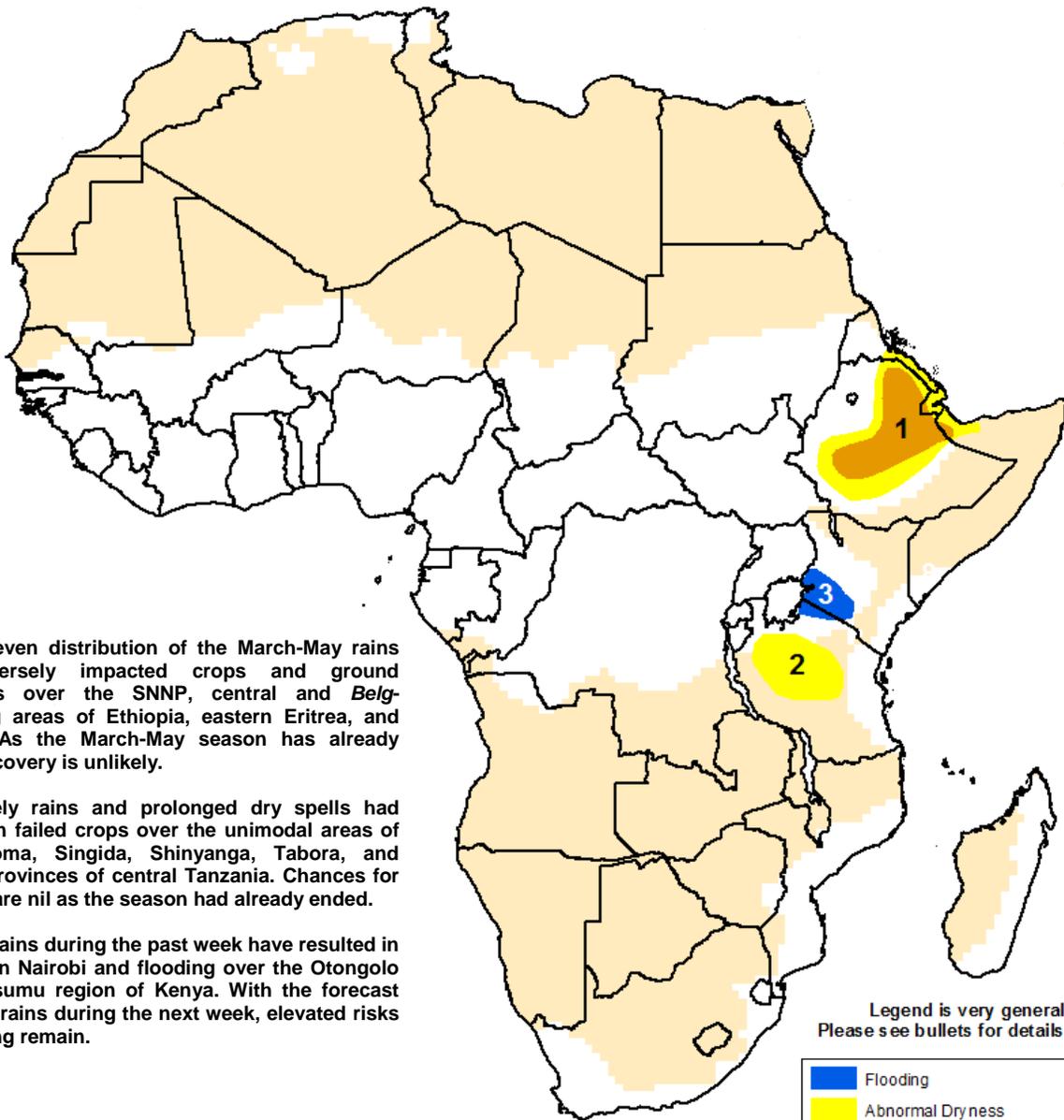




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 4 – 10, 2015

- The onset of the rainy season has been sluggish over West Africa, but an increase in rainfall is expected during the next week.



1) An uneven distribution of the March-May rains had adversely impacted crops and ground conditions over the SNNP, central and *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, and Djibouti. As the March-May season has already ended, recovery is unlikely.

2) Untimely rains and prolonged dry spells had resulted in failed crops over the unimodal areas of the Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Kigoma provinces of central Tanzania. Chances for recovery are nil as the season had already ended.

3) Heavy rains during the past week have resulted in fatalities in Nairobi and flooding over the Otongolo of the Kisumu region of Kenya. With the forecast abundant rains during the next week, elevated risks for flooding remain.

Legend is very general. Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

## Rainfall deficits persist in eastern Gulf of Guinea countries.

Since the beginning of May, insufficient rainfall has been observed over the eastern portion of West Africa. This included eastern Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, northern Benin, western Niger, Nigeria, and northern Cameroon. The largest deficits were observed in central Nigeria, with negative anomalies ranging between 50 – 200 mm (**Figure 1**). The ongoing dryness was attributable to a stronger than average anticyclonic circulation further north, which suppressed influx of moisture from the south and resulted in delayed onset of the rainy season. In contrast, favorable southwesterly flow brought consistent and above-average rains across the western counterparts of the region, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and parts of Cote d'Ivoire. Recent vegetation indices have indicated that a wide swath, with below-average conditions lied across the Guinean-Sudanian region of West Africa, extending from northern Ghana, Togo, Benin, north-central Nigeria, to northern Cameroon. A comparison to last year's conditions during the same time of the year also revealed much poorer situations during the current period.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rains were observed over southern Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Little to light rainfall was, however, recorded elsewhere. Relative to climatology, this past week's rainfall totals remained average to below-average throughout much of the Gulf of Guinea, except portions of southern Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and western Cote d'Ivoire, where surpluses were registered. During the next week, an increase in rainfall is forecast across West Africa. Heavy rains are expected throughout the dry portions of West Africa from eastern Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Nigeria, to northern Cameroon. If the forecast increased rains materialize, this will help erode seasonal deficits and benefit cropping activities over many local areas of the region.

## The March-May season performed poorly in Eastern Africa.

The March-May rainy season performed poorly across the northern parts of the Greater Horn of Africa. An analysis of cumulative rainfall since March 1<sup>st</sup> revealed drier than average conditions, with large (> 100 mm) deficits over many localized areas of southwestern and east-central Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). Below-average rains were also observed over portions of Eritrea, Djibouti, and north-central Kenya. The poor seasonal performance was due to a delayed onset of the season, which was followed by an erratic distribution of rainfall across the region. In contrast, wetness was recorded over southern Somalia, southwestern Kenya, northern South Sudan, and bordering southern Sudan. During the past week, heavy rains were observed across Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and parts of northern Somalia. Reports have indicated destroyed and affected people in central Darfur of Sudan. To the south, in Kenya, abundant rains have resulted in fatalities and flooding over Nairobi and Mombasa, respectively. For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue over western Ethiopia, which should help provide favorable soil moisture for the June-September cropping activities. Heavy rains are also expected in southwestern Kenya, which increases risks for localized flooding. Light rains are forecast elsewhere.

**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](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov) or 1-301-683-3424.

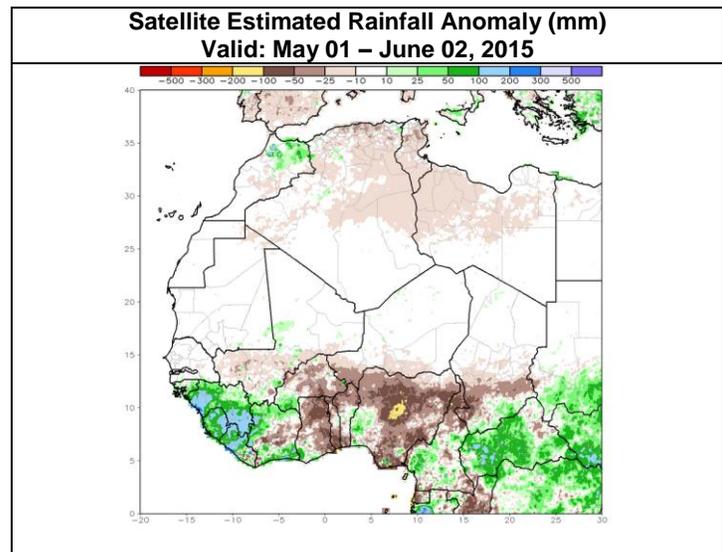


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

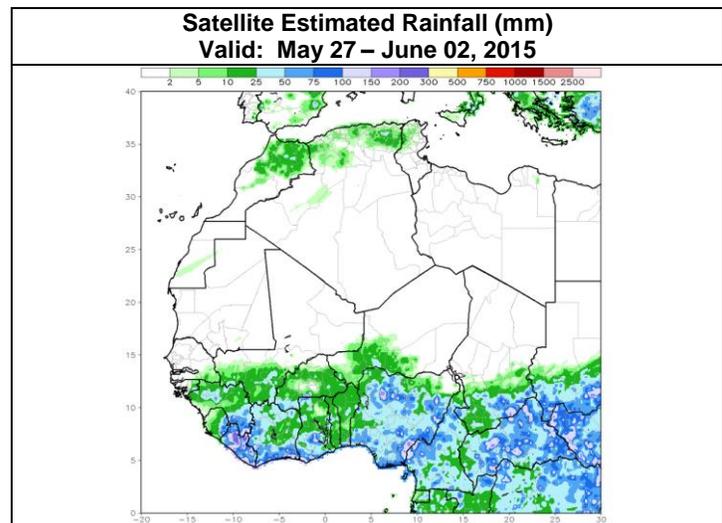


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

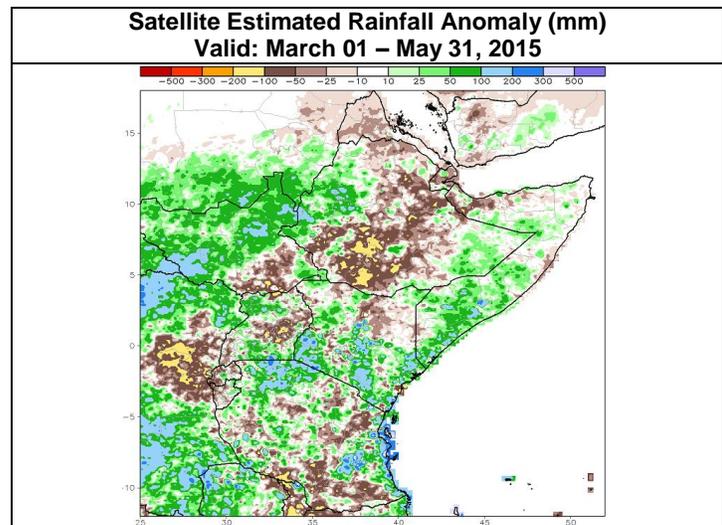


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC