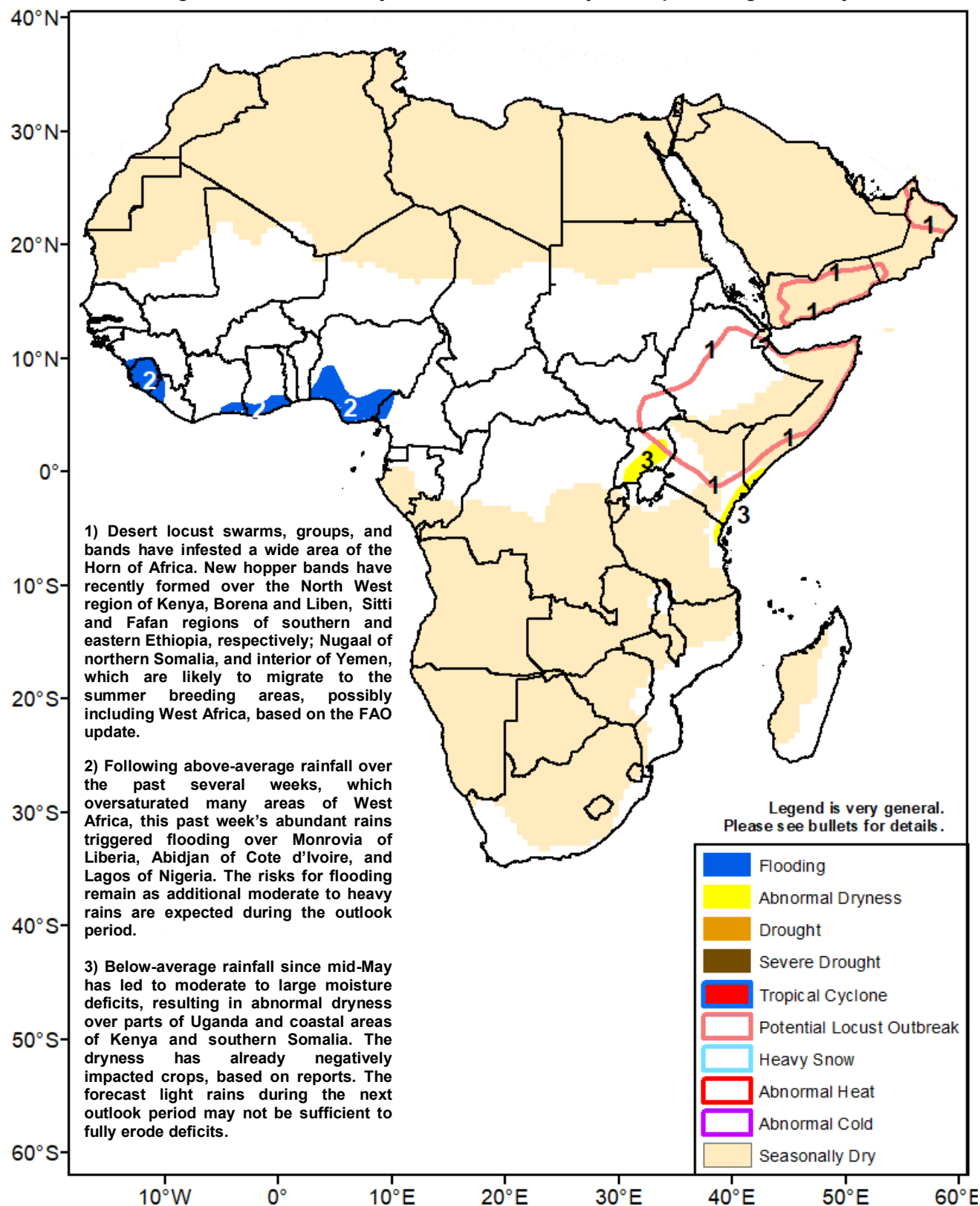




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 2 – 8, 2020

- Torrential rains caused flooding and fatalities in Abidjan of Cote d'Ivoire during the past period.
- Below-average rainfall since mid-May has led to abnormal dryness in parts of Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia.



Wetness prevails throughout West Africa.

Since the beginning of the West African monsoon, above-average rainfall was received over much of West Africa. Large (> 200 mm) rainfall surpluses spread across the far western portions from Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Liberia; southern Sahel; Nigeria to southern Chad (**Figure 1**). The favorable moisture distribution was partially attributable to a timely and northward propagation of the Inter-Tropical Front, rain bearing system, across the sub-region. This brought beneficial rains over many parts of the Sahel, including areas as far north as southern Mauritania, central Mali, and central Niger. However, the excess rainfall has also oversaturated and triggered flooding and landslides, which have affected the livelihoods of many people over several areas such as Monrovia of Liberia, Abidjan of Cote d'Ivoire, and Lagos of Nigeria. Although parts of the Gulf of Guinea experienced a slight reduction in rainfall during the past week, additional rains during the outlook period maintain heightened risks for flooding over many local areas.

Due to adequate moisture, vegetation health index pointed to overall favorable conditions throughout West Africa, except a few localized areas of the Sahel, which might have already experienced a poor start during earlier period of the growing season.

During the outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest another week of wet weather patterns over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southwestern Mali, and southern Nigeria. Light to locally moderate are expected over southeastern Cote d'Ivoire, increasing risks for flooding.

Seasonal rainfall continues over eastern Africa.

During late June, heavy rains continued over many areas of eastern Africa, including western South Sudan, southern and eastern Sudan, northern Uganda, and western Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). Light to locally moderate rains also fell over eastern Ethiopia, southwestern Kenya, northern and southern parts of Somalia, and southern Yemen. This past week's rainfall was near to above-average over much of the Horn of Africa, maintaining marginal to wetter-than-average conditions over the past thirty days. However, moisture deficits persisted over local areas of west-central Ethiopia, portions of Uganda, and coastal areas of Kenya and southern Somalia due to insufficient rainfall since mid to late May. Reports have already indicated negative impacts on crops over some areas. The return of good rains is needed to replenish soil moisture and improve conditions on the ground.

Although vegetation products exhibited widespread, positive conditions throughout the Horn of Africa, desert locust outbreak still remained a major threat to cropping activities despite ongoing control operations. Recently-formed hoppers are expected to move from northwestern Kenya to South Sudan and possibly southern Sudan and from southern and northeastern Kenya to areas farther north during late June, according to the IGAD ICPAC prediction.

During the outlook period, heavy showers are forecast to continue in western Ethiopia, while moderate rains are expected in South Sudan, south-central and southwestern Sudan, and western and southern Yemen. Light rains are forecast over the eastern parts of Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. Little to light rains are possible along coastal areas of eastern Africa, which may help partially ease dryness in the region.

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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