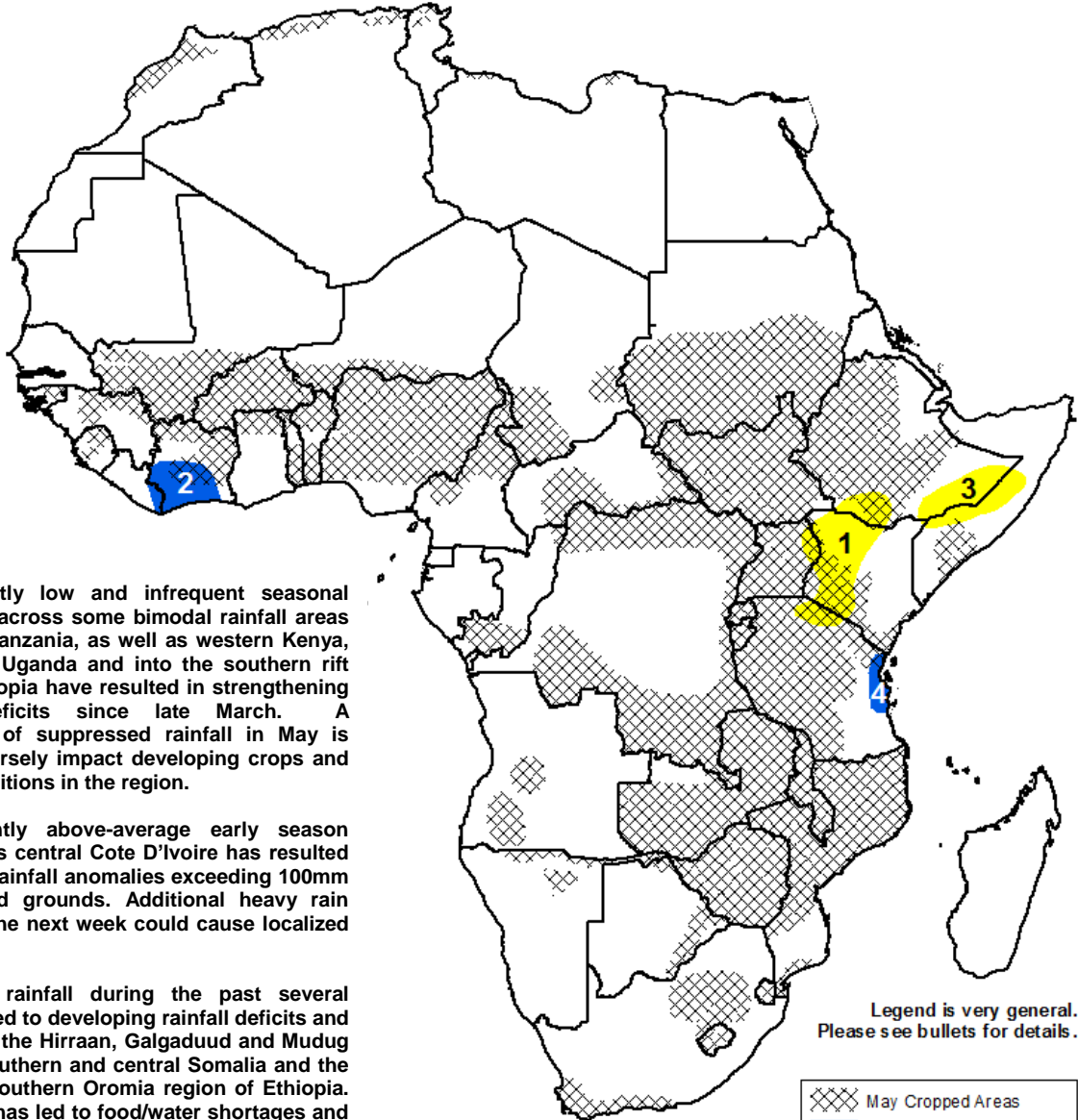




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 15 – May 21, 2014

- Heavy rains increase already substantial thirty-day rainfall surpluses in Cote D'Ivoire and South Sudan.
- An increase in rain is observed across dry portions of central Somalia, though, dryness remain.



1) Consistently low and infrequent seasonal precipitation across some bimodal rainfall areas of northern Tanzania, as well as western Kenya, northeastern Uganda and into the southern rift valley of Ethiopia have resulted in strengthening moisture deficits since late March. A continuation of suppressed rainfall in May is likely to adversely impact developing crops and pastoral conditions in the region.

2) Consistently above-average early season rainfall across central Cote D'Ivoire has resulted in thirty-day rainfall anomalies exceeding 100mm and saturated grounds. Additional heavy rain forecast for the next week could cause localized flooding.

3) Sporadic rainfall during the past several months has led to developing rainfall deficits and dryness over the Hirraan, Galgaduud and Mudug regions of southern and central Somalia and the Somali and southern Oromia region of Ethiopia. The dryness has led to food/water shortages and livestock fatalities. Moderate rains forecast should provide some relief during the next week, though dryness will remain.

4) Torrential coastal showers in the Tanga, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions of Tanzania have resulted in flooding, which has destroyed roads and infrastructure and damaged crops. With heavy rain forecast for the next week, additional flooding is possible.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	May Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Heavy rains extend across saturated areas in South Sudan.

During the last week, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed in South Sudan, western Ethiopia, Uganda, southwestern Kenya and coastal southern Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. The abundant rains in South Sudan were the second consecutive week where weekly rainfall totals exceeded 125% of normal. Farther south, the torrential coastal rains in Tanzania resulted in flooding which destroyed infrastructure and displaced local populations. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (10-40mm, locally >40mm) was recorded across southern Ethiopia and central/northern Somalia. These rains fell across dry areas of the Greater Horn and helped to increase ground moisture. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) fell in Kenya, excluding locations around Lake Victoria in the southwest (**Figure 1**). The lack of rains marked the 5th straight week where weekly rains were below 75% of normal.

While an increase in rain during the past week reduced long-term rainfall deficits, dryness still remains across parts of the Greater Horn of Africa as shown in percentile rankings of rainfall estimates during the past thirty-days. A widespread area stretching across Kenya into southern Ethiopia and central Somalia has observed thirty-day rainfall below the 20th percentile, indicating dry conditions. There have been reports of dryness negatively impacting crops and livestock in central Somalia, the Somali region of Ethiopia and the Lake Turkana region of northwest Kenya. The localized dryness extends north into Belg-producing parts of Ethiopia; although, ground reports indicate that recent dryness is not significantly impacting barley and pulse production across the highlands of Ethiopia. In contrast to the dryness, abundant rainfall in South Sudan has led to thirty-day rainfall totals exceeding the 90th or 99th percentile (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for Ethiopia and coastal Tanzania. The risk for flooding remains elevated in Tanzania. Moderate rains (10-40mm) are expected in Uganda, southern Ethiopia and Somalia. The rains should improve ground conditions. In contrast, rains are forecast to be below-average across northern South Sudan, Sudan and Kenya (**Figure 3**).

Heavy rains add to early season surpluses in West Africa.

Heavy rains (>50mm) continued during the last week across West Africa, increasing thirty-day rainfall surpluses across much of the area. The heaviest rains (>50mm) fell in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. This marked the fourth to sixth consecutive week with rains greater than 125% of normal in Cote D'Ivoire. The abundant rains in Cote D'Ivoire have also resulted in thirty-day rainfall exceeding the 90th percentile (**Figure 2**). Overall, much of West Africa has observed thirty-day rainfall ranking above the 80th percentile, which is consistent with the northwardly displaced location of the Intertropical Front in April and May.

For the next week, heavy and above-average rains are again forecast for Cote D'Ivoire, increasing the chance for flooding. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain is forecast (>25mm) except for areas in northern Nigeria where lighter rains (<15mm) are expected (**Figure 3**).

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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