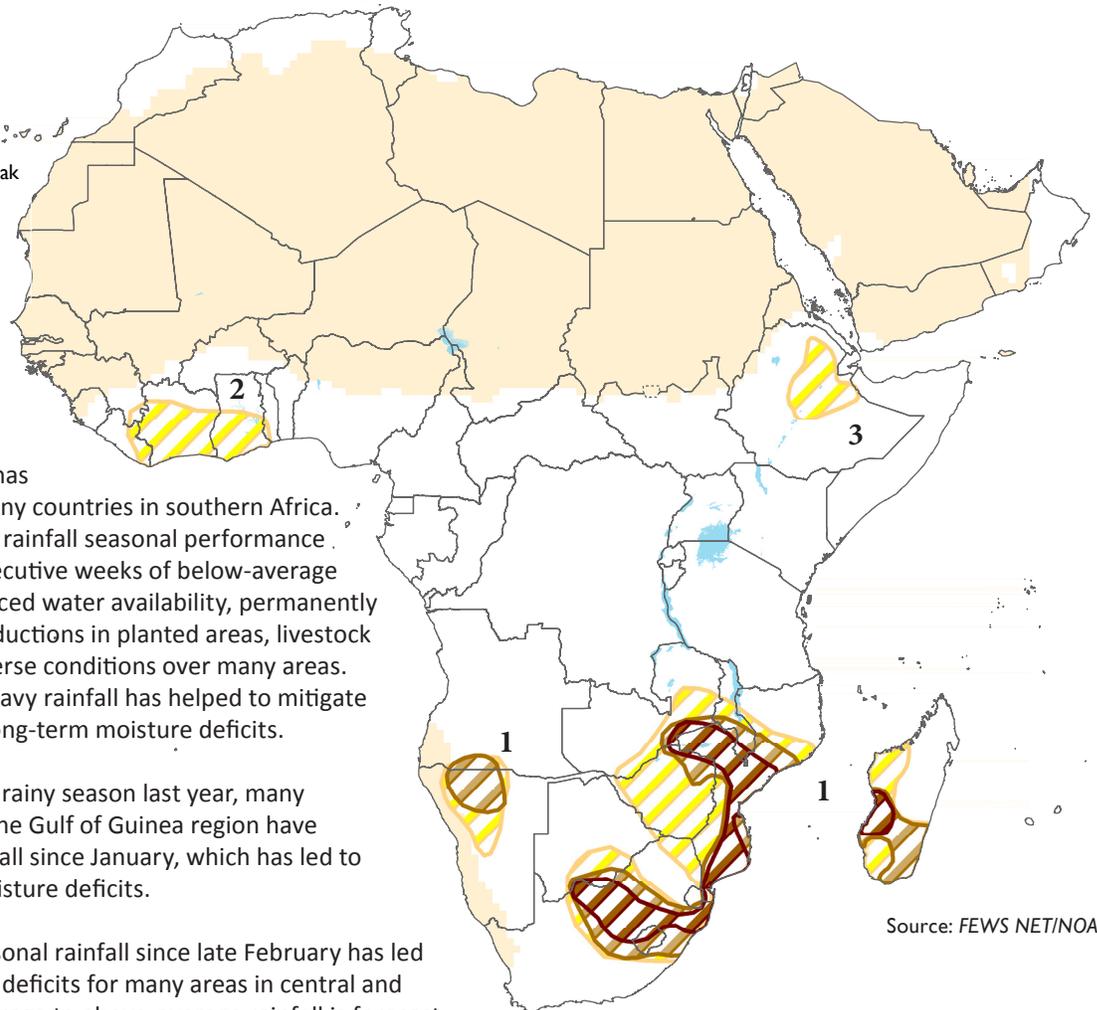


Abnormal dryness develops in East Africa due to the delayed start of season

Africa Weather Hazards

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



1. Significantly suppressed and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. Exacerbated by a poor rainfall seasonal performance last year, several consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall has led to reduced water availability, permanently wilted crops, major reductions in planted areas, livestock deaths, and other adverse conditions over many areas. Since late February, heavy rainfall has helped to mitigate both short-term and long-term moisture deficits.
2. Combined with a poor rainy season last year, many bimodal rain areas in the Gulf of Guinea region have experienced little rainfall since January, which has led to quickly developing moisture deficits.
3. Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since late February has led to increasing moisture deficits for many areas in central and northern Ethiopia. Average to above-average rainfall is forecast for the region during the next week.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Slightly increased moisture observed in Ethiopia towards the end of March

During the last week, a slight increase in rainfall was recorded across some areas of Ethiopia compared to the previous week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, isolated, heavy rainfall accumulations (>50mm) were registered in the eastern Amhara and Afar regions of the country, with light to moderate precipitation amounts (10-50mm) observed towards the south and west (Figure 1). Towards the east, little to no rainfall was received throughout the Somali region of Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and Somalia. Around the Lake Victoria region, light to moderate rainfall was observed over Uganda, northern Tanzania and southwestern Kenya during the 3rd dekad of March.

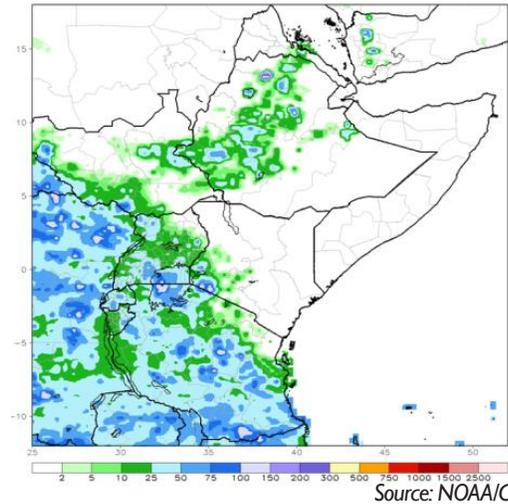
While increased, isolated rains fell in the eastern Amhara and Afar regions of Ethiopia during the last week, many belg-producing areas continue to experience seasonal dryness characterized by a delayed start and/or an erratic rainfall distribution since February. Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies over the past 30 days depict mainly below-average moisture conditions, with only isolated pockets of favorable, above-average rainfall conditions (Figure 2). At present, the strongest moisture deficits are located across the Afar region and along the higher elevations of the Rift Valley. Outside of Ethiopia, increasing moisture deficits have also been observed throughout much of Uganda and northeastern Tanzania. Although the dryness in the southern portion of the Horn may lead to adverse ground impacts, suppressed seasonal rainfall in Ethiopia may exacerbate ground conditions following two consecutively failed rainfall seasons in the region.

In late March, precipitation forecasts suggest a moderate potential for enhanced rainfall across the highlands of Ethiopia during early April, which is expected to help alleviate anomalous dryness and moisture deficits in the region.

Heavy March rainfall in southern Africa pushes eastward, continues to relieve dryness over Mozambique and Madagascar

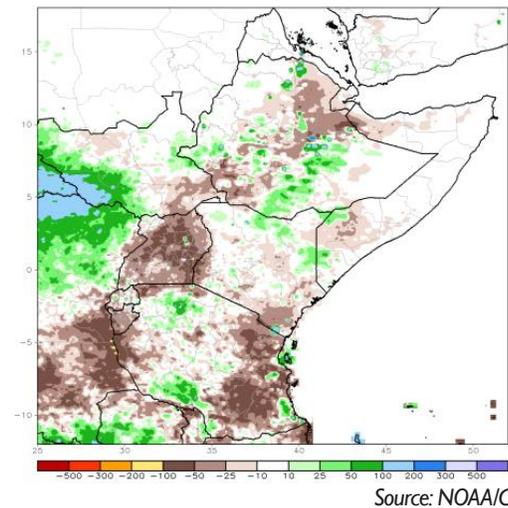
Moisture recovery is ongoing throughout much of southern Africa, as an eastward shift in the monsoon circulation concentrated heavy rainfall accumulations (>100mm) over many severely dry portions of Mozambique and Madagascar during the last seven days (Figure 3). Climatologically, the increased rainfall during late March is highly unusual, as rains typically begin to weaken throughout southeastern Africa. However, increased rains and ground moisture are expected to replenish water resources/availability and may benefit cropping areas that planted later into the season due to poor rainfall conditions and delayed starts earlier in the season.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 20-26, 2016



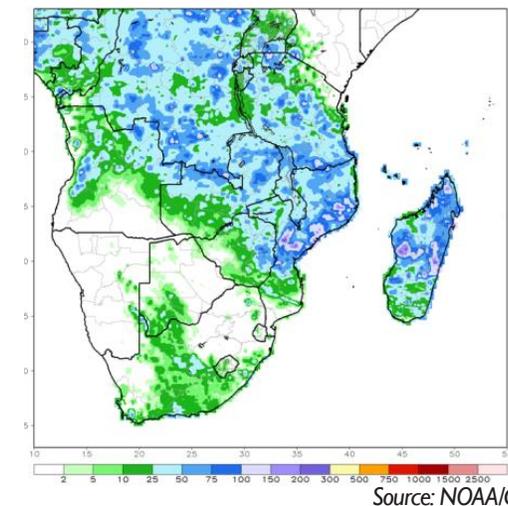
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: 30-day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 26 - March 26, 2016



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3: 30-day Precipitation Anomaly Difference (mm)
As of: March 26, 2016



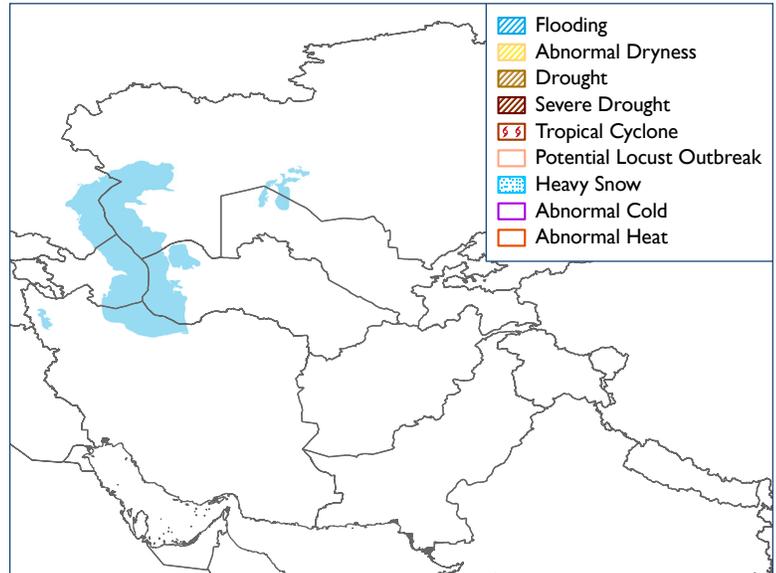
Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

No hazards are posted for Central Asia.

Temperatures: Temperatures were above average across Kazakhstan from March 20-26, and up to 7 to 9°C above average over central parts of the country. Meanwhile, near-normal temperatures were observed farther south. During the next seven days, near-normal temperatures are expected over Central Asia. Maximum temperatures are forecast to range in the upper 20s to mid-30s in southern Turkmenistan and in the low-lying areas of northern and western Afghanistan.

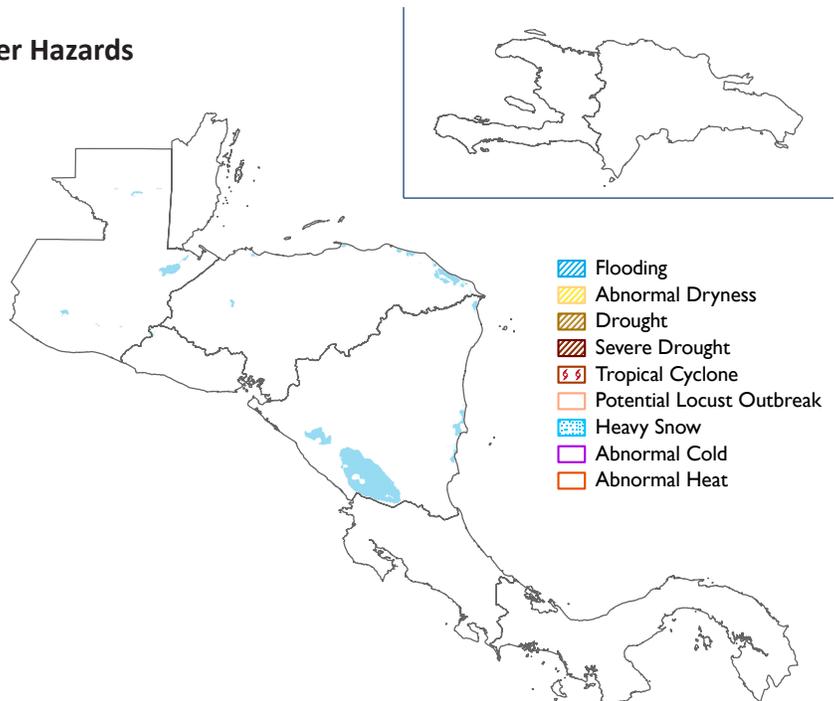
Precipitation: From March 22-28, scattered light precipitation fell over northern Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and central Kazakhstan, while widespread, light precipitation was observed in northern Turkmenistan. Since late February, average to above-average precipitation has helped eliminate 30-day precipitation deficits and mitigate dryness over many local areas of the region. During the next week, precipitation forecasts indicate widespread, moderate to locally heavy precipitation is likely over Afghanistan and Tajikistan. To the north, light to moderate precipitation is expected over Kazakhstan.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards posted for Central America and the Caribbean.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

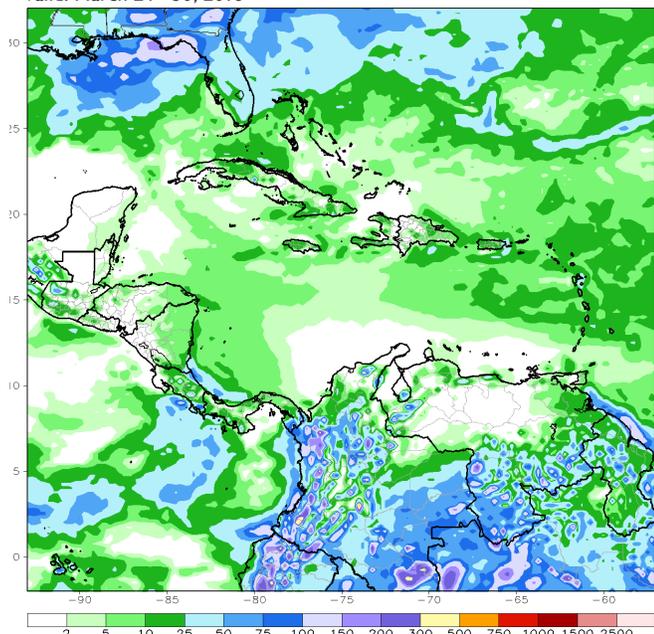
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Favorable rainfall patterns have led to persistent positive ground conditions across the region

Widely scattered light and moderate rains fell across the region this past week. According to satellite estimates, rainfall was generally less than 25 mm. Areas that received showers include southern Honduras, southwestern Guatemala, and the Lake Nicaragua region of Nicaragua. Generally, rainfall has been average to slightly below average across the entire region. During the previous 30 days, above-average rains have occurred in northern Guatemala, Belize, and northern Honduras, with rainfall closer to average in southern parts of the region. Rainfall surpluses are greatest (>100 mm) in Northern Guatemala and Belize. Vegetation conditions continue to look quite favorable throughout most of Central America, according to the Vegetation Health Index (VHI). Some areas in eastern Nicaragua show some minor vegetation stress.

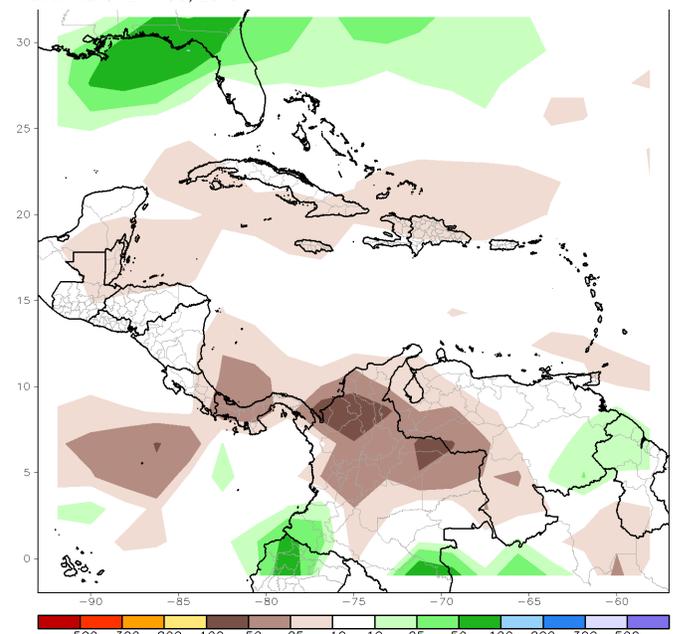
For the next week, rainfall is expected to be more widespread throughout the region, even reaching regions along the Pacific coastline. Rainfall totals are likely to be greatest over western and northern Guatemala where more than 75mm of rain is possible. Rainfall totals are expected to be more moderate, but still well distributed, across the rest of the region. In total, the pattern should yield generally near-normal rainfall conditions, with totals running a bit above normal in Guatemala and some southeast areas near Costa Rica and Panama receiving slightly below average rainfall.

Figure 4: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: March 24 - 30, 2016



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 5: Seven-Day Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
Valid: March 24 - 30, 2016



Source: NOAA/CPC

Rainfall has been suppressed across Hispaniola during the last 7 days

During the last week, little rainfall was observed over the island, according to satellite estimates, leading to drier than normal conditions and widespread rainfall deficits. Rainfall totals were as much as 50-100 mm below normal in northwestern Dominican Republic. Any rains that did fall were likely confined to coastal regions, especially in and around the Gulf of Gonâve. Combined with below-average rainfall the week before, 30-day rainfall deficits are starting to grow. Rainfall deficits are becoming widespread and reaching 50-100 mm in parts of Central Haiti and neighboring western Dominican Republic. Both the VHI and NDVI continue to indicate broadly positive vegetation conditions across both countries. Indications from Haiti are that ground conditions are positive for early planting activities. Rainfall is expected to be closer to normal during the next seven days, with widespread precipitation likely over the entirety of the island. Rainfall could be higher than 25mm in some areas.

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.