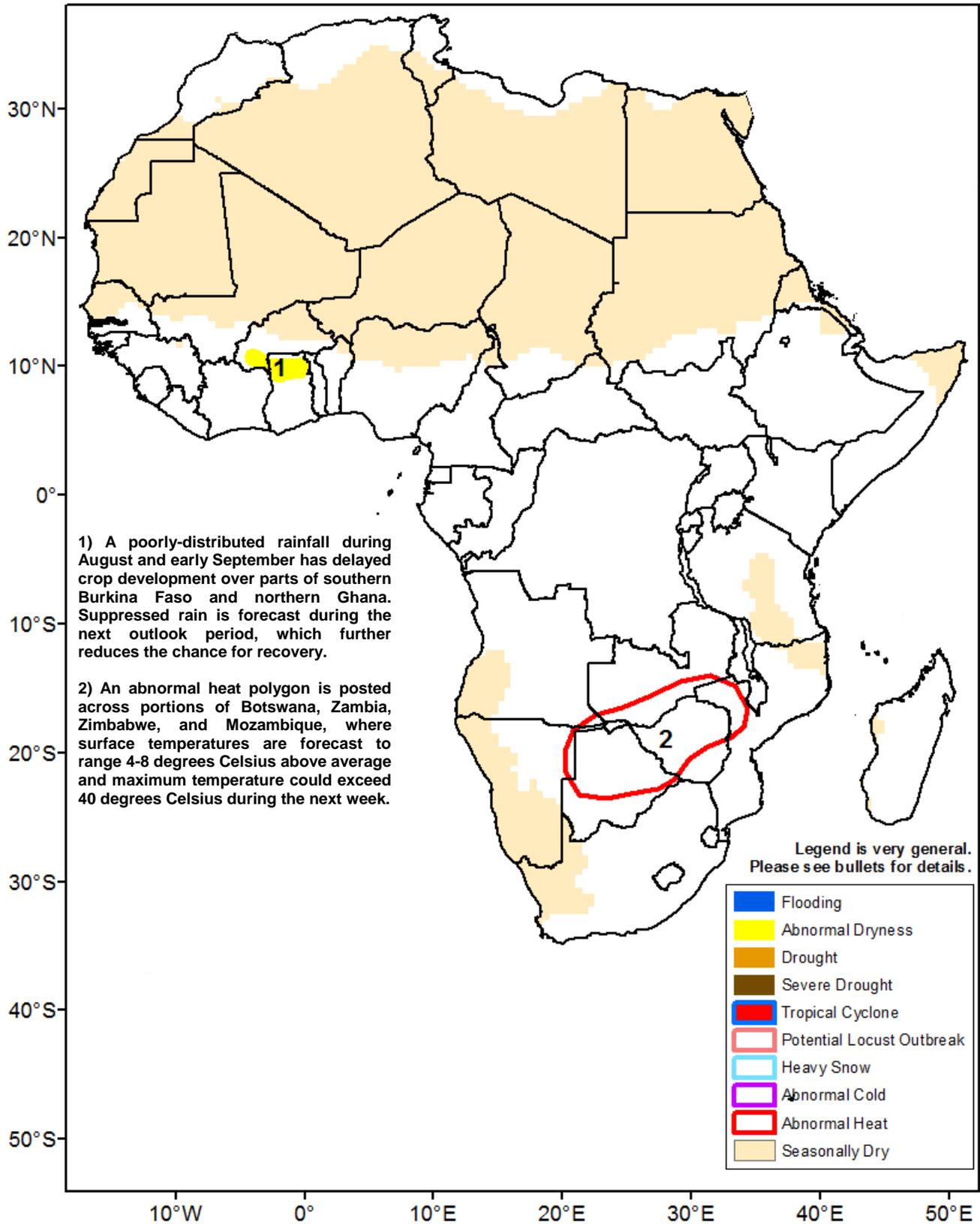




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 19 – 25, 2017

- An unevenly-distributed rain during August and September has delayed crop development in southern Burkina Faso, while an abnormal hot weather is expected over Botswana and Zimbabwe next week.



The Greater Horn of Africa - A somehow sluggish start of the rainfall season observed

During early to mid-October, moderate to heavy rain returned over South Sudan, southern Sudan, western Ethiopia, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. In contrast, scattered, little to light rain only fell over south-central Somalia and northeastern Kenya (**Figure 1**). For the second consecutive week, below-average rain was received over parts of southern Somalia. Consequently, an analysis of the thirty-day rainfall anomaly indicated that rainfall deficits between 10 to 25 mm already existed throughout southern Somalia and bordering northeastern Kenya (**Figure 2**). This could already announce a delayed onset of the *Short-Rains*, October-December rainfall season over some local areas. Moreover, recent vegetation indices from remote sensing system indicated that ground conditions were not optimal to start with over some local areas. The continuation of the delay in the start of the season could quickly lead to large moisture deficits and negatively impact cropping and pastoral activities during the season, provided that many areas receive the bulk of their seasonal rain during October and November.

During the upcoming seven days, heavy rain is expected to continue over the southwestern parts of Ethiopia and Kenya. Moderate to locally heavy showers are forecast over southeastern Ethiopia and central Somalia. In contrast, little to light rain is expected across southern Somalia and eastern Kenya.

Insufficient rain continues along the eastern portions of the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, suppressed rain was observed throughout West Africa, except a few areas along the bimodal region of the Gulf of Guinea (**Figure 1**). As the West African rainfall season is coming to an end, the Inter-Tropical Front, rain-bearing system is moving southward, thus reducing rainfall amounts to the north and bringing the bulk of the rain over areas along the Guinea coasts. During the first dekad (10-day period) of October, the Inter-Tropical Front showed an anomalous southward position relative to that of the climatology. An analysis of the thirty-day rainfall anomalies showed an uneven distribution pattern, with positive anomalies over eastern Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and southwestern Ghana and negative anomalies farther east across southeastern Ghana, Togo, Benin, and much of Nigeria (**Figure 2**). If poor rain continues over the upcoming few weeks, rainfall deficits could further increase and may negatively impact cropping activities over the dry portions of the region. On a longer time scale, accumulated rainfall since mid-July to date indicated mostly a favorable seasonal rainfall performance, with positive anomalies throughout the region. However, seasonal deficits up to 200 mm were registered over southwestern Mali, western Liberia, southern Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, and parts of central Nigeria.

During the next outlook period, suppressed rain is forecast to continue across much of West Africa, while locally moderate rain is possible over Sierra Leone., Liberia, and coastal areas of Nigeria.

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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