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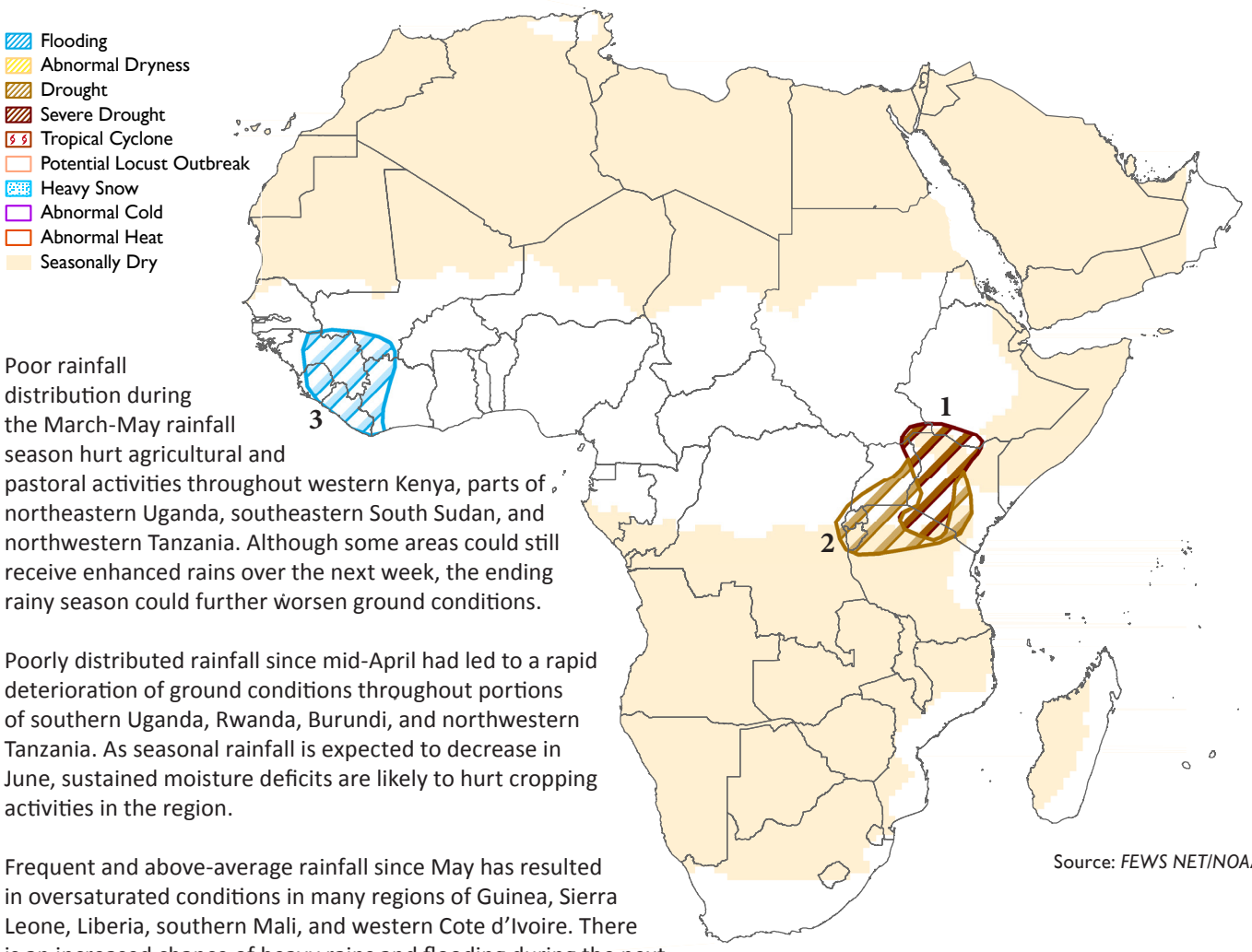
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Global Weather Hazards Summary

June 13-19, 2014

Dryness continues in parts of East Africa, Central America and Haiti; flooding possible in Guatemala and West Africa

Africa Weather Hazards



1. Poor rainfall distribution during the March-May rainfall season hurt 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 further worsen ground conditions.

2. 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 hurt cropping activities in the region.

3. Frequent and above-average rainfall since May has resulted in oversaturated conditions in many regions of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Mali, and western Cote d'Ivoire. There is an increased chance of heavy rains and flooding during the next week.

Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

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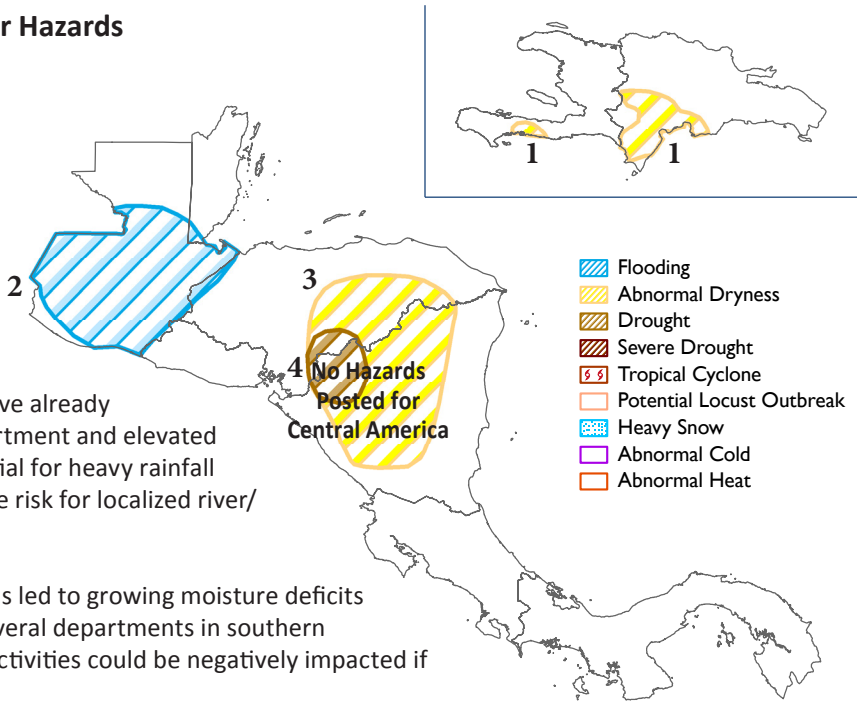
Latin America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards



1. While rains have recently increased over some anomalously dry parts of Hispaniola, long-term moisture deficits due to poor rainfall since the beginning of year may worsen ground conditions across parts of southern Haiti and southwestern Dominican Republic.

2. Above-average rains over the past several weeks have led to high moisture surpluses across much of Guatemala. The heavy rains have already caused landslides in the Huehuetenango department and elevated river levels throughout Guatemala. The potential for heavy rainfall during the next week is expected to sustain the risk for localized river/flash flooding and landslides in Guatemala.

3. Poorly distributed rainfall since early March has led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions across several departments in southern Honduras and northern Nicaragua. Cropping activities could be negatively impacted if rains remain below-average.

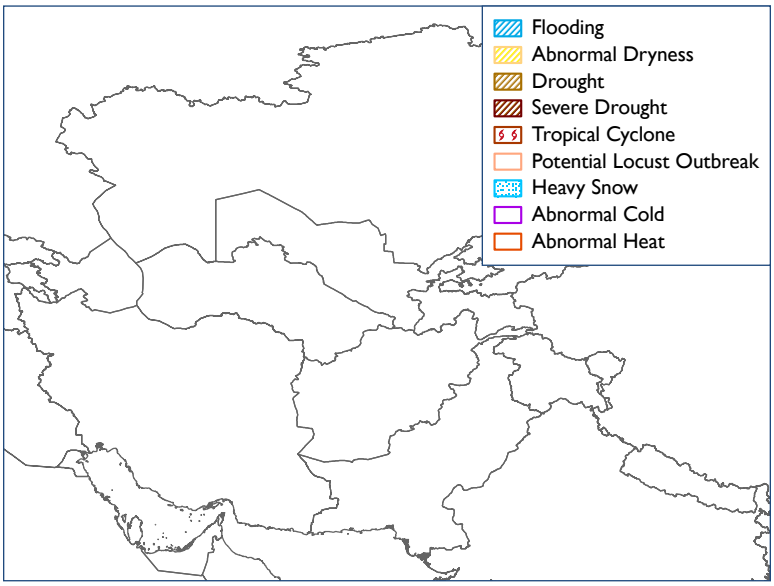
Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

4. Extended dry spells and below-average rains have led to substantial seasonal rainfall deficits and poor ground conditions in southern Honduras and the Chinandega, Madriz and Nueva Segovia and Estelí departments of northern Nicaragua. The drought conditions have negatively impacted corn and coffee production.

Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures

During the first week of June, seasonal temperatures prevailed across Central Asia with temperature anomalies of 3°C or less. During the next week, temperatures are forecast to be above-normal with the largest positive anomalies (6-8°C) across southwest Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Precipitation

On June 6, heavy rainfall (>50 mm in localized areas) triggered flash flooding in the Baghlan Province of northern Afghanistan. The threat for additional flash flooding is expected to decrease as seasonal dryness begins later this month.

Elsewhere, light rainfall (less than 25 mm) was limited to north-central and northeastern Kazakhstan during the past week. According to the CPC Unified Gauge Analysis, precipitation deficits range from 10-50 mm across northwest Kazakhstan. Abnormal dryness may prevail across this region if precipitation remains inadequate for the remainder of June. The GFS model indicates scattered showers across western and northern Kazakhstan from June 11-18.

Africa

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 Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and southern Mali have received frequent and above-average rainfall since early May, while areas further east in southern Burkina Faso, northeastern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, and central Nigeria have received below-average rainfall over the past 30 days, particularly since the second dekad (10-day period) of May. The largest rainfall deficits were in central Nigeria, where localized areas received 100 mm less rain than normal for this time period (Figure 1). Meanwhile, rainfall was 25-100 mm below normal across the bordering areas of Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo. To the east, dryness has also been observed across southwestern Chad.

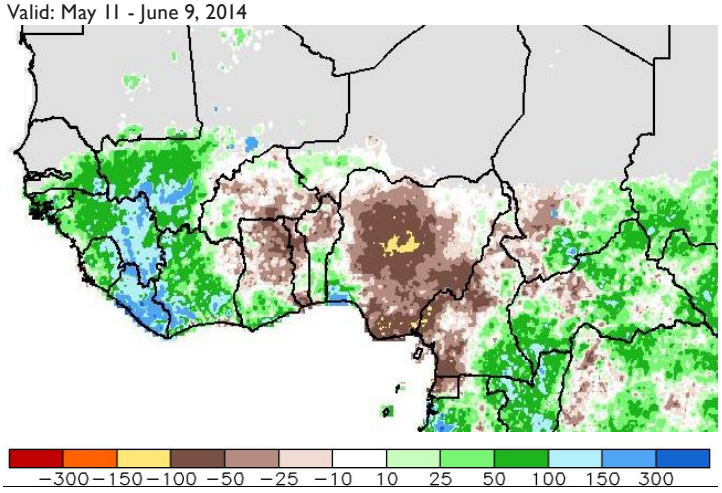
Across the central parts of West Africa, seasonal rains started nearly on time during the first week of May. but a prolonged dry spell has set in since the second dekad (10-day period) of May. An analysis of the Global Telecommunication Systems (GTS) rain-gauge measurement over Mango, Togo showed dry spells, with rainfall deficits exceeding 95 mm over the past 30 days (Figure 2). Vegetation indices (NDVI) also indicated worsening conditions throughout the dry portions of the region. The continuation of poor seasonal rains could further limit ground moisture and hurt cropping and pastoral activities over many local areas.

Next week, enhanced rains are forecast to continue over the western parts of West Africa, maintaining the risks of flooding over many already-saturated areas. Localized heavy showers are possible over north-central Nigeria, which could reduce moisture deficits. In contrast, reduced rains are expected across southern Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, northern Togo, and southern Chad, which could worsen dryness in those areas.

Slightly reduced rains observed in East Africa

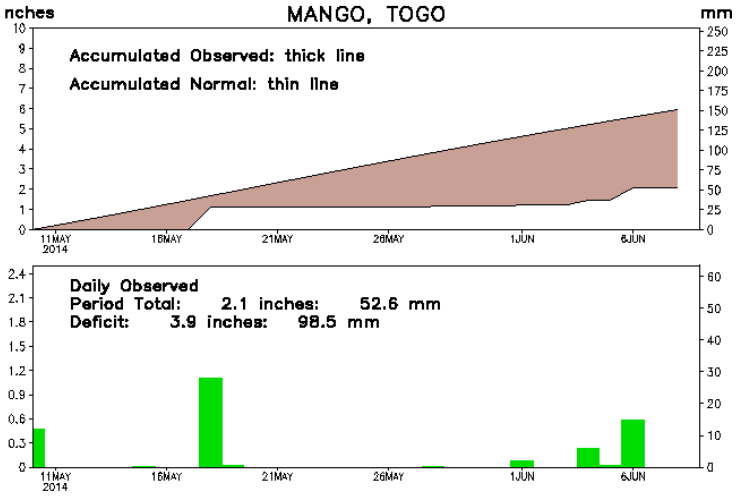
Cumulative rainfall during the past week remained slightly below average over some areas of East Africa despite continued moderate-to-heavy rains over southern South Sudan and western Ethiopia. Rainfall was 10-25 mm below normal over much of South Sudan, southern Sudan, and the northwestern and west-central parts of Ethiopia (Figure 3). The slight reduction in rainfall over the past two weeks has helped to relieve excess moisture in many local areas of southern Sudan and South Sudan that accumulated in May. However, abnormal dryness may soon develop if rainfall continues to be insufficient. Next week, heavy rain is forecast to fall over eastern South Sudan, western Ethiopia, and southwestern Kenya. Light (< 30 mm) to no rains are expected elsewhere.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 11 - June 9, 2014



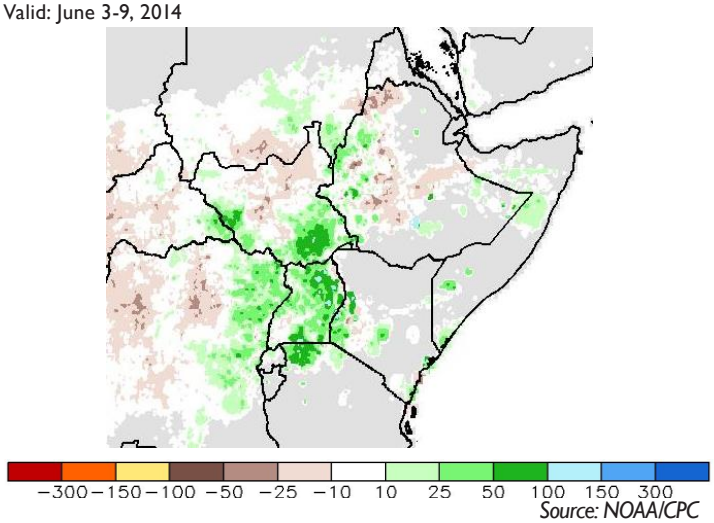
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: GTS Rainfall Measurement for Mango, Togo
Valid: May 10 - June 8, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3. Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 3-9, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

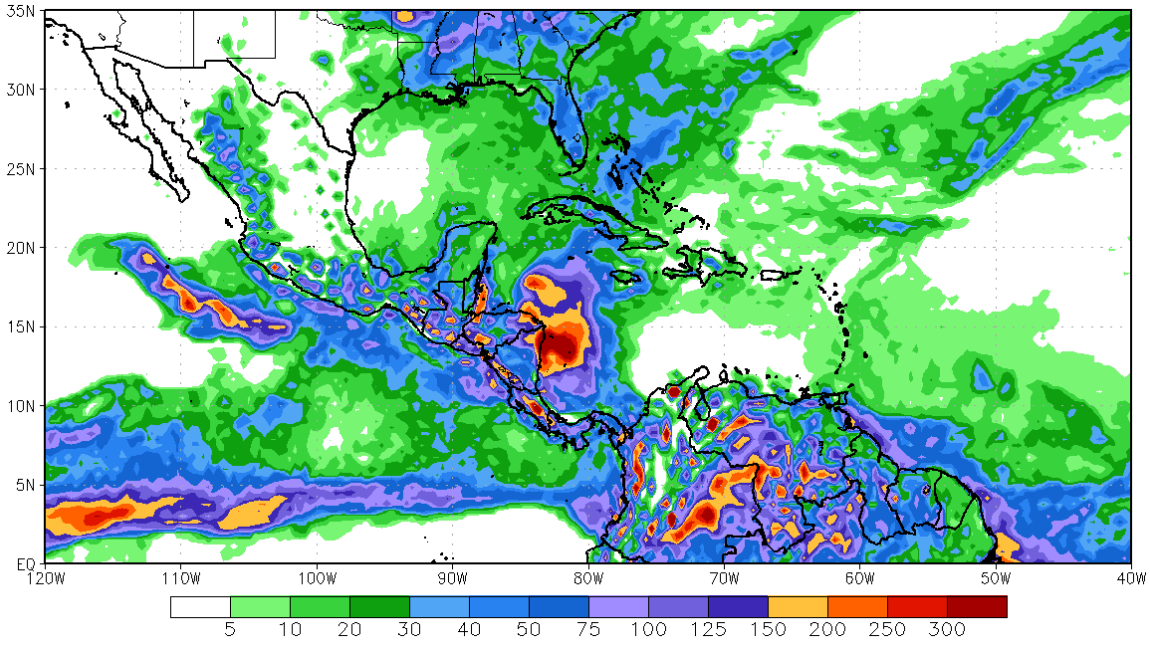
Latin America and the Caribbean

Abundant rainfall across northern Central America led to flooding during the past week.

During the past week, copious amounts of rain (>75 mm) were reported across Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, and western El Salvador. The heaviest rain fell along the Pacific coastline of Guatemala (~300 mm in San Jose, Guatemala). The torrential rains caused landslides and flash/river flooding in the Alta Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Solola, Escuintla, Izabal and Petén Departments of Guatemala. The past week's rain followed several weeks of above-average rains that raised rivers above alert level in the Pet n, San Marcos, Zacapa, Santa Rosa and Izabal Departments of Guatemala and caused landslides in Huehuetenango Department. Elsewhere, heavy rain (>50 mm) fell in Costa Rica and Panama, while lighter rains (5-40 mm) fell across dry areas in eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. The below-average rains increased seasonal rainfall deficits in eastern Honduras and Nicaragua as rains have been less than 50 percent of normal. The poor rains have created drought conditions in southern Honduras and the Chinandega, Madriz and Nueva Segovia and Estelí Departments of Nicaragua. If rains do not start by the third week of June, corn crops may not be able to be sown. Negative impacts on coffee production have also been reported.

Next week, rainfall totals are likely to increase across the Caribbean coastlines of Honduras and Nicaragua, providing some relief. Elsewhere, heavy rains (>50 mm) are forecast across saturated areas in Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize and eastern Honduras, increasing the risk for localized flooding. The forecasted heavy rains extend across the Pacific coastline of Central America south to Costa Rica and Panama.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: June 10-17, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Below-average rains during the past week result in additional dryness

During the last week, moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm) fell across northeastern portions of Haiti and bordering Dominican Republic. Light to moderate rains (10-30 mm) fell across northern Haiti, the western tip of the southwestern peninsula of Haiti, as well as central Dominican Republic. Other areas received little to no rain (<10 mm). Overall, weekly rainfall was below-average across Hispaniola and provided little relief to dry conditions in northern/southern Haiti and western Dominican Republic that date back several months. Even though rainfall has increased in intensity and frequency during the last several weeks in the Centre, Artibonite and Nord-Est Departments of Haiti and bordering areas in the Dominican Republic, many areas in Hispaniola have received less than 80 percent of their seasonal rainfall dating back to May 1, 2014. Poor vegetative conditions remain across localized areas in the Sud and Nippes Departments of Haiti and the southwestern parts of the Dominican Republic. For the next week, rainfall is expected to be below average across much of Hispaniola. Moderate rains (10-30mm) are forecast for the Centre Department of Haiti and bordering areas in the Dominican Republic. Light rains (<15mm) are expected elsewhere. Due to the lack of spatial coverage of beneficial rains, dryness is expected to continue during the next week.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.