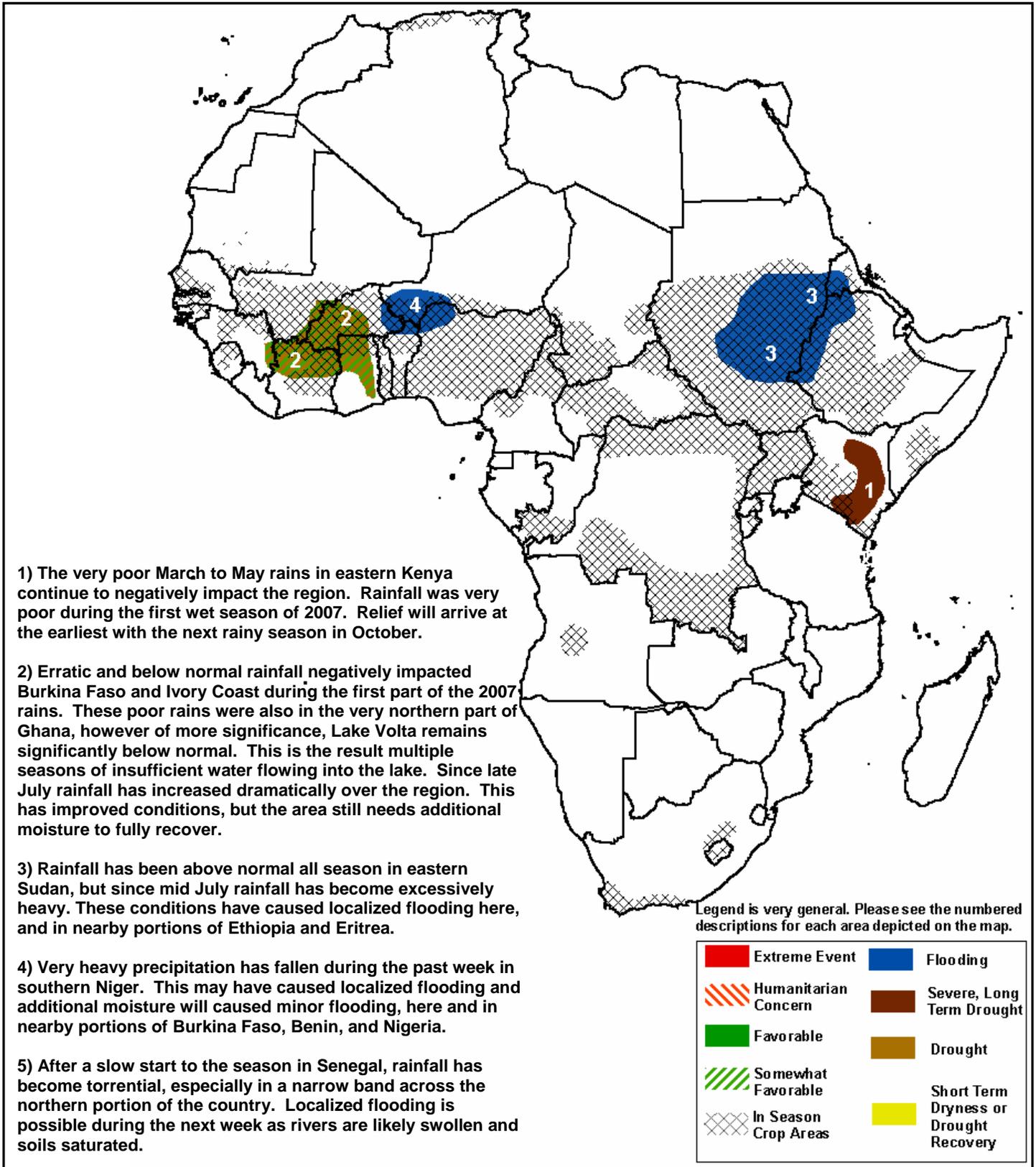


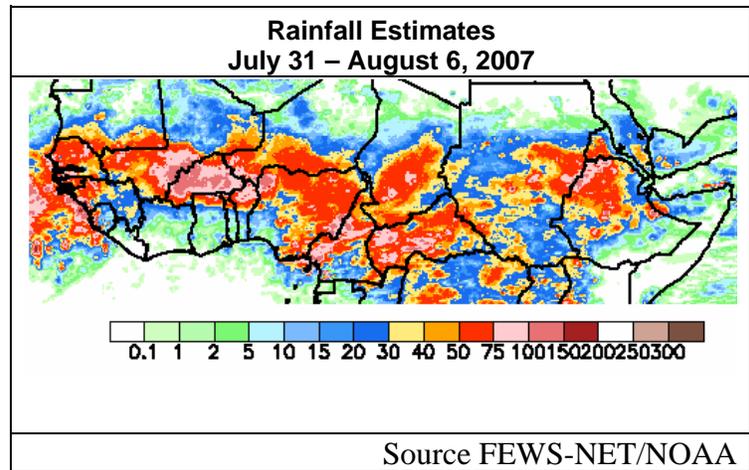
- A slow, and in some locations erratic start to the rainy season in west Africa, has given way to excessively wet conditions.
- Rainfall totals remain normal to slightly above normal across most of the Greater Horn of Africa. Meanwhile, eastern Kenya continues to wait for the next wet season to relieve the drought left by the poor March – May rains.



## Rainfall continues to soak Africa from Chad to Senegal

After a slow start to the season across portions of the Sahel, rainfall quickly intensified in the middle of July. Rainfall has been especially heavy across southwestern Niger, northern Benin, throughout Burkina Faso and nearby portions of Mali. Rainfall deficits which had been growing over Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Ivory Coast have been greatly reduced. Despite this reduction in the deficits as a result of the poor distribution of the rains crops are still at risk. Lake Volta, in Ghana, remains below normal. However, levels will likely stabilize, at least temporarily as the excessive moisture makes its way down stream. Pastures and drinking water levels will both increase throughout the Sahel.

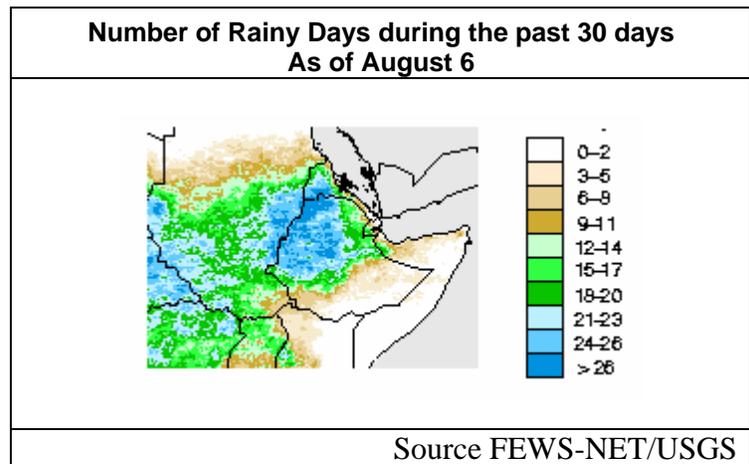
To the south, the heavy rains in Ivory Coast and Ghana have dropped off significantly during the past seven days. This could signify an end to the much needed rains in these areas. Nearby areas of Togo Benin and Liberia have also dried out during the past week.



## The already wetter than normal season in parts of Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, gets wetter. Relief arrives elsewhere.

Flooding in Sudan has become more wide spread after heavy rains began in mid July. Rains had already been more than sufficient to trigger localized flooding in low lying areas. Urban flooding has also occurred in cities, such as Khartoum. Ethiopia, has also seen above normal totals grow during the past few weeks. The flood season, which normally occurs in the northern highlands this time of year, had been low due to below normal rains. This has rapidly changed as the good deficits have vanished, implying significant flooding.

In portions of Afar and Eritrea, the rains were needed to revive pastures that had not yet received enough moisture this year. Significant rainfall also has fallen across the Ahmar Mountains and into northern portions of Somalia.



## The ITCZ stabilizes, moves north of normal.

The ITCZ spent much of the season moving north and south erratically. This is part of the reason why the Sahelian season had been dry in areas. As the rainfall intensified across the African continent, the ITCZ stopped moving erratically, and pressed north of normal.

This has brought early rains to some of the pasturelands in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad. In Senegal's ground nut basin rainfall arrived scaling back concerns of a late start of the season. Precipitation is expected to stay above normal through the first dekad of August, and return to normal during the middle of August.

