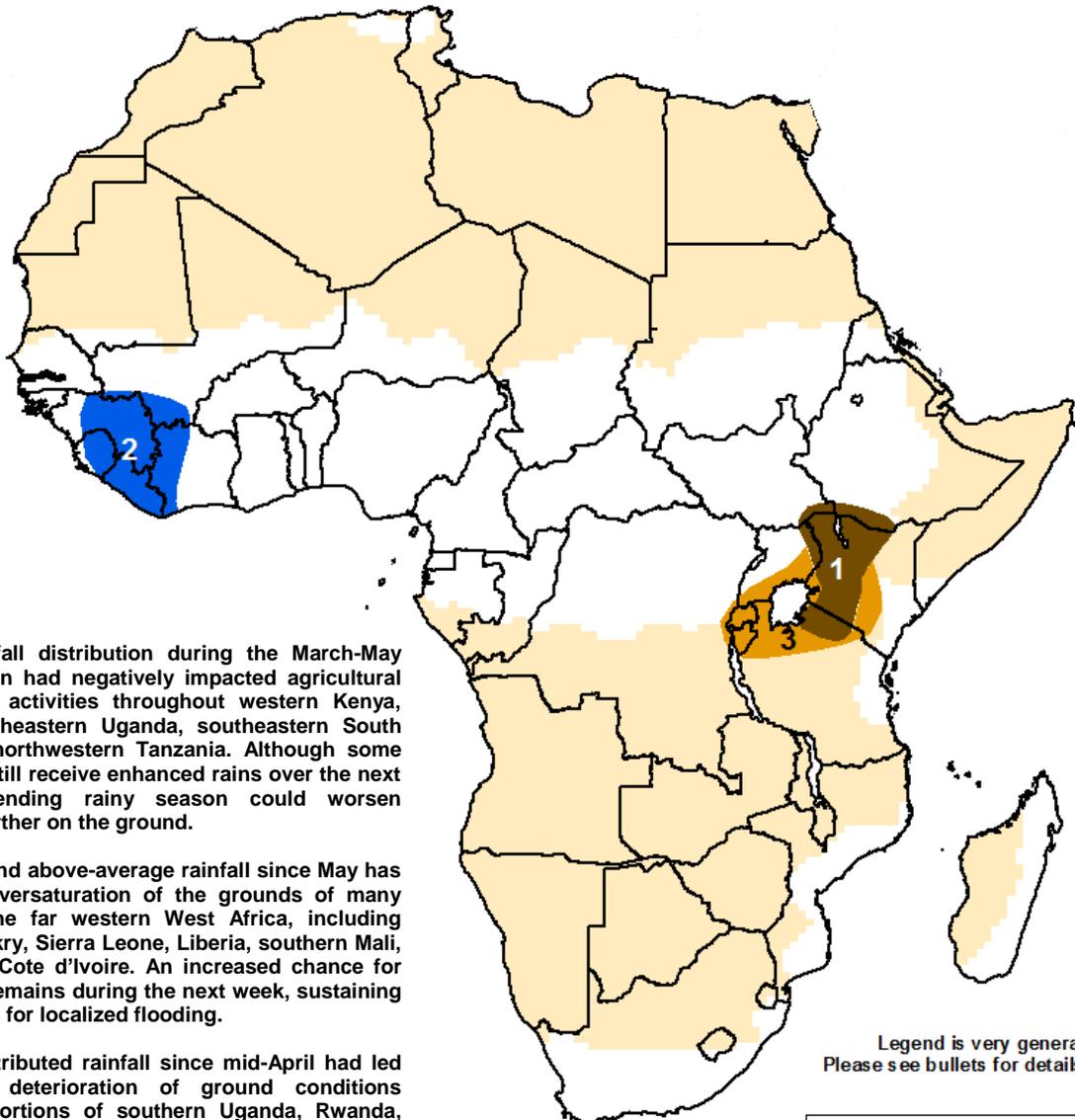




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 12 – June 18, 2014

- Rainfall deficits have increased over portions of West Africa.
- Slightly reduced rains observed in Eastern Africa.



1) Poor rainfall distribution during the March-May rainfall season had negatively impacted agricultural and pastoral activities throughout western Kenya, parts of northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, and northwestern Tanzania. Although some areas could still receive enhanced rains over the next week, the ending rainy season could worsen conditions further on the ground.

2) Frequent and above-average rainfall since May has resulted in oversaturation of the grounds of many regions of the far western West Africa, including Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Mali, and western Cote d'Ivoire. An increased chance for heavy rains remains during the next week, sustaining elevated risks for localized flooding.

3) Poorly distributed rainfall since mid-April had led to a rapid deterioration of ground conditions throughout portions of southern Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and northwestern Tanzania. As seasonal rainfall is expected to decrease in June, sustained moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact cropping activities in the region.

Legend is very general.  
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

## Moisture deficits observed over parts of West Africa.

The 2014 West African rainy season has been unevenly distributed both in spatial and temporal scales. While the far western portions, which include Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and southern Mali have received frequent and above-average rainfall since early May, the eastern counterparts, including southern Burkina Faso, northeastern Ghana, northern Togo and northern Benin, and central Nigeria have received below-average rainfall over the past thirty days, particularly since the second dekad (10-day period) of May. The largest rainfall deficits were observed over central Nigeria, where negative anomalies exceeded 100 mm over localized areas (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, negative anomalies ranged between 25 and 100 mm across the bordering areas of Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo. To the east, dryness has also been observed across southwestern Chad. The lack of rainfall across these dry portions of West Africa could be attributed to low-level divergence and stronger than normal dry northerly flow over the past few weeks.

Across the central parts of West Africa, seasonal rains have started nearly on time during the first week of May, however a prolonged dry spell has settled in since the second dekad of the previous month. An analysis of the Global Telecommunication Systems (GTS) raingauge measurement over Mango, Togo showed dry spells, with rainfall deficits exceeding 95 mm over the past thirty days (**Figure 2**). Vegetation indices also indicated degradation of conditions throughout the dry portions of the region. The continuation of poor seasonal rains could further reduce ground moisture and negatively impact cropping and pastoral activities over many local areas.

For next week, enhanced rains are forecast to continue over far western West Africa, maintaining the risks for flooding over many already-saturated areas. Localized heavy showers are possible over north-central Nigeria, which could help to reduce moisture deficits. In contrast, reduced rains are expected across southern Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, northern Togo, and southern Chad, which could worsen dryness over each respective area.

## Slightly reduced rains observed in Eastern Africa.

Cumulative rainfall during the past week remained slightly below-average over some areas of Eastern Africa despite continued moderate to heavy rains over southern South Sudan and western Ethiopia. Negative weekly rainfall anomalies ranging between 10 and 25 mm were observed over much of South Sudan, southern Sudan, and the northwestern and west-central parts of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). The slight reduction in rainfall over the past two weeks has helped to relieve excess of moisture over many local areas of southern Sudan and South Sudan during May. However, abnormal dryness may soon develop if insufficient rainfall continues. For next week, heavy rains are forecast over eastern South Sudan and western Ethiopia. Heavy showers are also expected in southwestern Kenya. Light (< 30 mm) to no rains are, however, expected elsewhere.

**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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