6) Several weeks of heavy rainfall has been recorded over the Juba and Shabelle river basins leading to high river levels.

7) Locally heavy rains are causing destructive flash flooding and landslides in parts of Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, and Yemen.

Many parts of East Africa are contending with flash floods as locusts continue to threaten crops.

Several parts of the region continued to receive heavy rain this week. According to satellite estimates, large 7-day totals of greater than 100mm were observed in parts of northern and central Somalia, central and southern Ethiopia, Yemen, western Kenya, coastal Tanzania, and Uganda (Figure 1). This resulted in flash flooding in many of these areas, notably in Uganda, Burundi, western Kenya, and Somalia. Moderate to heavy rain also became widespread across South Sudan this week. Meanwhile, heavy rains subsided in central parts of Kenya and central/northern Tanzania. Only a few scattered light rain showers were observed in those areas. The pattern led to 7-day rainfall deficits in central Kenya but positive anomalies in most other areas.

The past 2 months brought copious rainfall all across the East Africa region. Many areas recorded twice their average rainfall over the period. Parts of northern Somalia and Yemen especially have seen abnormal rainfall registering more than 4 times the average. It is this persistent pattern that has saturated many of the regions basins and will keep flood risks high in coming weeks. Outside of flooding concerns, the rainy pattern has led to excellent regional vegetation health. Additionally, urgent mitigation measures are ongoing to stop the rapid spread of locusts throughout the region. Wet conditions and ample vegetation are helping to drive reproduction of locust populations that are impacting the March-May crop season.

During the outlook period, heavy rains (> 75mm) are forecast for northern Somalia. Enhanced rainfall is also likely to continue in Uganda and southern South Sudan. Meanwhile, continuation of light rains is expected in eastern Kenya.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 29 – May 5, 2020

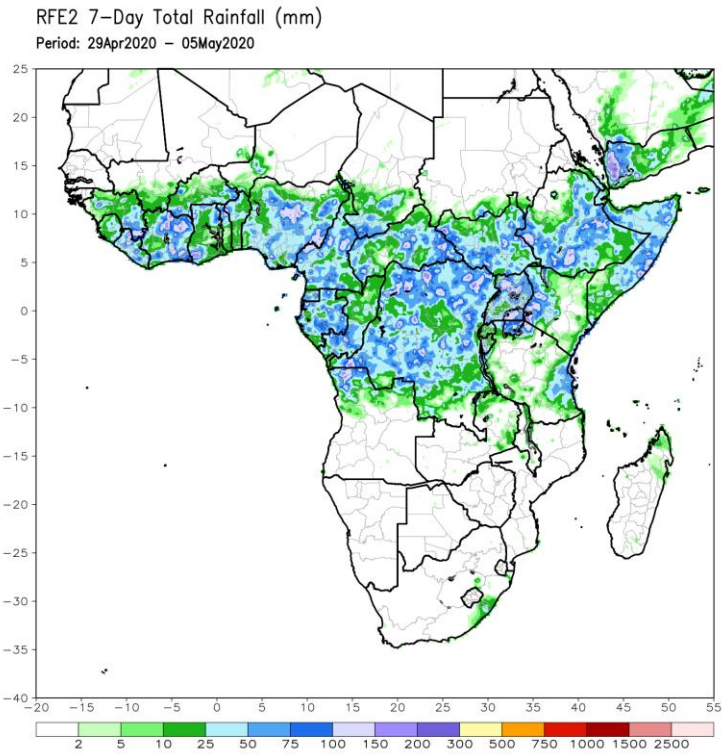


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Rainfall performance has been positive early in the season for West Africa.

Moderate to heavy rains were observed across much of the climatologically active areas of West Africa according to satellite estimates. The largest totals of more than 100mm were observed in southern Guinea, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, southwestern Ghana, and central/eastern Nigeria (Figure 1). Rains diminished somewhat in Ghana, Togo, and Benin where an area received less than 10mm of rain. These amounts resulted in some deficits of up to 25-50mm in Ghana and Togo. Most other areas recorded neutral conditions or positive anomalies. As a result of the favorable regional rainfall pattern, vegetation currently looks quite healthy according to satellite derived products.

During the past thirty days, an increase of rainfall has been observed over West Africa, but a delay of onset is observed over the northeastern part of Nigeria (Figure 2). Some early-season deficits are visible there. Analysis of the African ITF reveals a small lag in northward progression over West Africa but hints at ongoing improvement for northern Nigeria. Most other parts of the region exhibit surpluses during the period. Western parts of the region, especially including Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, have received abnormal rains of as much as 4 times their normal.

During the outlook period, suppression of rainfall is expected across the Gulf of Guinea countries. Lighter rains of less than 25mm should be the norm. However, spatial coverage of rain is expected to be normal. This pattern could extend into week 2.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: April 6 – May 5, 2020

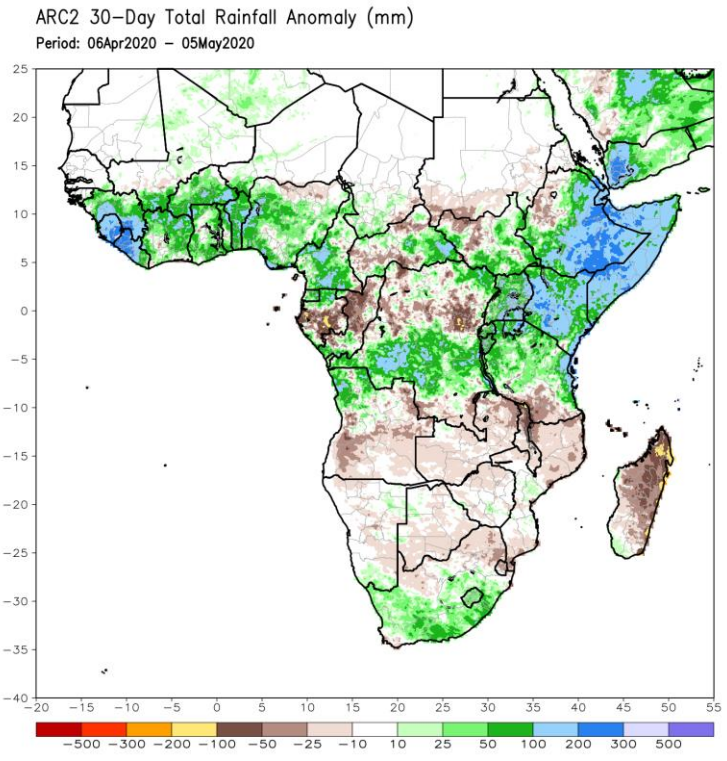


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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