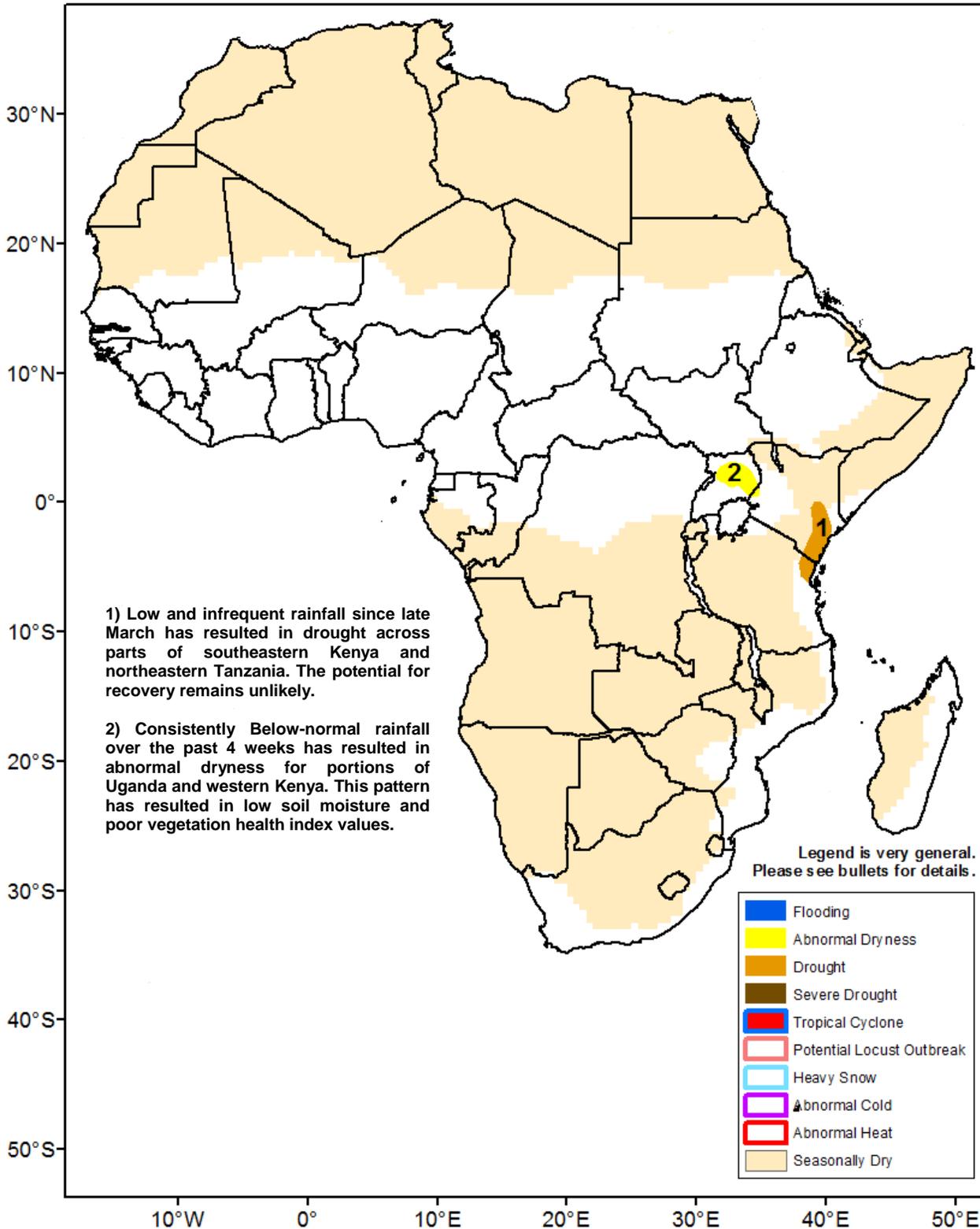




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 23 – June 29, 2016

- A consistent increase in rainfall has eliminated concerns about abnormal dryness in the western Gulf of Guinea region.
- Substantial rain returned to abnormally dry areas of Uganda and the Lake Victoria region this past week.



Moisture surged northward into parts of the West African Sahel this past week

During the past 7 days, a surge in moisture and influx of rain was observed in parts of the Sahel. Many areas of central Niger, Mali, and even northward into southern Algeria received at least 10mm, and locally more than 50mm of rainfall (**Figure 1**). The heaviest rains (>100mm) in the region were found in southern Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon. Other areas, such as central Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, as well as parts of Nigeria received lesser and below-normal amounts of rain. Rainfall was enough over the drier portions of the far western Gulf of Guinea region to further diminish moisture deficits there.

An analysis of cumulative rainfall anomalies during the last 30 days (**Figure 2**) still shows some localized dryness in Sierra Leon and Liberia. However, it has been sufficiently reduced in size and magnitude so as not to be of concern any longer. Southern Cote D'Ivoire and neighboring areas of Ghana and Liberia possess the greatest moisture surpluses for the period, with 100-200mm being observed. Other areas are showing notable rainfall deficits on the order of around 50mm. These areas include large portions of Nigeria, along with central Ghana. Despite areas of moisture deficits, vegetation indices indicate little colocation of poor vegetation health. Most of the region is on track for a near-normal rainfall/cropping season.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest that rainfall will be enhanced for a large portion of the region. Above-normal rainfall is expected for the western Gulf of Guinea region. It is also expected to stretch eastward across the southern Sahel, where the largest totals may exceed 100mm in local areas. Conversely, suppression is expected in southern Gulf of Guinea locales. These include southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria.

Substantial rain returned to Uganda and the Lake Victoria region this past week.

During the last week, rainfall continued to be enhanced throughout northwestern parts of the East Africa region. Western Ethiopia received the highest totals as shown in **Figure 3**, greater than 100mm locally. Rains increased over Uganda and western Kenya after several weeks of suppression. 25-50mm or higher rain totals were widespread. This halted increasing moisture deficits and perhaps improved the situation a bit for some areas. Rains also stretched across central Ethiopia and into northern Somalia. Even so, 30-day moisture deficits are still observed over those same areas. Additionally, both a delayed start and an early end to the April-May (Gu) rains in southern Somalia has likely adversely affected cropping there. Reduced crop yields are expected in the key producing areas of the Lower Shabelle and Bay.

Heavy, above-normal rains are forecasted for western Ethiopia and western Kenya. The enhancement is not expected to reach areas of abnormal dryness in Uganda at this time. Rainfall in Sudan and South Sudan should be near-average.

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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