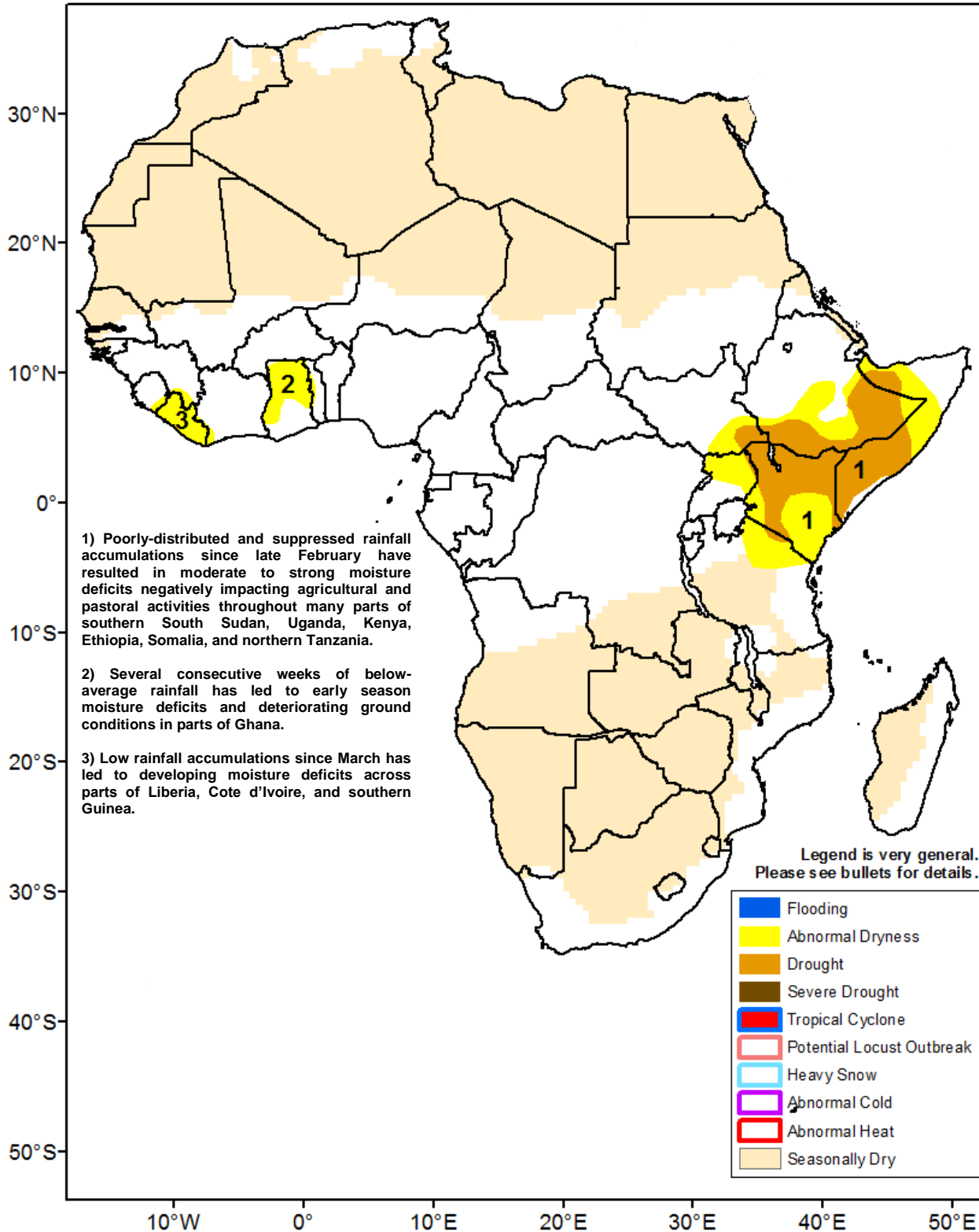




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 25 – May 31, 2017

- East Africa rains shift north, leaving many anomalously dry areas in Kenya and Somalia without late season moisture relief.



Rains intensify over western Ethiopia, as moisture spreads northward.

Similar to the previous week, a northward shift of the East Africa monsoon rains brought moderate to locally heavy rains across much of the northern half of Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, while many regions towards the south in Kenya and Somalia saw reduced amounts of precipitation. According to satellite rainfall estimates, widespread precipitation totals ranging between 50-75mm were received over western Ethiopia, with little to no rains received over southern Ethiopia and central Somalia (**Figure 1**). In Kenya, coastal showers continued over the flood affected areas of southeast province, with much lesser rainfall amounts observed throughout the remainder of the country. In Uganda and South Sudan, rainfall remained generally seasonable.

Analysis of the latest 30-day precipitation anomalies depicts the development of a dipole pattern across East Africa, with above-average rains concentrated in the north, with below-average rains observed in the south. With the exception of heavy, flood inducing rains that brought some relief over central and southeastern parts of Kenya, many other areas of the country are experiencing suppressed late season rains, which is likely to lead to drought like conditions for the remainder of the March-May season. Currently, many regions in northern Kenya, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since late April (**Figure 2**), with little opportunity for recovery as the season is nearly complete.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest little change to the current rainfall pattern, as moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast over western Ethiopia with lesser amounts forecast over northern Somalia.

A large surge of moisture and rains experienced over middle Gulf of Guinea countries and middle Sahel.

During the last week, a large increase in seasonal precipitation was received over several parts of northern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>150mm) were registered in central Burkina Faso, with similar accumulations in the coastal provinces of southern Ghana. Analysis of lower-level wind anomalies during the second dekad of May show period of robust southerly winds, which helped to transport ample moisture from the Gulf of Guinea northward across the Sahel and into the Sahara region of Mali and southern Algeria. These rains also benefitted many anomalously dry areas of northern Ghana. However, with much of the rains received in the north, southern coastal areas of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Cote d'Ivoire have continued to see a strengthening of seasonal moisture deficits.

Precipitation forecasts suggest an enhancement of rainfall across parts of Sierra Leone, Guinea and into southern Mali. A seasonable distribution of rains is forecast elsewhere in West Africa.

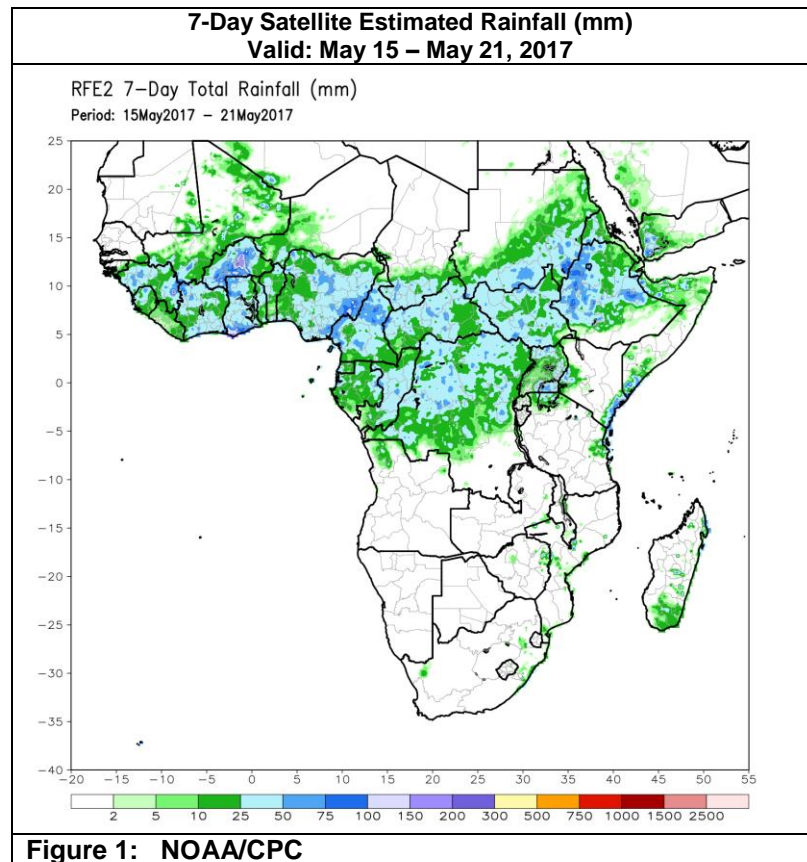


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

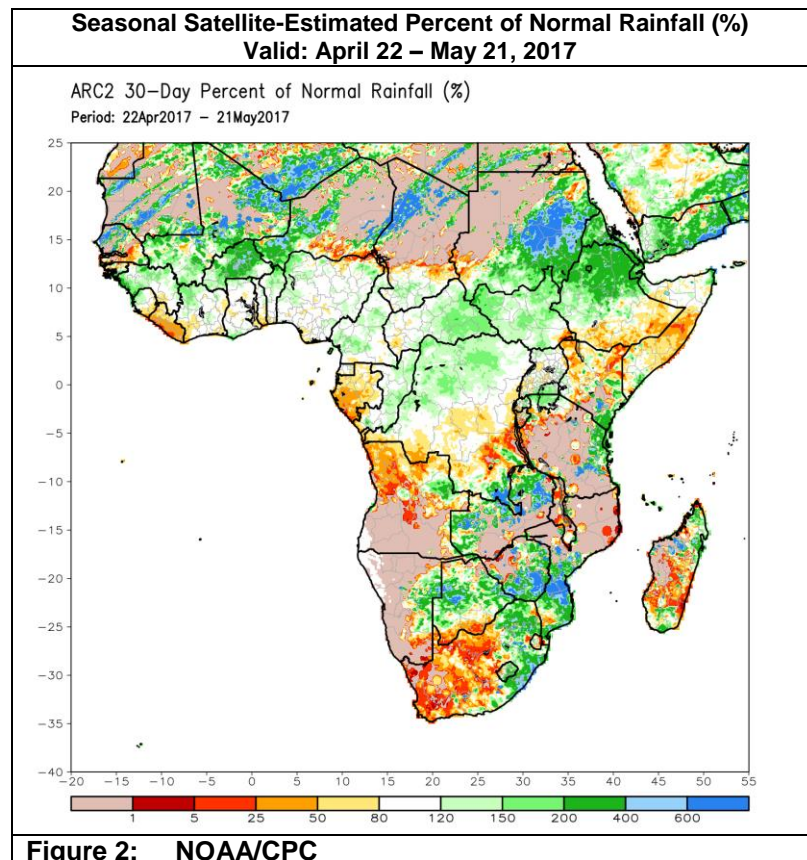


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.