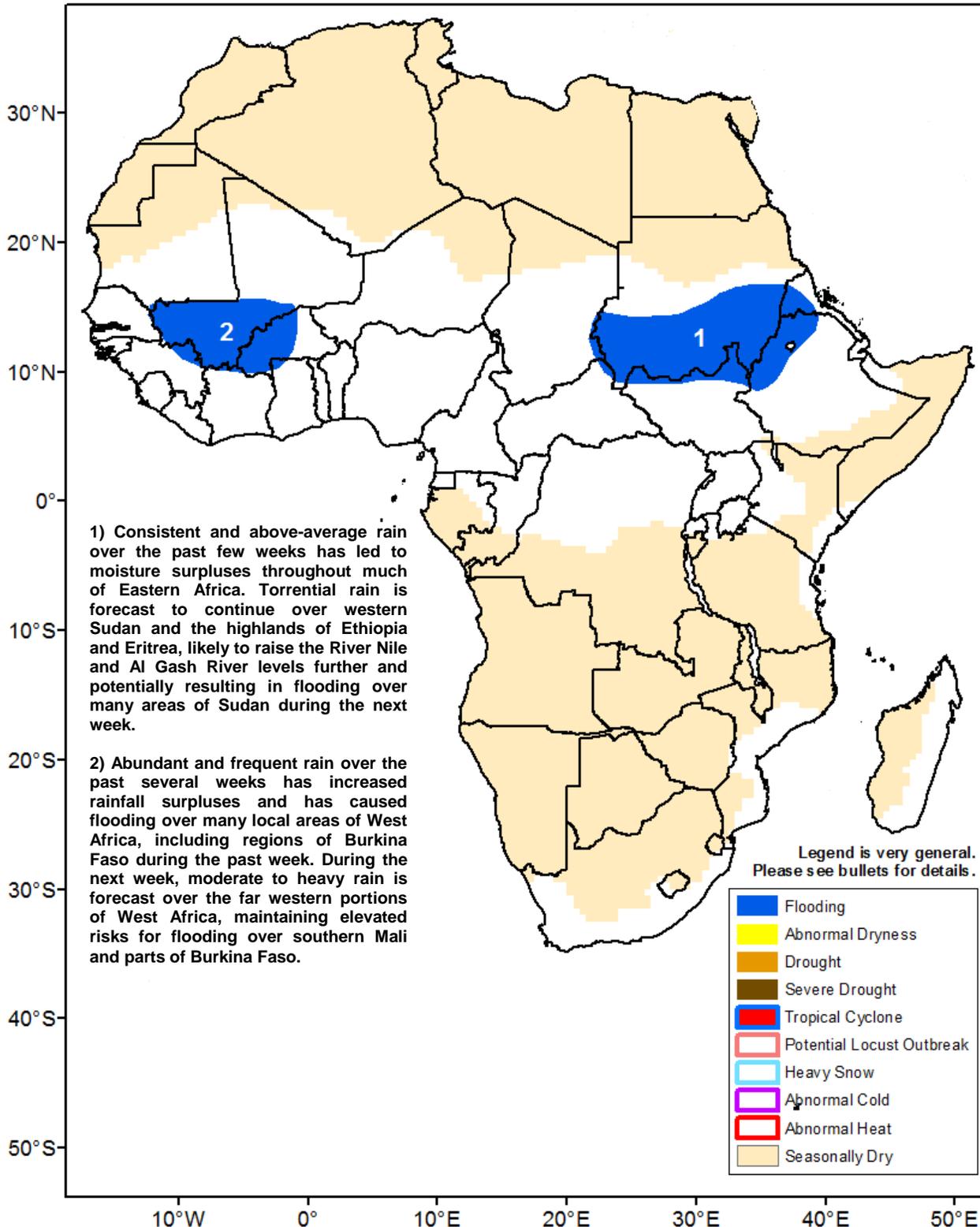




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 28 – August 3, 2016

- Heavy and above-average rain observed over many parts of West Africa during the past week.
- Torrential rain forecast to continue over northwestern Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and parts of South Sudan.



## Heavy downpours observed throughout West Africa.

During the past seven days, a significant increase in rainfall was observed over West Africa, with heavy downpours (> 100 mm) over southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mauritania, western Mali, Burkina Faso, and localized areas of the Gulf of Guinea countries (**Figure 1**). Over Burkina Faso, this past week's well above-average rain has resulted in flooding and affected people in Ouagadougou and many regions of the country. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain was recorded over as far north as northern Mali and northern Niger. Although a consistent and widespread distribution of rainfall has benefited agricultural and pastoral activities over many areas of West Africa over the past several weeks, excessive of moisture has also exacerbated and worsened conditions on the grounds over some areas.

Since the beginning of July, a wide portion of West Africa has experienced wetness. Positive rainfall anomalies, ranging between 50-300 mm, have been observed from Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, the northern parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and localized areas of Togo and Benin, Nigeria, to Chad (**Figure 2**). The favorable distribution of rainfall over the past few weeks has also been attributed to an average to above-average (northerly) position of the Inter-Tropical Front across West Africa.

During the next week, heavy rain is forecast to continue across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, parts of Liberia, and southern Mali. This maintains high risks for flooding and worsening of ground conditions over areas of southern Mali and portions of Burkina Faso. Abundant rain is also expected over localized areas of southern Niger, Benin, and Nigeria, while light rain is expected elsewhere.

## No respite in heavy rain over Eastern Africa.

From July 20-26, wet weather patterns continued over Eastern Africa, with the heaviest (> 100 mm) rain over southern Sudan, western South Sudan, and northwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). Meanwhile, light to moderate rain was observed elsewhere. Due to consistent, seasonal to above-average rain over the past several weeks, thirty-day rainfall surpluses were registered throughout much of Eastern Africa, with the largest (> 100 mm) positive anomalies over east-central Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia. Thirty-day negative rainfall anomalies over local areas of north-central Ethiopia were also removed. Although, the continued seasonal rain should favor cropping activities over many areas of the region, frequent and above-average rain over the western Ethiopian and Eritrean Highlands also raises the Nile and Al Gash River levels and thus increases the risks for river flooding along downstream areas in Sudan. For next week, heavy downpour is forecast over northwestern Ethiopia and western Sudan, which could trigger flash flooding and destruction of houses over many local areas of the country. To the south, moderate to heavy rain is expected over 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.

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