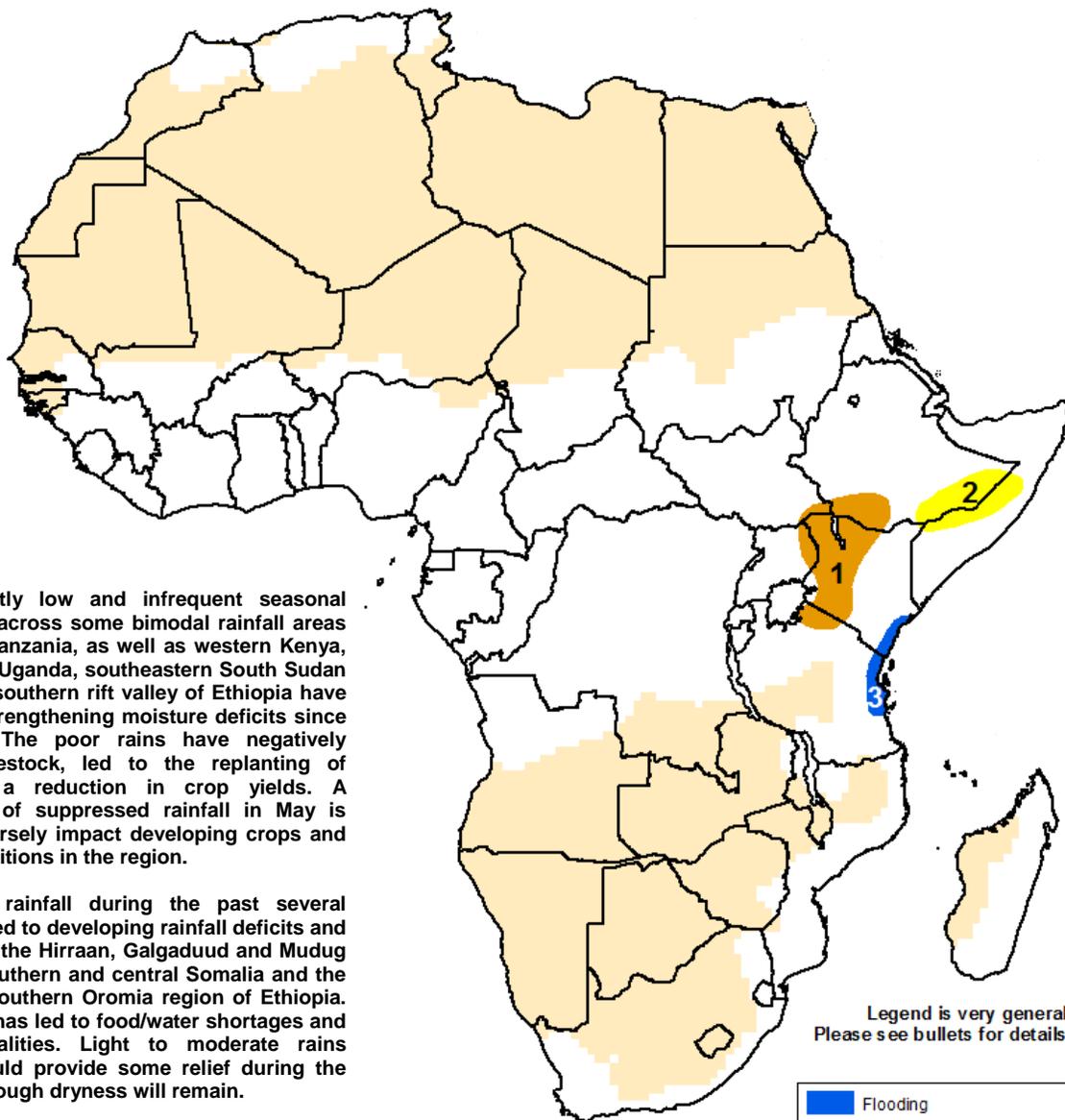




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 22 – May 28, 2014

- Abnormal dryness continues for another week across parts of the Greater Horn of Africa.
- Heavy rain reduces long-term rainfall deficits in far western West Africa.



1) Consistently low and infrequent seasonal precipitation across some bimodal rainfall areas of northern Tanzania, as well as western Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan and into the southern rift valley of Ethiopia have resulted in strengthening moisture deficits since late March. The poor rains have negatively impacted livestock, led to the replanting of crops, and a reduction in crop yields. A continuation of suppressed rainfall in May is likely to adversely impact developing crops and pastoral conditions in the region.

2) 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. Light to moderate rains forecast should provide some relief during the next week, though dryness will remain.

3) Torrential coastal showers in the Tanga, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions of Tanzania and in coastal Kenya 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.



## Heavy rains fall across South Sudan and western Ethiopia.

During the last seven days, the rainfall pattern across the Greater Horn of Africa reflected a pattern seen during previous weeks. The heaviest rain (>50mm) was observed across South Sudan and western Ethiopia. This was the third to fourth consecutive week with weekly rainfall greater than 125% of normal. Elsewhere, heavy rains (>40mm) were observed in northern Uganda and across localized areas in Somalia, coastal Kenya and coastal Tanzania. Heavy coastal showers over the last several weeks have led to reports of flooding across Tanzania stretching north into Kenya. Weekly rainfall in Lamu, Kenya was over 300mm. In contrast, light rain (<20mm) fell across much of Kenya, southern/eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia (**Figure 1**). The lack of rain has exacerbated dry conditions across eastern/northern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and central Somalia.

The long-term pattern of rainfall across eastern Africa has been steady over the past sixty days. Extremely wet conditions have been observed across South Sudan, southern Sudan and western Ethiopia as shown by sixty-day rainfall percentiles exceeding the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile across these areas. Meanwhile, poorly distributed rains, both spatially and temporally, have resulted in sixty-day rainfall percentiles falling below the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile across Kenya, southern Ethiopia and central Somalia (**Figure 2**). 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 dry areas also correspond to areas marked as having poor vegetative conditions (below-average NDVI anomalies).

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

## Heavy weekly rains increase surpluses in western West Africa.

During the last week, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded across far western portions of West Africa, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and southern Mali. Moderate to heavy rain (>25mm), in general, fell across West Africa with only central/northern Nigeria observing below-average and light rains (<20mm). The heavy rains in western West Africa added to already substantial long-term rainfall surpluses as sixty-day rainfall percentiles exceed the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile across much of Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, southern Guinea and parts of Liberia and Burkina Faso (**Figure 2**). The abundant rains have increased flooding concerns and marked a robust start to the West African Monsoon across West Africa.

For the next week, above-average, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for far western West Africa including, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, while moderate rain (10-40mm) is expected in southern Mali and coastal Nigeria. Lighter amounts of rain (<20mm) are forecast for central West Africa including Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria (**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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