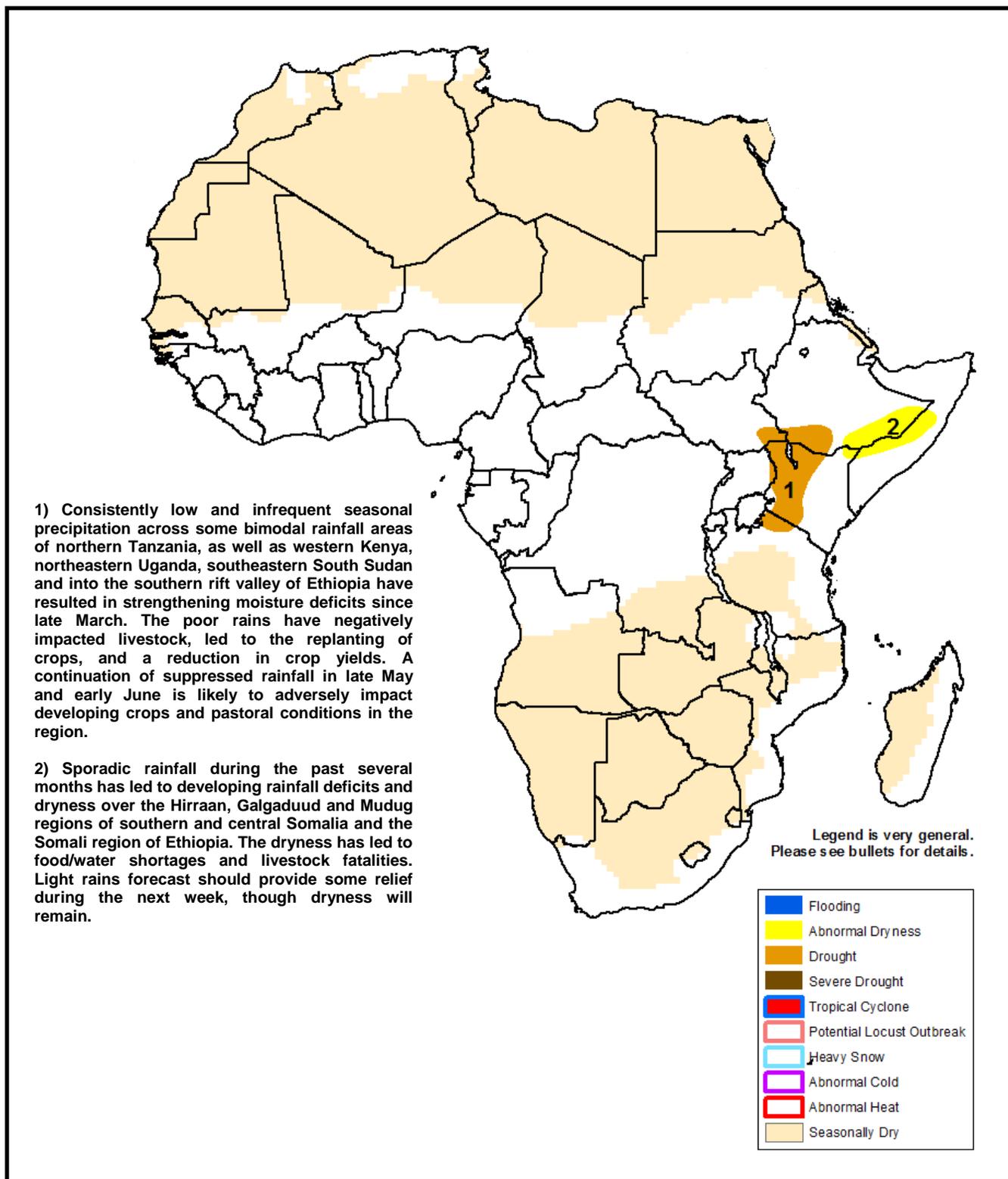




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 29 – June 4, 2014

- Dry, drought conditions persisted across much of western Kenya.
- Torrential rains impacted far western West Africa including Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.



Above-average rain continues in western Ethiopia.

During the past week, copious amounts of rain (>50mm) were observed across western Ethiopia, western South Sudan and localized areas in Uganda, southern Somalia and coastal Kenya. Torrential daily rainfall in southern Somalia resulted in flash flooding in IDP camps around Kismayo; although, the rains were welcomed as ground conditions have been dry. The heavy coastal showers in Kenya followed several weeks of above-average rains and localized flooding. Farther north, the heaviest rains (>75mm) were recorded in western Ethiopia and marked the fifth to sixth consecutive week where rains were >125% of normal. In contrast, light rains (<20mm) were recorded across Kenya, central/northern Somalia, southern Ethiopia and southeastern South Sudan (**Figure 1**). Climatologically, these areas are expected to receive diminishing amounts of rainfall over the next several weeks. However, weekly rainfall was still below-average.

The dryness that exists across eastern Kenya north into southeastern South Sudan and the southern rift valley of Ethiopia has been consistent over the past thirty days. Thirty-day rainfall percentiles are below the 20th percentile (**Figure 2**) and vegetative indices also indicate poor conditions (below-average NDVI anomalies). The dryness has already negatively impacting cropping activities and livestock conditions. Poorly distributed rain has also caused negative crop and livestock impacts in central Somalia and the Somali region of Ethiopia. In contrast, consistently above-average rains during the beginning of the rainy season in western Ethiopia and South Sudan have led to thirty rainfall percentiles above the 90th percentile and saturated ground conditions.

For the next week, a reduction in rain is expected for eastern Africa. The heaviest rain (>50mm) is forecast for far western Ethiopia, northern South Sudan and southern Sudan. The heavy rains will increase seasonal rainfall surpluses. Along coastal regions in southern Somalia, moderate rains (10-40mm) are possible. Elsewhere, light rains (<20mm) are expected for dry areas in Somalia and Kenya (**Figure 3**) providing little relief to dry grounds.

Torrential rains observed across far western West Africa.

During the past seven days, the heaviest rains (>50mm) in West Africa fell across Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and southwestern Cote D'Ivoire. The abundant rains helped increase thirty-day rainfall surpluses in far western West Africa. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded across coastal West Africa, Nigeria, southwestern Niger, Burkina Faso and southern Mali. Below-average rains (<10mm), meanwhile, fell in northern Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Overall, rains during the past thirty-days have been greater than the 80th percentile in western West Africa and between the 30th and 70th percentile in Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The heavy rains have caused flooding concerns in western West Africa. For the next week, western and eastern West Africa are expected to record heavy rains (>50mm) (**Figure 3**) which will increase flooding concerns in far western West Africa. The abundant rains forecast for Nigeria will help improve upon recently drier than average conditions. Lighter amounts of rain (5-30mm) are forecast for central West Africa.

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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