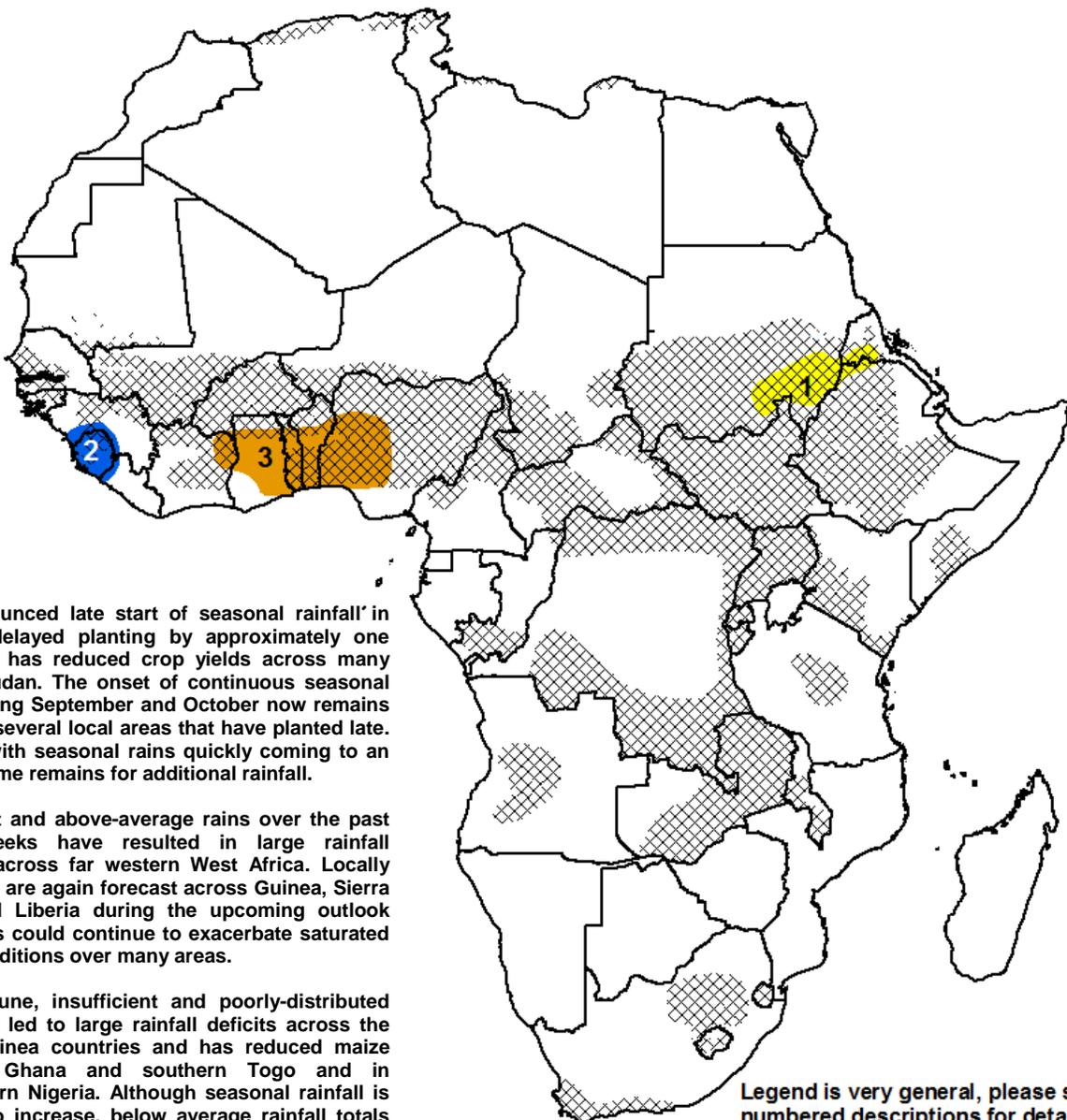




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 3 – October 9, 2013

- Heavy rains were observed across dry areas in bi-modal regions along the Gulf of Guinea.



1) A pronounced late start of seasonal rainfall in July has delayed planting by approximately one month and has reduced crop yields across many parts of Sudan. The onset of continuous seasonal rainfall during September and October now remains critical for several local areas that have planted late. However, with seasonal rains quickly coming to an end, little time remains for additional rainfall.

2) Frequent and above-average rains over the past several weeks have resulted in large rainfall surpluses across far western West Africa. Locally heavy rains are again forecast across Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia during the upcoming outlook period. This could continue to exacerbate saturated ground conditions over many areas.

3) Since June, insufficient and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to large rainfall deficits across the Gulf of Guinea countries and has reduced maize yields in Ghana and southern Togo and in southwestern Nigeria. Although seasonal rainfall is expected to increase, below average rainfall totals have already been observed since the beginning of September. Average rainfall is forecast during the beginning of October which is expected to relieve some dryness.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

	October Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

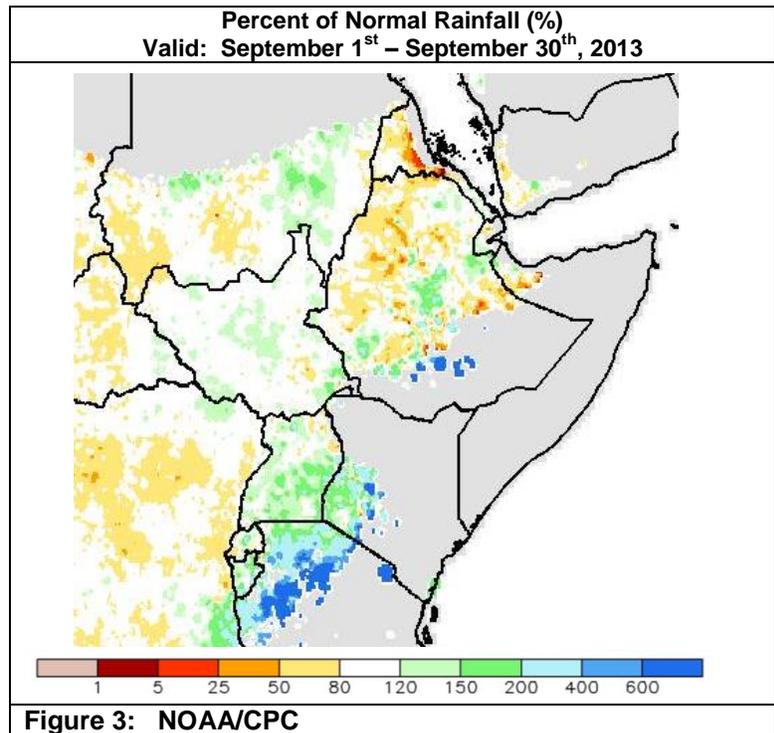
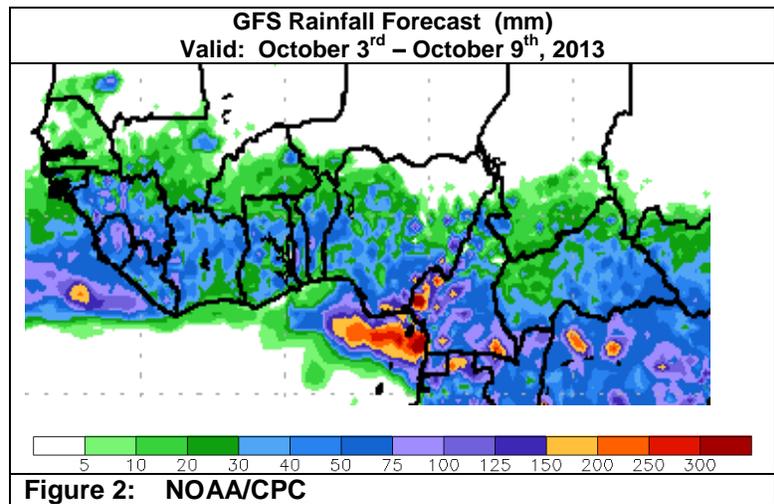
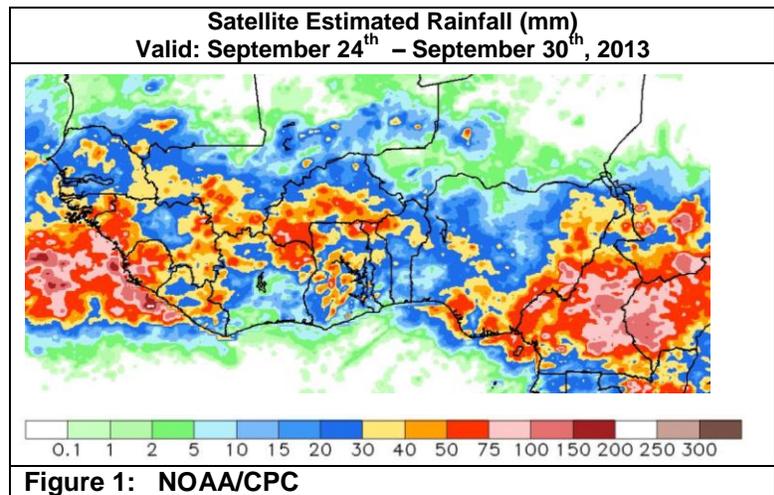
## Heavy rains are recorded across bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea in Ghana, Togo and Benin.

During the last seven days, rainfall across West Africa was heavy and focused closer to the Gulf of Guinea than the Sahel. The seasonally equatorward progression of the Intertropical Front has coincided with this seasonal increase in rains along the Gulf of Guinea. The heaviest rains (>75mm) were observed in Ghana, Togo, southern Nigeria and localized areas in Guinea and Sierra Leone. The rains that fell across bi-modal areas in Ghana, Togo, and Benin provided relief to dry conditions that had developed previously. Heavy rains (>50mm) were widespread across much of West Africa. In contrast, seasonably light rains (<10mm) were observed across the Sahel in Nigeria, central Mali and Niger (**Figure 1**).

While heavy rains returned to the Gulf of Guinea, the lack of rainfall in many bi-modal areas in Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria during June, July and August has led to sustained 60 and 90 day rainfall deficits below the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile. This dryness combined with the typical August break in rains has negatively impacted crop development and yields in Ghana, Togo and southwestern Nigeria. However, recent rains have allowed for a recovery in ground moisture during the second peak of the bi-modal rainfall season along the Gulf of Guinea. After a week of increased rain, below-average and light rains are expected during the next week for already dry areas along the Gulf of Guinea. This will provide little help to second period crops. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-40mm) are forecast for much of central and eastern West Africa with the heaviest rains (>40mm) forecast across far western West Africa in Guinea and Sierra Leone (**Figure 2**), continuing localized flooding concerns.

## Localized flooding reported in South Sudan.

During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rain (10-40mm, locally >50mm) was observed across eastern Africa. The heaviest rains fell in western South Sudan where localized flooding was reported in the Warrap, Unity, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei states. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) fell across central Sudan, central and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Rainfall over the past thirty days has been near average across much of the Greater Horn of Africa, excluding below-average areas in western Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). The observed dryness in eastern Sudan, northwestern Ethiopia and Eritrea is associated with a prolonged delayed start of season during June and early July. Since then, though, rains have been near or slightly above-average and have only just begun to seasonally end. This late increase in rains is expected to help some local areas recover, and help benefit crops that were planted later in the season. However, rains in this area during the next week are expected to be seasonably light, providing little help. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-50mm) are forecast for western/central Ethiopia, northern Somalia, Uganda and southern South Sudan.



**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.