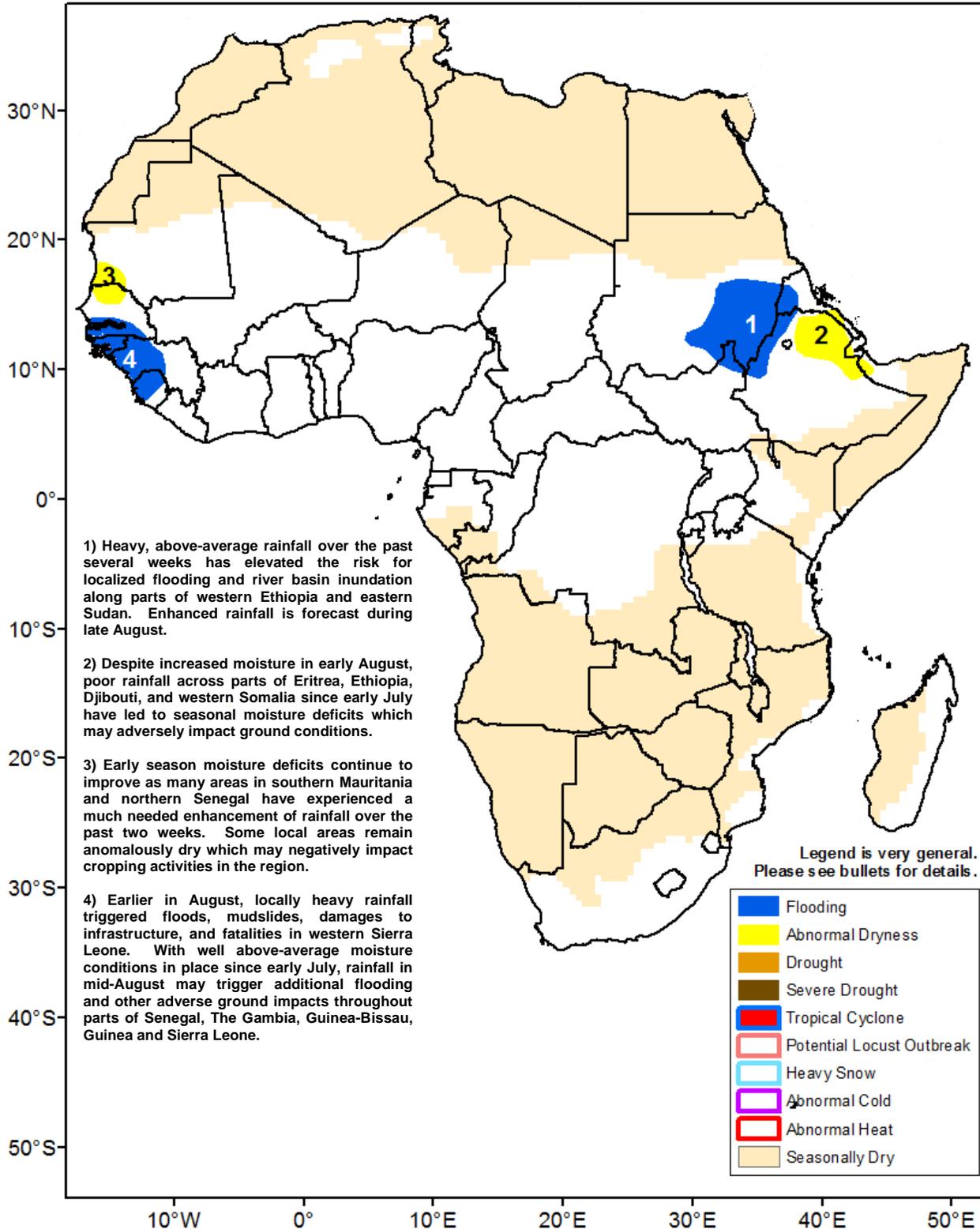




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 24 – August 30, 2017

- Heavy rainfall forecast over parts of Senegal, Guinea and Mali during late August.



## Enhanced rainfall continued over western Sahel.

According to latest satellite rainfall estimates, locally heavy rainfall were again observed over several West Africa countries, with amounts in excess of 75mm over many parts of flood affected Sierra Leone, as well as Guinea and Senegal (**Figure 1**). Another week of increased rainfall amounts in southern Mauritania helped to improve anomalously dry conditions in the region. Further east, lesser (10-25mm) but well distributed rains were also received throughout Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Parts of northern Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and western Nigeria saw an increase in rainfall compared to the previous week.

Despite the abundant rains across the western Sahel, and the improvement of moisture deficits in northern Senegal and southern Mauritania in the past couple of weeks, recent decreases in seasonal rainfall have led to the development of moisture deficits further east. In the southwestern provinces of Mali and northeastern Guinea, moderate to locally large rainfall deficits in the region ranging between 25-100mm, or between 50-80 percent of normal are now being observed since late July (**Figure 2**). Similar conditions are also emerging over parts of southern Burkina Faso, and over northwestern Nigeria and southern Niger. The continuation of unfavorable seasonal rains may negatively affect ongoing cropping activities. Longer term seasonal conditions, however, still remain quite favorable.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest a broad scale enhancement of seasonal rainfall over western Mali Senegal and Guinea, which is expected to help offset short-term moisture deficits in the region. Increased rainfall amounts are also expected across southern Niger during late August.

## Seasonal rains shift north, bringing increased moisture to eastern Sudan and Eritrea.

During the last week, moderate to heavy weekly rainfall accumulations continued over eastern Africa, with a northward shift in the monsoon which brought increased rainfall into the more arid regions of eastern Sudan. The highest rainfall amounts (75mm) were received over the Amhara and Tigray provinces of Ethiopia, with locally heavy amounts also received in Eritrea and eastern Sudan. As rains have increased towards the north, the evolution of seasonal rainfall towards the south has become less favorable. Many local areas in the SNNP, Gambella provinces of Ethiopia, as well as, the Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria provinces of South Sudan have experienced strengthening moisture deficits (**Figure 2**). The continuation of erratic rains in the region may adversely affect ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, enhanced seasonal rainfall is forecast over eastern Sudan, western Ethiopia, and western Eritrea. The heavy rains are expected to elevate the risk of downstream flooding along the Nile River basin. Additionally, an increase in rainfall is also expected for anomalously dry areas further south into southeastern South Sudan, and southwestern Ethiopia which should help to mitigate seasonal moisture deficits.

**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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