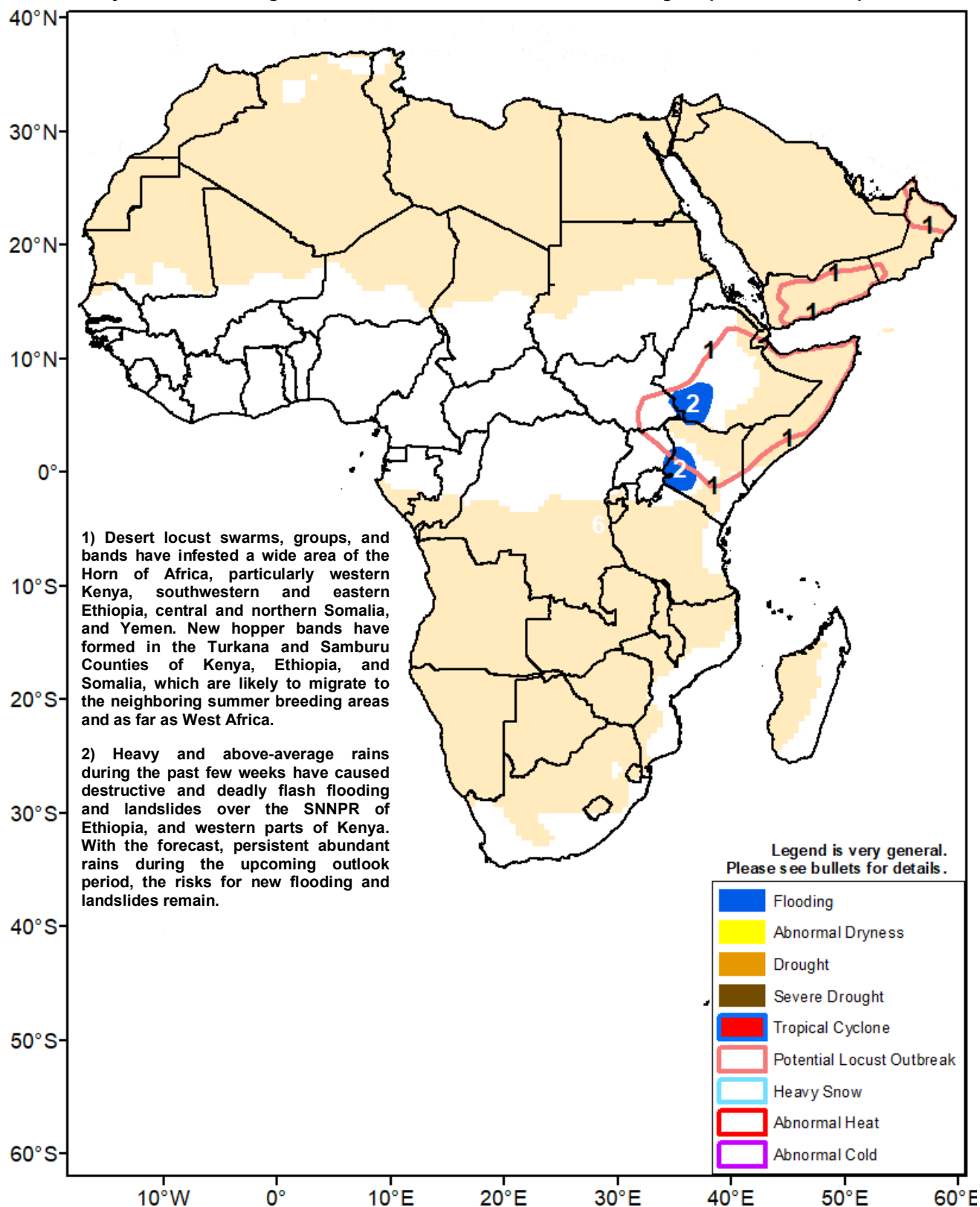




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 11 – 17, 2020

- Locust outbreak remains a major threat to food security in east Africa as new bands formed in many areas.
- Heavy and above-average rains were observed over West Africa during the past observation period.



This past week's favorable rains maintained wetness over much of West Africa.

During early June, widespread abundant rains fell across West Africa. The bulk of the rainfall was received across many areas of the Guinean-Sudanian and Sahel regions, including eastern Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, western Burkina Faso, northwestern Cote D'Ivoire, central Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Niger and the interior of Nigeria, where rainfall totals in excess of 75 mm were accumulated (**Figure 1**). Moderate to locally heavy rains were recorded as far north as northeastern Mali and central Niger. Elsewhere, light to moderate rains were registered. This past week's enhanced rainfall pattern contributed to maintain wetter-than-average conditions throughout West Africa, where many areas received more than twice their average rainfall over the past thirty days. Although the Inter-Tropical Front indicated an anomalous southerly position relative to its long-term average during the third dekad (10-day period) of May, many areas of the Sahel still received little to light (up to 25 mm) rains during the period.

For vegetation conditions, mostly favorable status was depicted across West Africa, according to recent indices. A continuation of near to above-average seasonal rains is likely to maintain widespread favorable ground conditions for agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas of the sub-region

For the upcoming outlook period, heavy rains are forecast over Sierra Leone and Liberia, while moderate rains are expected across the southern parts of Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Locally heavy rains are also expected in southern and central Nigeria, while light to moderate rains are possible in southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and southern Niger.

Wetter-than-average conditions observed over areas of the Horn of Africa

During the past thirty days, near to above above-average rainfall was recorded over much of eastern Africa. Thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceeding 50 mm were observed over South Sudan, localized areas of western and northern Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and southern Yemen (**Figure 2**). During this past week alone, heavy downpours were received over South Sudan, western Ethiopia, and the western and southern portions of Yemen. In Yemen, torrential rains caused flooding, which led to significant damages and fatalities in the Hadhramaut, Shabwa, and Al Mahrah Governorates, according to reports. Over Ethiopia, the continuation of seasonal rains may have indicated the onset of the *Kiremt*, June-September, rainfall season in the region.

Due to a favorable performance over the previous season, vegetation products exhibited mostly positive conditions throughout eastern Africa. However, desert locust swarms, bands, and groups have remained and have already negatively impacted crops over local areas, including the Turkana region of western Kenya. New hopper bands were reported to form over the Turkana and Samburu Counties of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, which are likely to migrate to the summer breeding areas of southwestern Asia and even West Africa, based on the FAO update.

For next week, heavy rains are forecast over western Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya, which may trigger new flooding and landslides in the region. Light to moderate rains are expected over South Sudan and southern Sudan. Limited and reduced rainfall is forecast over Yemen, which should ease wetness.

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.

