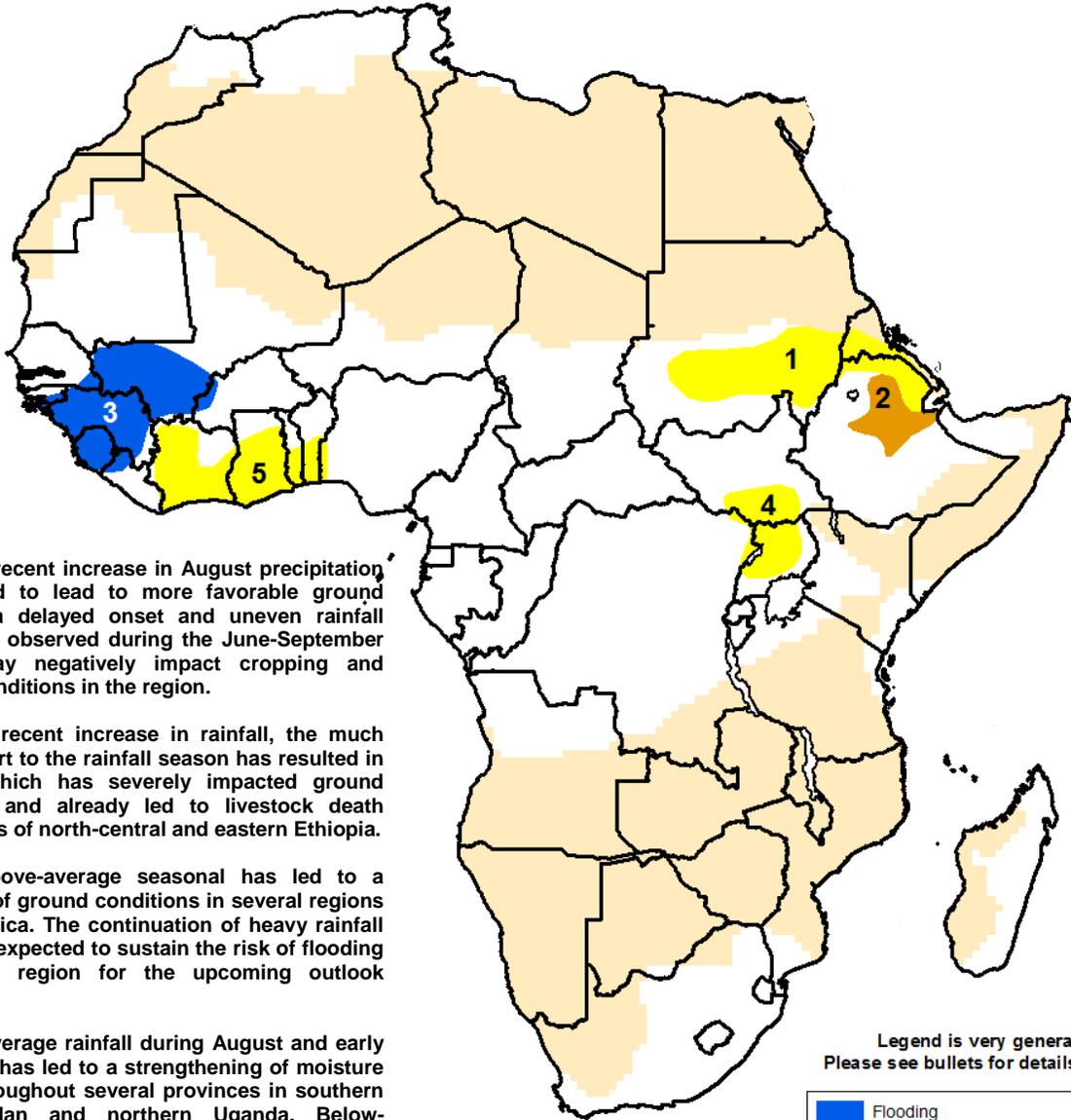




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 24 – September 30, 2015

- Heavy rains continue to sustain risk of flooding in West Africa.
- Enhanced rainfall continues across Sudan, northern Ethiopia and Eritrea.



1) While a recent increase in August precipitation is expected to lead to more favorable ground moisture, a delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution observed during the June-September season may negatively impact cropping and pastoral conditions in the region.

2) Despite recent increase in rainfall, the much delayed start to the rainfall season has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to livestock death across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

3) Well above-average seasonal has led to a saturation of ground conditions in several regions of West Africa. The continuation of heavy rainfall forecast is expected to sustain the risk of flooding across the region for the upcoming outlook period.

4) Below-average rainfall during August and early September has led to a strengthening of moisture deficits throughout several provinces in southern South Sudan and northern Uganda. Below-average rainfall is expected in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

5) Below-average rainfall over several bimodal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria has led to a rapid strengthening of moisture deficits and a degradation of ground conditions. Suppressed precipitation is expected during in the region during late-September.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | Flooding |
| | Abnormal Dryness |
| | Drought |
| | Severe Drought |
| | Tropical Cyclone |
| | Potential Locust Outbreak |
| | Heavy Snow |
| | Abnormal Cold |
| | Abnormal Heat |
| | Seasonally Dry |

Average to above-average rains received throughout West Africa during early September.

During the middle of September, the return of enhanced late seasonal rainfall was observed across portions of the Sahel and far western Africa. According to satellite estimates and gauge reports, the highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>75mm) were received across parts of northern Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, as well as, throughout central Mali, Burkina Faso, and northern Ghana and Togo (Figure 1). An anomalously positioned ITF also resulted in increased rains and moisture throughout more arid regions of Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and southern Algeria. Moderate to light rainfall totals were received in parts of Senegal, southern Niger and northern Nigeria. Little to no seasonal rainfall was observed in parts of southern Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

The above-average rainfall in West Africa during the last week has been associated with an enhanced precipitation regime throughout the Sahel this season. Several regions in Guinea, Mali, Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Niger have experienced one of the wettest monsoon seasons over a 30 year satellite rainfall record, as the satellite estimate totals have registered in the top 97th percentile since late June (Figure 2). Although some of these anomalously wet areas were preceded by a delayed start of the seasonal rainfall which helped to mitigate early season dryness, the persistence of heavy rainfall since August has sustained the risk for flooding and other adverse ground impacts. Areas registered above the 97th percentile are expected to remain most at risk for flooding throughout the remainder of September as the monsoon begins its weakening by late September and into October.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest the potential for average to above-average rainfall across many saturated regions in West Africa. Locally heavy rainfall accumulations are expected throughout Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso and central Nigeria during the next seven days. Meanwhile suppressed rainfall is forecast for several anomalously dry regions of southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Enhanced September rains observed in Greater Horn.

Another week of heavy, well-distributed rains was received across much northern East Africa with suppressed rains registered to the south. Many local areas in western, northern Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and eastern Sudan have observed a rapid strengthening of late season moisture surpluses, with the largest positive rainfall anomalies located in western Amhara and Tigray provinces of Ethiopia since the beginning of September (Figure 3). Much of the anomalously wet conditions as of late are expected to help mitigate dryness associated with a late start of seasonal rains, and long-term dryness in some of the pastoral regions north-central Ethiopia. However, this change in the monsoon circulation has left many areas towards the south depleted of rainfall and available moisture. Throughout many local parts in southwestern Ethiopia and South Sudan, rainfall has been consistently suppressed since mid-August, leading to a rapid increase in moisture deficits, and increased concerns for available moisture for cropping and pastoral activities. During the next seven days, little to no relief is expected for several anomalously dry areas according to precipitation forecasts. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast for northwestern Ethiopia, with low rainfall totals expected for much of southern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.

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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