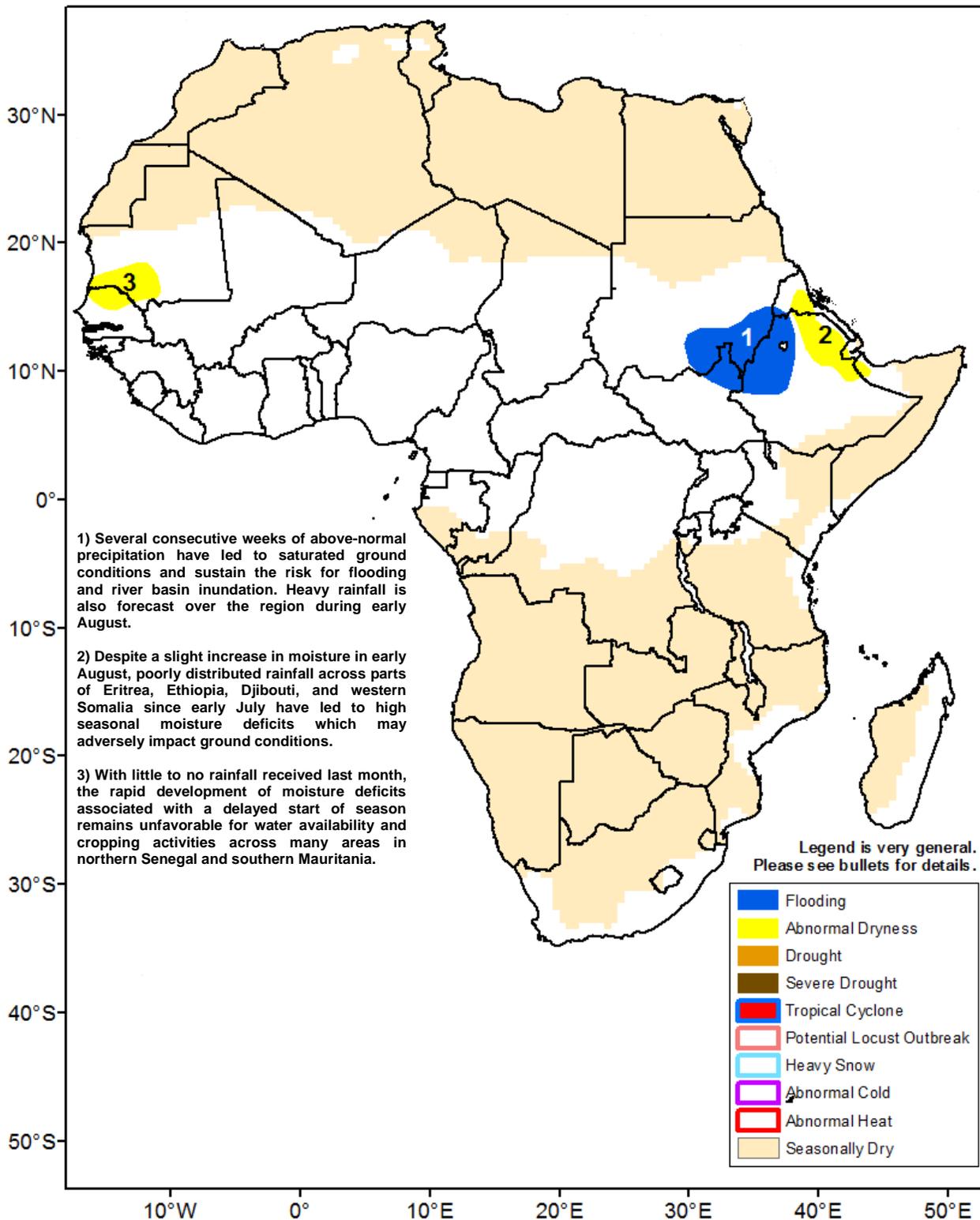




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 10 – August 16, 2017

- Dryness strengthens over parts of northern Ethiopia, Eritrea.



Dryness develops across parts of northern Senegal and southern Mauritania.

During the first week in August, many areas in West Africa continued to receive a seasonable distribution of precipitation, with some areas in the central Sahel observing a northward surge of moisture bringing increased rainfall amounts in northern Mali and northern Niger. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were recorded across western Guinea and Sierra Leone. More moderate and well distributed rains (50-75mm) were again observed over southern Mali, western Burkina Faso, southern Niger and northern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Lighter rainfall accumulations were received across northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, and eastern Burkina Faso.

During the month July, seasonal rainfall has trended slightly negative over a few regions following a robust monsoon regime that brought favorably average to above-average rainfall for much of West Africa since the start of the season. In central Nigeria, southern Burkina Faso, and northern portions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, minor to moderate negative precipitation anomalies have emerged as a result of decreased rainfall and intermittent dry spells. While rainfall has slightly improved in these areas during early August, moisture deficits have rapidly strengthened across many local areas in northern Senegal and southern Mauritania due to little to no rainfall accumulated since the start of season. As a result, both short term and long-term anomaly analyses show poor percentage of normal, with some local areas receiving less than 20 percent of their normal rainfall accumulations since the beginning of June (**Figure 2**). However, remotely sensed vegetation health indices depict relatively normal conditions in the region.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of seasonable distribution of rainfall over West Africa, with the potential for above-average rainfall over southern Mali and in western Guinea. Lower rainfall amounts are expected across the lower Gulf of Guinea countries, as well as over northern Senegal.

Moisture deficits strengthen over parts of East Africa during early August.

According to satellite rainfall estimates during the last week, heavy rainfall amounts continued over western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, with more increased amounts extending eastward into the Afar region, and neighboring Djibouti and Eritrea. Despite the increase in rains, negative rainfall anomalies have strengthened since early July, where some local areas are currently registering deficits between 25 and 100mm. Given the brevity of the seasonal rainfall period in this region, enhanced rainfall amounts are needed over the next several weeks to help offset anomalies in the region.

During the next outlook period, average to above-average rainfall is again likely over western Ethiopia, which is expected to sustain the flood risk in the region. However, lesser rains are expected over the anomalously dry areas towards the east.

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.

