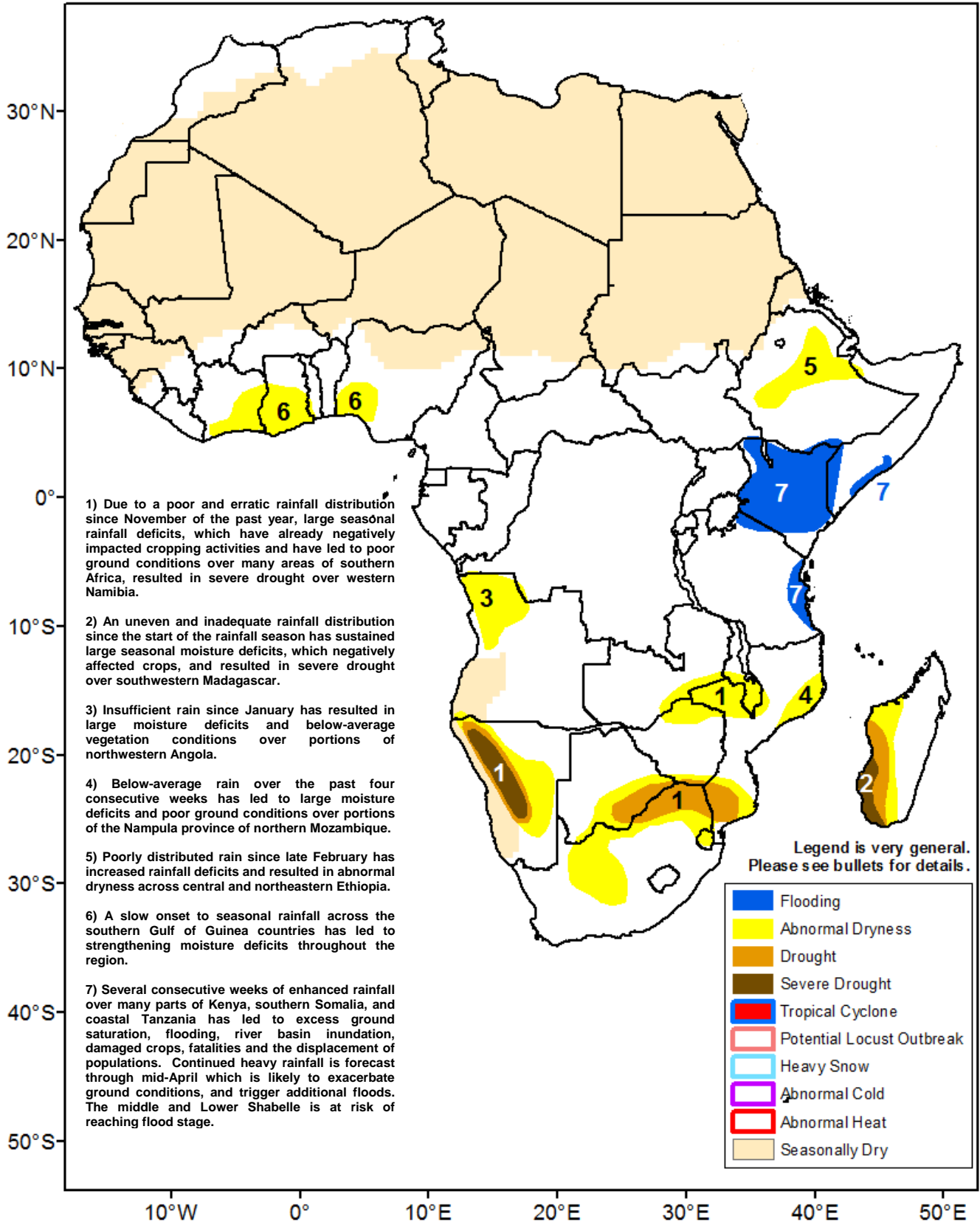




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 19 – April 25, 2018

- Enhanced rainfall received throughout many areas in the Greater Horn during April.



Increased, widespread rainfall brings more relief to some anomalously dry areas of Ethiopia.

During the last week, torrential and widespread seasonal rainfall was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa. Light to moderate rains continued over northern Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia. Further south, widely distributed heavy rainfall was received throughout Uganda, Kenya, southern Somalia, and Tanzania, with local areas receiving more than 150mm (Figure 1). The Heaviest rains caused flooding issues and fatalities in many areas of Kenya and in the Dar Es Salaam region of coastal Tanzania. Towards the west, a favorable distribution of rains was recorded in South Sudan.

The recent increase in seasonal rainfall across the Horn was needed, as many Belg producing regions of Ethiopia have experienced a pronounced delay in seasonal rainfall, with moisture shortages having rapidly developed throughout the month of March. While the enhanced precipitation during April has helped to mitigate anomalous dryness in some areas, there are still many areas in the northern Oromia, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Somali that remain well below average since early March (Figure 2). The largest moisture deficits remain near Dire Dawa over the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, where many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation for period. The continuation of suppressed precipitation in April would be likely to adversely impact ground conditions and cropping activities, as there is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains begin their cessation in May over the region.

Further south, significantly high moisture surpluses (100-200mm) continue to encompass much of Kenya and northern Tanzania due to heavy rainfall during March. With last week's moderate to locally heavy rainfall over the Kisumu, Samburu, Turkana regions, and Tana River basin, saturated ground conditions are likely to sustain the risk for localized flash floods and river basin inundation over Kenya.

The last 10 days have brought a much needed increase in rains to northwestern Angola. More than 50mm of rain have helped to mitigate moisture deficits that had been growing larger there.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest the continuation of significantly heavy rainfall over all of East Africa. Widespread weekly accumulations in excess of 50mm, and locally higher, are expected throughout southern and eastern Ethiopia, with higher amounts also expected across many Belg producing areas to help continue to alleviate seasonal dryness.

Delayed onset of rains observed across southern Gulf of Guinea countries.

For several consecutive weeks, light and poorly distributed rainfall amounts have been observed over southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and southwestern Nigeria according to satellite rainfall estimates. Improved rainfall was observed in southern Togo and Benin. Since early March, early seasonal moisture deficits have increased, leaving many local areas with half of their normally accumulated rainfall, which is expected to increase the risk for adverse ground impacts unfavorable for cropping activities.

During the next week, below-average rain is forecast for many Gulf of Guinea countries. Expect 7-day totals to remain less than 50mm.

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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