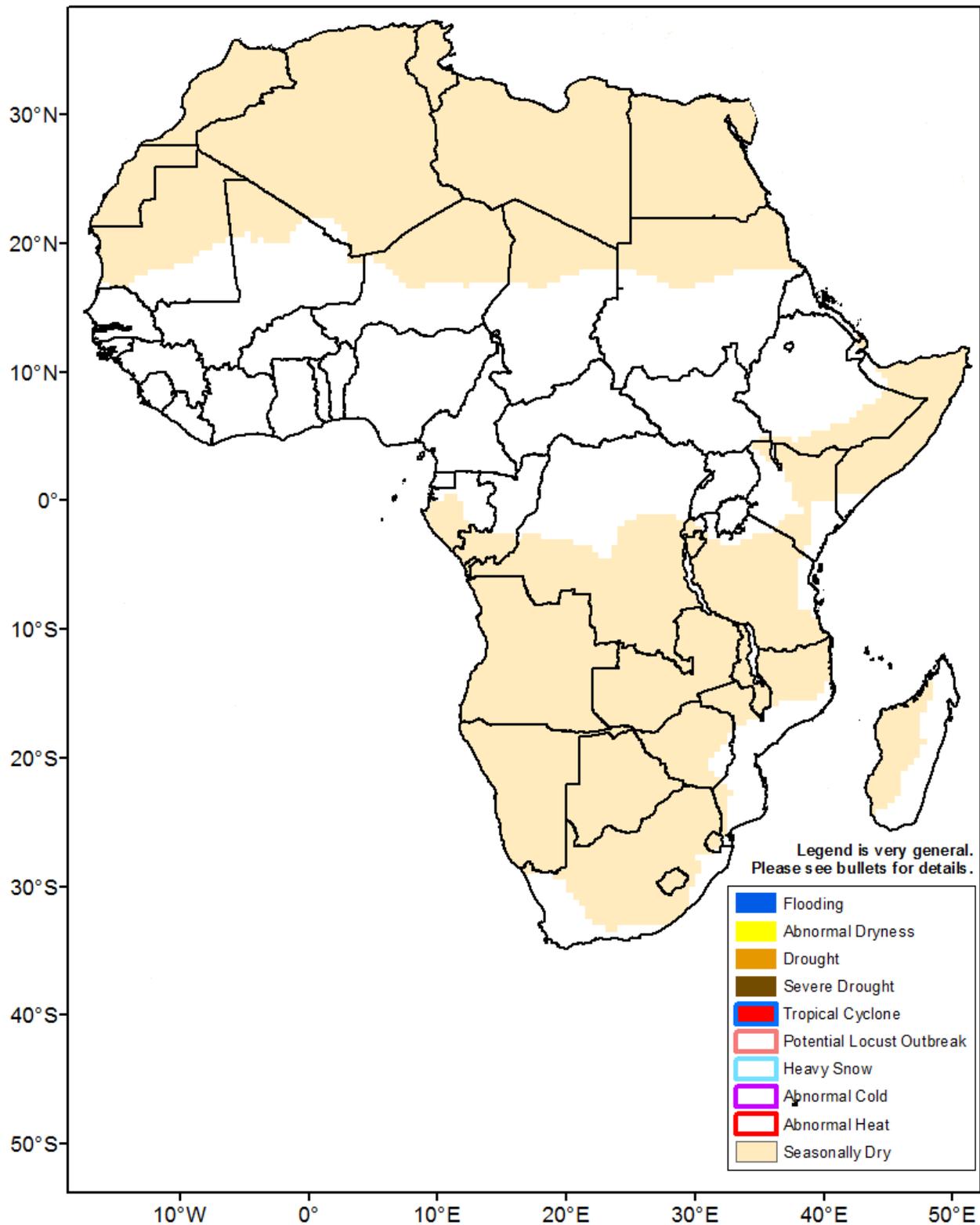




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 14 – July 20, 2016

- Moderate to heavy rain observed over many parts of West Africa during the past week.
- Seasonal to above-average rain to continue over Eastern Africa during the next outlook period.



Moderate to heavy rain prevailed in West Africa during the past week.

During early July, moderate to heavy rain was observed across many areas of West Africa. This included Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone of the far western portions of the sub region as well as southern Mali, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, Togo, and Benin, central and southern Niger, Nigeria, southern Chad, and CAR (**Figure 1**). In Nigeria, this past week's rain has resulted in flooding, infrastructure damages, and affected people in the Sokoto State, according to report. Meanwhile, light rain was recorded elsewhere. Over some areas, the northward advancement of the Inter-Tropical Front, rain-bearing system, over the recent weeks has improved rainfall conditions. Two consecutive weeks of light rain have helped reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits over many local areas of central Senegal.

An analysis of the cumulative rain since May has indicated rainfall surpluses throughout most parts of West Africa. Wetter than normal conditions were recorded over Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad (**Figure 2**). The largest (> 100 mm) surpluses were observed over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and localized areas of northwestern Cote d'Ivoire and southern Burkina Faso. This is mostly attributable to an above-average position of the Inter-Tropical Front and average to above-average number of rain days throughout the Sahel. The continuation of seasonal rain should help provide favorable soil moisture for cropping activities over many areas. In contrast, seasonal deficits were registered over central Senegal, localized areas of the Gulf of Guinea, and central Nigeria due to a delayed onset of the rain and uneven rainfall distribution.

During the next week, seasonal to above-average rain is expected to continue throughout the Sahel. Torrential rain is forecast over Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, and Nigeria. Abundant rain is also expected over Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone, while light rain is forecast elsewhere.

Seasonal rain continues over the Greater Horn of Africa.

From July 6-10, moderate to locally heavy rain continued over western Ethiopia, southern Eritrea, southern Sudan, and South Sudan, while light rain was observed elsewhere (**Figure 3**). Since the beginning of the June-September rainfall season, seasonal surpluses have been recorded over most parts of Eastern Africa, except localized areas of western Ethiopia and northeastern South Sudan, where cumulative rain has accounted only between 50-80 percent of the average. During the next week, seasonal to above-average rain is expected to continue over western Ethiopia, southern and western Sudan, and South Sudan. While the forecast continuation of seasonal rainfall could be beneficial to agricultural activities over many areas of the sub-region, downpours and excess of moisture could also trigger flooding and adversely impact the livelihoods of many people over flood-prone and already-oversaturated areas.

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

