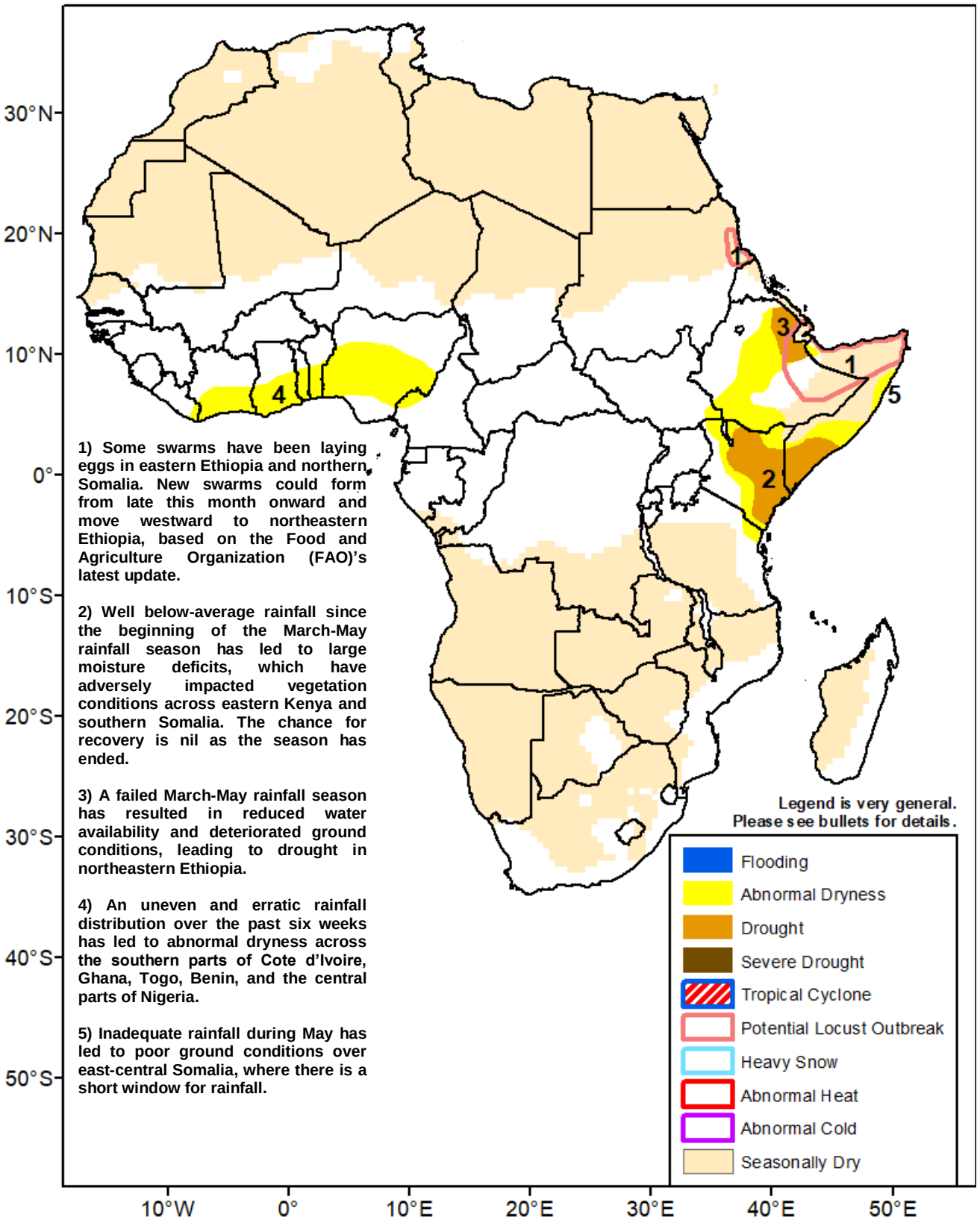
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
3 – 9 June 2021

- **Abnormal dryness persists over parts of the Gulf of Guinea and Horn of Africa as erratic rains continue.**



1) Some swarms have been laying eggs in eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. New swarms could form from late this month onward and move westward to northeastern Ethiopia, based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest update.

2) Well below-average rainfall since the beginning of the March-May rainfall season has led to large moisture deficits, which have adversely impacted vegetation conditions across eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. The chance for recovery is nil as the season has ended.

3) A failed March-May rainfall season has resulted in reduced water availability and deteriorated ground conditions, leading to drought in northeastern Ethiopia.

4) An uneven and erratic rainfall distribution over the past six weeks has led to abnormal dryness across the southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and the central parts of Nigeria.

5) Inadequate rainfall during May has led to poor ground conditions over east-central Somalia, where there is a short window for rainfall.

Erratic March – May rains led to large rainfall deficits in the Horn of Africa.

A comparison of the accumulated rainfall with the long-term average has shown that rainfall was well below-average over a wide area of the Horn of Africa, including a major part of Ethiopia; north-central and eastern Kenya; and southern Somalia during March – May (**Figure 1**). The largest (> 100 mm) deficits were observed over East Africa's coastal Strip, including northeastern Tanzania, Kenya, and southern Somalia. This March – May rainfall season was also characterized by an uneven temporal distribution in rainfall, when seasonal rains were a no show during the first two months but were at or above-average during the last month.

Consequently, reduced water availability and stressed vegetation, which indicated drought, was depicted throughout these dry portions of eastern Africa, particularly eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, south-central and eastern Ethiopia, according to the most recent Vegetation Health Index (VHI) product. As the March – May rainfall season has ended, the chance for recovery is nil.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest that suppressed rainfall and dry conditions will prevail over the region. This forecast weather pattern will likely maintain or exacerbate poor conditions on the ground and negatively impact agriculture. In contrast, moderate to heavy rains are expected over western Ethiopia, while light to moderate rains are forecast over southern Sudan and South Sudan.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 1 March – 31 May 2021

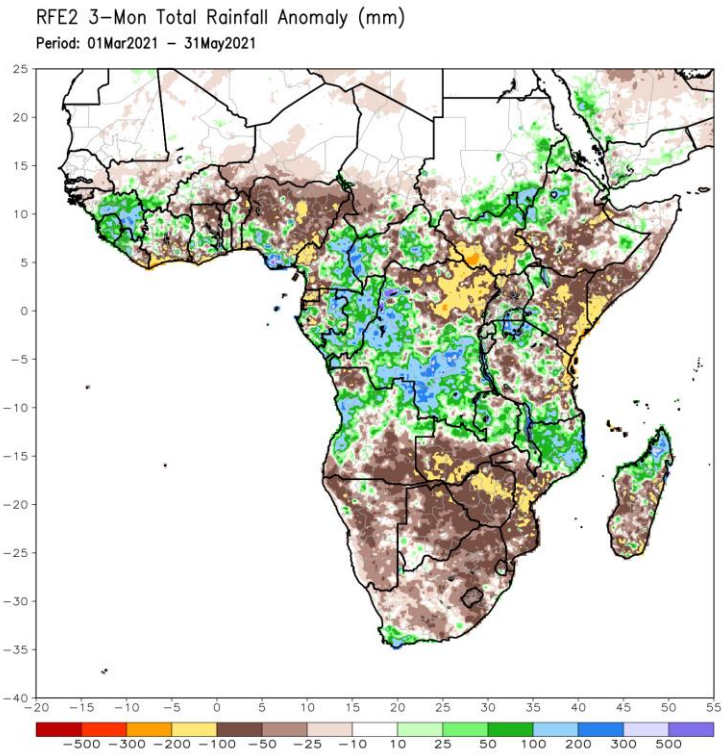


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

This past month's unevenly-distributed rainfall maintained abnormal dryness along the Gulf of Guinea.

During late May, some increase in rainfall was observed along the Gulf of Guinea. Moderate to locally heavy rains fell over Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Meanwhile, widespread, light rains were registered elsewhere. While this past week's enhanced rains contributed to reduce or eliminate thirty-day rainfall deficits over some local areas, negative rainfall anomalies persisted throughout the southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, central and southern Nigeria, where an abnormal dryness is posted. This past few month's poor rainfall distribution was also partially explained by persistent anomalous southerly positions of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) over West Africa relative to its climatological positions since the beginning of April.

Additionally, the latest VHI has indicated that deteriorated vegetation conditions, which reflected a poor start to West African rainfall season, were now widespread across the Sudanian-Guinean region from eastern Guinea-Conakry eastward to north-central Nigeria.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicated that moderate to heavy rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea. This forecast weather pattern may provide partial relief to some local areas of the region. Meanwhile, little to light rains are forecast farther north throughout northern Cote d'Ivoire, southern Mali, southern Burkina Faso, northernmost Benin, and north-central Nigeria. The expected rainfall amounts are, however, likely to fall below-average and potentially lead to moisture deficits over this region.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 26 May – 1 June 2021

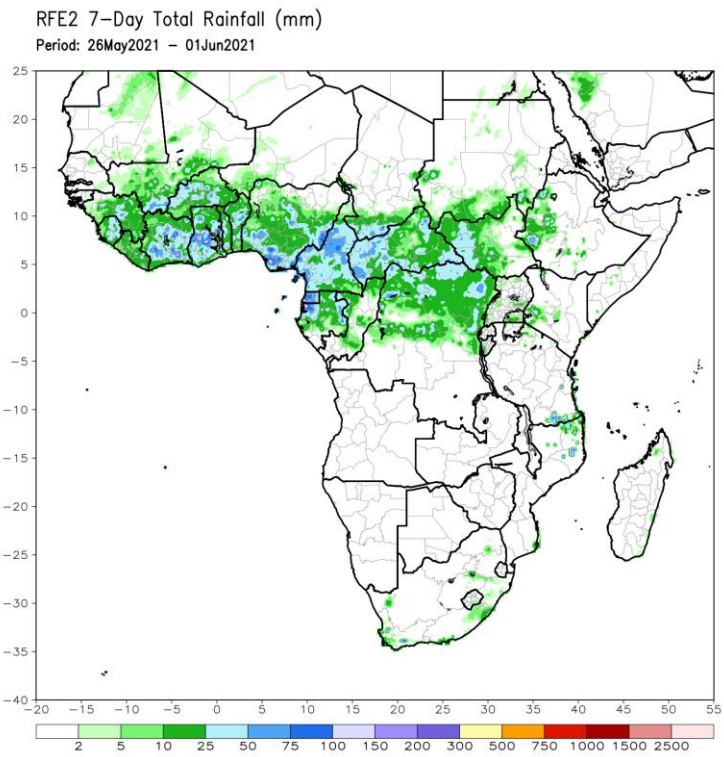


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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