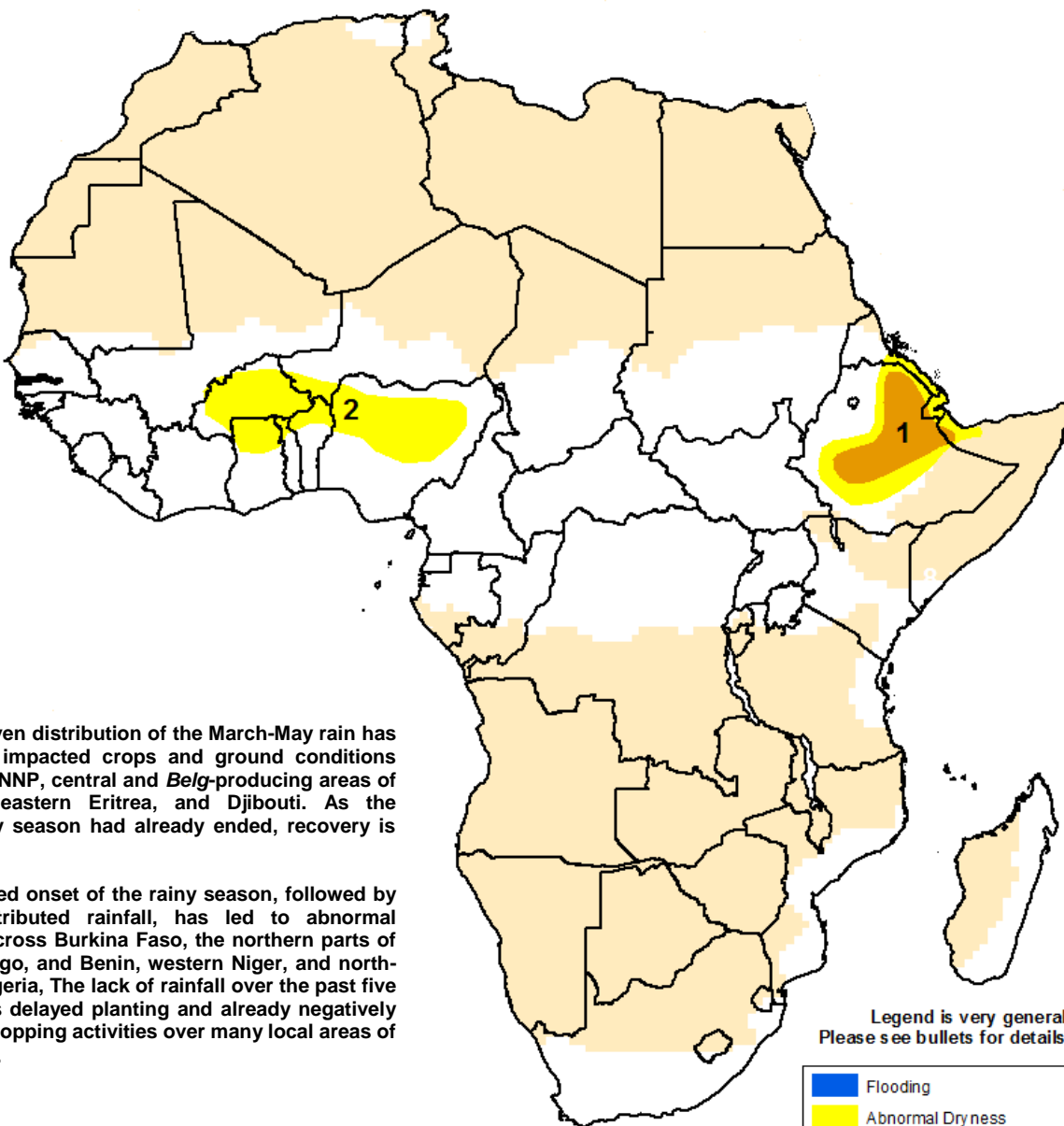




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 18 – 24, 2015

- Despite a recent improvement in rainfall, dryness has persisted over parts of West Africa.
- Below-average rainfall observed in northwestern Ethiopia and central South Sudan since the start of the season.



1) An uneven distribution of the March-May rain has adversely impacted crops and ground conditions over the SNNP, central and *Beig*-producing areas of Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, and Djibouti. As the March-May season had already ended, recovery is unlikely.

2) A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western Niger, and north-central Nigeria. The lack of rainfall over the past five weeks has delayed planting and already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas of 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

Consistent and large amounts of rain needed in parts of West Africa.

Since the beginning of the West African monsoon, insufficient rainfall has been observed over parts of the sub-region. This includes much of Nigeria, western Niger, Burkina Faso, and the northern portions of Ghana, Togo, and Benin (**Figure 1**). The largest seasonal deficits have been registered over central Nigeria, where negative departures from climatology ranged between 100 – 200 mm. As the season progresses, the Intertropical Front (ITF), rain-bearing system, also moves northward and is expected to bring its expected rainfall across the Sahel. However, deficient rain has already started to emerge in eastern Senegal and western Mali. Vegetation conditions, which were assessed by remote sensing technology and crop models, have already shown signs of an unfavorable situation throughout many local areas of West Africa. As a result, a well-distributed and consistent rainfall is needed over the upcoming weeks to replenish soil moisture, eliminate rainfall deficits, and aid agricultural and pastoral activities in the region.

During the past week, widespread rainfall was observed across West Africa, with copious amounts of rain over the far western portion, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and coastal Cote d'Ivoire and scattered moderate rain in southeastern Senegal, southern Mali, localized areas of Burkina Faso, and central Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Meanwhile, light rain was observed elsewhere.

For next week, wet weather pattern is forecast to continue across West Africa, according to the GFS model. The heaviest (> 75 mm) rainfall amounts are expected over Guinea-Conakry, southern Senegal, and southern Mali. Heavy rain is also forecast in northwestern Nigeria and the coastal areas to the south of the country. Light rain is expected elsewhere.

A slow start of the rainy season observed over parts of Eastern Africa.

Despite a widespread and frequent rainfall over most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, some areas have accumulated below-average rain since the start of the June – September season. Negative rainfall deficits, which ranged between 25 – 50 mm, have been recorded in western Ethiopia and the central parts of the South Sudan Republic (**Figure 3**). In Ethiopia, the deficits were due to an early dry spell during the beginning of June. In South Sudan, rainfall has been relatively frequent, but the cumulative amounts remained slightly below-average. Localized areas of southeastern Uganda and southwestern Kenya have also received below-average rain over the past two weeks. In contrast, wetter than average conditions have been observed throughout eastern South Sudan, westernmost and east-central Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia, and Uganda. Seasonal rainfall is expected to continue and bring adequate rain to erode moisture deficits over the dry portions of the sub-region. During the next week, heavy rain is forecast in western Ethiopia, while moderate to locally heavy rain is expected over western South Sudan. Farther south, scattered moderate to heavy rain is possible in northern Uganda and southwestern Kenya. Meanwhile, light rain is expected in southern Sudan and southern Somalia.

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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