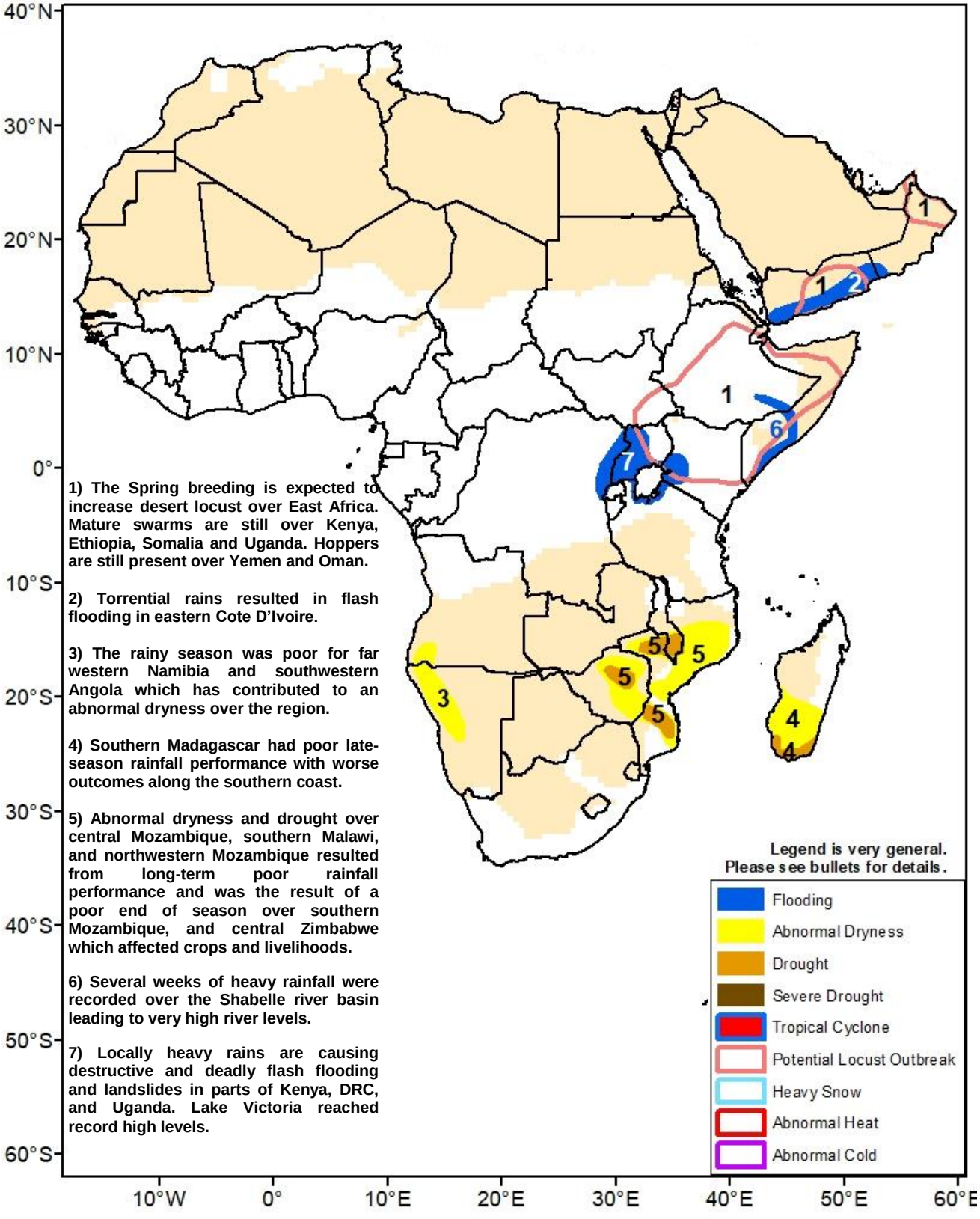
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 28 – June 3, 2020

- **Rains eased in parts of the Horn of Africa, flooding persists along the Shabelle river and Lake Victoria basin.**
- **Locusts remain a serious threat in the east and could spread into the Sahel over the coming months.**



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) Torrential rains resulted in flash flooding in eastern Cote D'Ivoire.

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 and drought over central Mozambique, southern Malawi, and northwestern Mozambique resulted from long-term poor rainfall performance and was the result of a poor end of season over southern Mozambique, and central Zimbabwe which affected crops and livelihoods.

6) Several weeks of heavy rainfall were recorded over the Shabelle river basin leading to very high river levels.

7) Locally heavy rains are causing destructive and deadly flash flooding and landslides in parts of Kenya, DRC, and Uganda. Lake Victoria reached record high levels.

Rainfall has subsided over parts of Kenya, Somalia, and southern Ethiopia during the past week.

Several parts of the region continued to receive heavy rain this week. According to satellite estimates, larger 7-day rainfall totals of locally greater than 100mm were observed in western Ethiopia, South Sudan, northeastern DRC, and southwestern Yemen (**Figure 1**). Flash floods were reported in western Uganda. Light and moderate rain was also observed across central Ethiopia, Uganda, northern Somalia, and western Kenya last week. Meanwhile, many other parts of Kenya, Tanzania, southern Ethiopia, and Somalia dried out almost completely. The pattern led to small 7-day deficits in southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and local areas of Kenya.

The MAM rainfall season to date has brought copious rainfall across the East Africa region. Many areas recorded twice their average rainfall during the period. This persistent pattern has saturated many of the region's basins and will keep flood risks high wherever rain continues to fall in coming weeks. Flooding along the Shebelle River is an ongoing hazard. Even though Kenya still exhibits seasonal rainfall surpluses, an early cessation of the MAM rains has led to negative 30-day anomalies. 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 and subsequent spread of locust populations that are impacting the MAM crop season.

During the outlook period, above-average rains (>25mm) are forecast for northern Somalia. Some decreases in rains can be expected in Sudan and South Sudan, while typical amounts of around 25-50mm can be expected in the Lake Victoria basin. A developing tropical low is likely to bring heavy rain to Yemen.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 20 – May 26, 2020

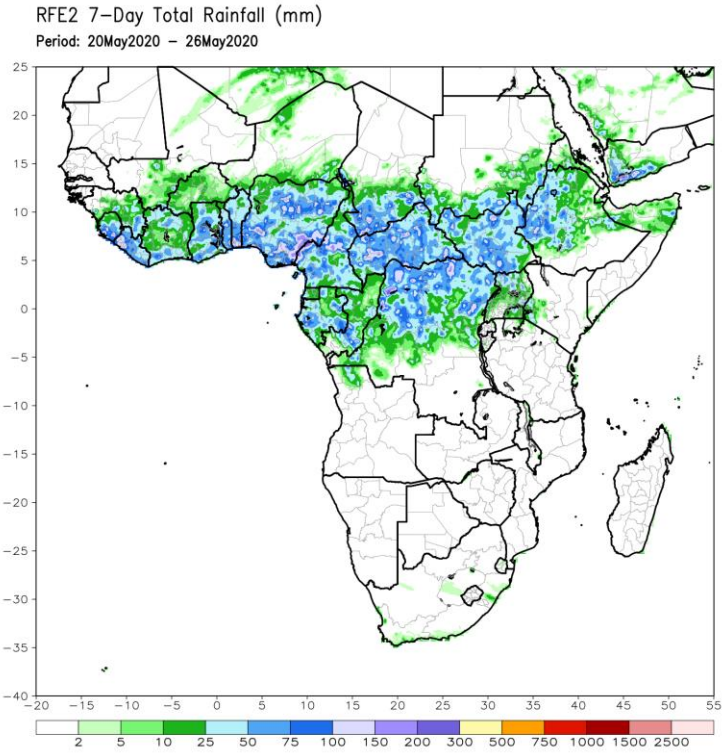


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

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

Moderate to heavy rain was widely observed across eastern parts of the West Africa region according to satellite estimates. The largest totals of 100mm or more were observed in Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and Cameroon (**Figure 1**). Conversely, many portions of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire, Southern Mali, and Burkina Faso received only light rain (<25mm). Locally heavy rain did fall in southern Sierra Leone and neighboring parts of Liberia. These totals resulted in some deficits of 10-50mm for several areas. Surpluses of more than 50mm were observed where the heaviest rainfall fell. As a result of the favorable regional rainfall pattern, vegetation looks healthy according to satellite derived products.

During the past 30 days, mostly sufficient rainfall has been observed over West Africa. Some recent deficits are visible in the 30-day analysis over Mali and Burkina Faso where the ITF is lagging behind its climatological May position (**Figure 2**). Some improvement is observed in northern Nigeria after early-season deficits. Many other parts of the region exhibit surpluses during the period. Western parts of the region, especially including Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, received abnormal rains of as much as 4 times their normal.

During the outlook period, enhanced rainfall is expected across most of the active West Africa region, excepting only Nigeria and Cameroon. Some of the heaviest 7-day totals, possibly more than 100mm, can be expected in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: April 27 – May 26, 2020

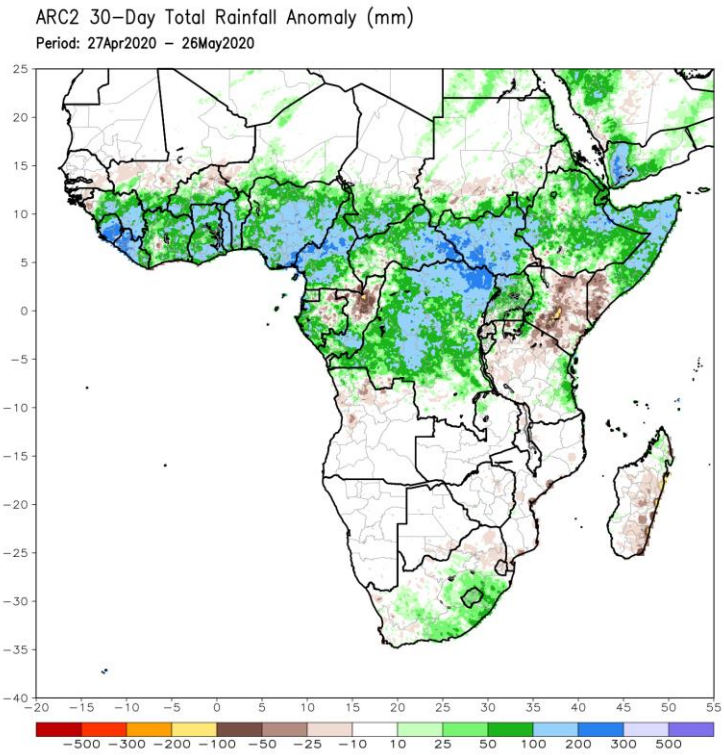


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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