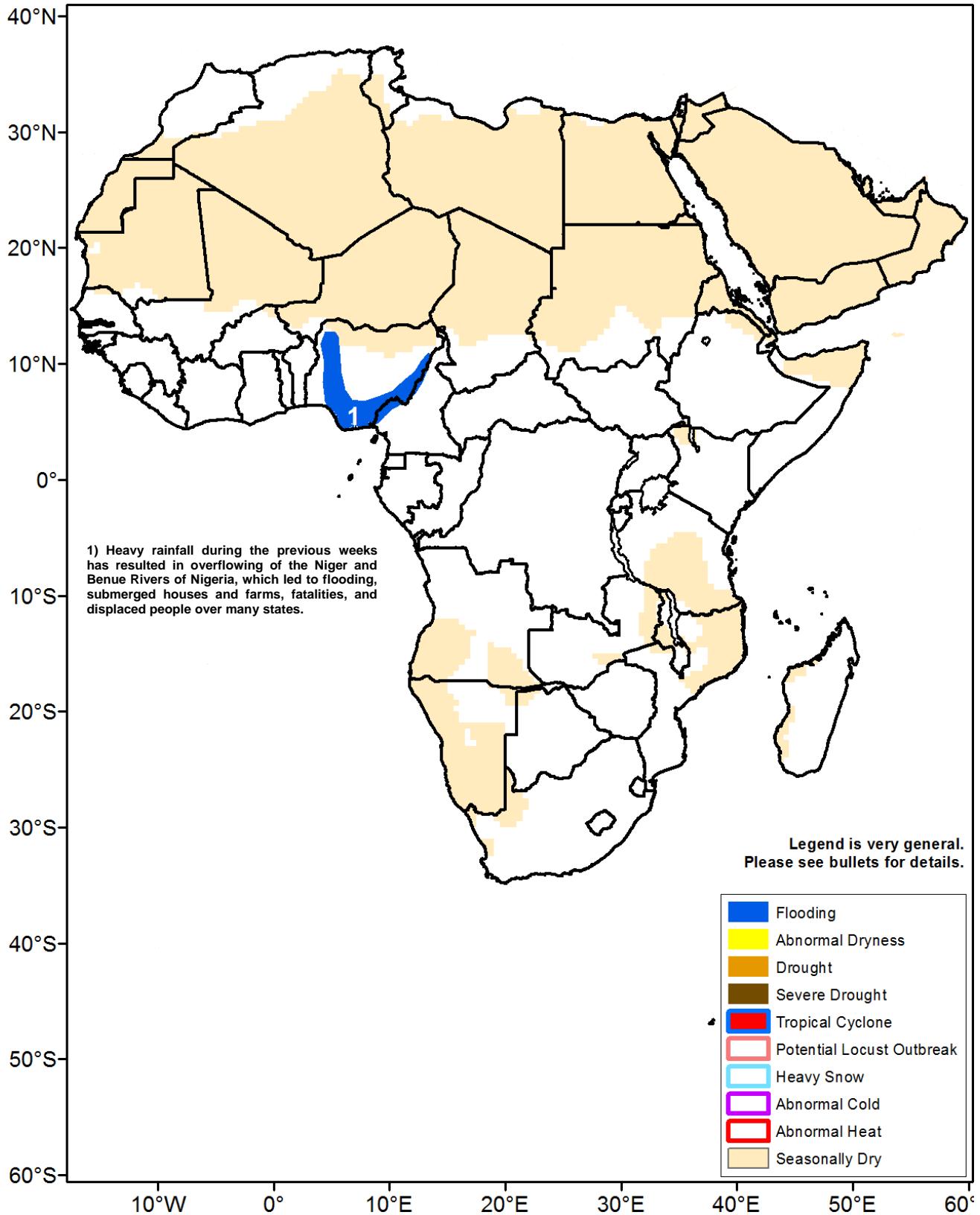




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook

October 18 – 24, 2018

- Heavy rains over Uganda have led to localized flooding.
- Increased, well distributed rainfall observed across many states of South Africa.



Above-average moisture conditions observed across several Gulf of Guinea countries.

During the last week, a seasonable distribution of rainfall was received throughout many West Africa countries as the ITCZ/ITF continues its equatorward retreat. The highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>75mm) were received in parts of southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, with lesser, but well distributed amounts received further north across parts of the southern Sahel (**Figure 1**). As rainfall has gradually decreased across the Sahel, portions of Niger and northern Burkina Faso continue to experience enhanced late seasonal rains. Similarly, above-average precipitation was also registered throughout the southern and central provinces of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin according to satellite rainfall estimates.

An analysis of 30-day moisture anomalies depicts a few West African regions where late season rainfall has been suppressed. Small to moderate moisture deficits registered over parts of central Mali, southern Niger and western Chad suggest an early cessation of the monsoon (**Figure 2**). However, significantly positive rainfall anomalies over these Sahelian regions since the start of season are still expected to benefit ground conditions, as reflected by recent remotely-based vegetation health indices. Further south, pockets of developing dryness can be seen over parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria, however, average to above-average rainfall since mid-September has largely prevailed across several Gulf of Guinea countries which is expected to be favorable for cropping activities for many bimodal areas.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest the potential for suppressed rainfall over many areas of Nigeria, Cameroon, and CAR, with more seasonable rainfall accumulations over several western Gulf of Guinea countries.

Suppressed rainfall observed over many parts of East Africa.

According to satellite rainfall estimates, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was observed across western Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and southwestern Kenya, with flooding reported in western Uganda during the last week. Further east, only lightly scattered shower activity was observed in parts of southern Somalia, and western Yemen. The landfall of Tropical Cyclone Luban brought widespread moderate to locally heavy amounts over parts of eastern Yemen and Oman, which triggered localized floods and damages to infrastructure.

Following an early increase of seasonal rainfall in late September, little to no rainfall has been received across portions of eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and eastern Kenya. The second consecutive week of suppressed rainfall has led to slight increase in 30 day moisture deficits over the Jubba and Shabelle River basins and throughout parts of Kenya and Ethiopia. Further west, poorly distributed rains over southwestern Kenya resulted in strengthening seasonal dryness, with some local areas in the southern Rift Valley, Central, and Eastern provinces experiencing less than half their normal rainfall accumulation since mid-September. However portions of the Nyanza and Western provinces of Kenya have been registering average to above-average rainfall conditions during this time (**Figure 2**).

During the next outlook period, increased seasonal showers are forecast for several areas in the Greater Horn, including parts of northern and southeastern Kenya and southern and eastern Ethiopia. Models indicate the potential for severe thunderstorms in the coastal Puntland region of northern Somalia and western Yemen. However, many areas in southern and central Somalia are expected to receive limited rainfall amounts which are likely to continue to strengthen early season moisture deficits in the region through the middle of October.

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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