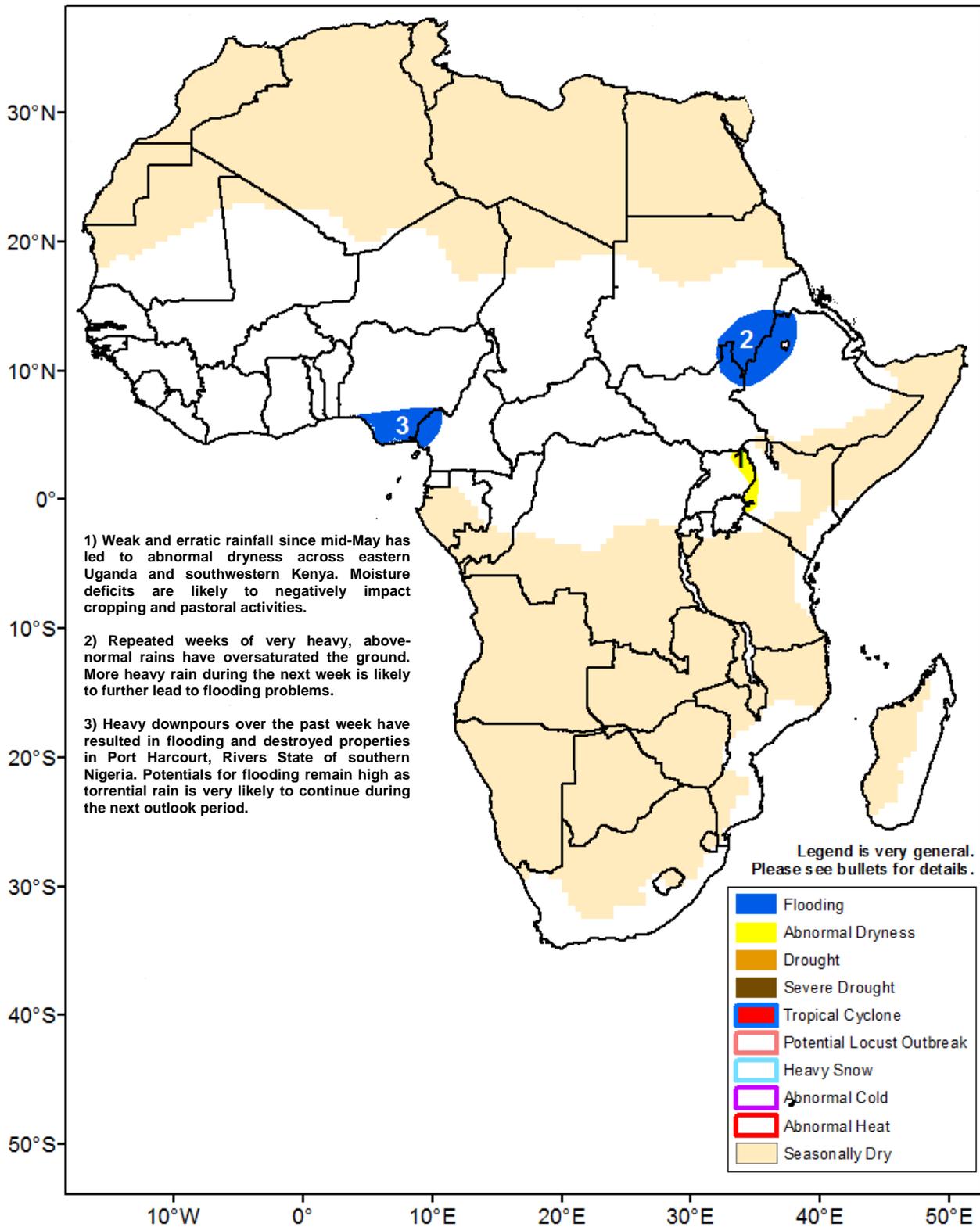




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 27 – August 2, 2017

- High risks for flooding remain in areas of the Gulf of Guinea and Eastern Africa regions during the next week.



Abundant rain triggered flooding in the Gulf of Guinea.

The Inter-Tropical Front (ITF), rain belt that brings moisture and fluctuates across Africa, pushed north during the second dekad (10-day) of July. The ITF's position was anomalously north relative to both its long-term average position and previous position during the first dekad of July. This resulted in above-average rain over many areas of the Sahel. From July 17-23, heavy downpours continued over Guinea-Conakry, eastern Senegal, western and eastern Mali. Torrential rain also fell over Togo, Benin, northwestern and the southern coastal areas of Nigeria (**Figure 1**). According to media reports, this past week's downpours have destroyed many houses and affected people in the Port Harcourt areas of the Rivers State of Nigeria. While the favorable performance of the West African monsoon has benefitted agricultural and pastoral activities over many areas, excess moisture has also negatively impacted ground conditions and affected the livelihoods of residents over some areas.

Due to consistent rain over the past few weeks, positive rainfall anomalies were observed throughout much of West Africa, with some regions accumulating 100-500 mm of rain above average over the past thirty days. These included Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southwestern Cote d'Ivoire, and southern Nigeria. In contrast, small negative rainfall anomalies were registered over only localized areas of eastern and central Burkina Faso, south-central and northeastern Nigeria.

During the next outlook period, heavy downpours are expected to continue over the far western West Africa and southern Nigeria, which increase risks for flooding in the region. Moderate to heavy rain is forecast across southern Mali, Burkina Faso, western and southern Niger, Nigeria, and southern Chad, while light rain is expected elsewhere.

Wetness persists over areas of Eastern Africa.

Since late June to date, Eastern Africa has received average to above-average rain. Positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies were observed in eastern Sudan, northeastern South Sudan, western Ethiopia, central Yemen, and northern Uganda (**Figure 2**). However, a few areas, including western South Sudan, localized areas of northeastern Uganda, and north-central Ethiopia experienced slightly below-average rain over the past thirty days. While the continuation of seasonal rain is likely to aid cropping and pastoral activities over many areas of Eastern Africa, excessive moisture could also lead to river flooding over flood-prone areas of eastern Sudan and sustain risks for water-borne disease outbreaks in Yemen. During the past week, a slight reduction in rainfall was observed compared to the rainfall totals of the previous week. However, moderate to heavy rain continued over western Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and northern South Sudan.

During the next outlook period, heavy and above-average rain is likely over western Ethiopia, which could raise river levels over downstream areas and cause flooding in eastern Sudan. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain is expected in the southern and western portions of Sudan, and South Sudan.

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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