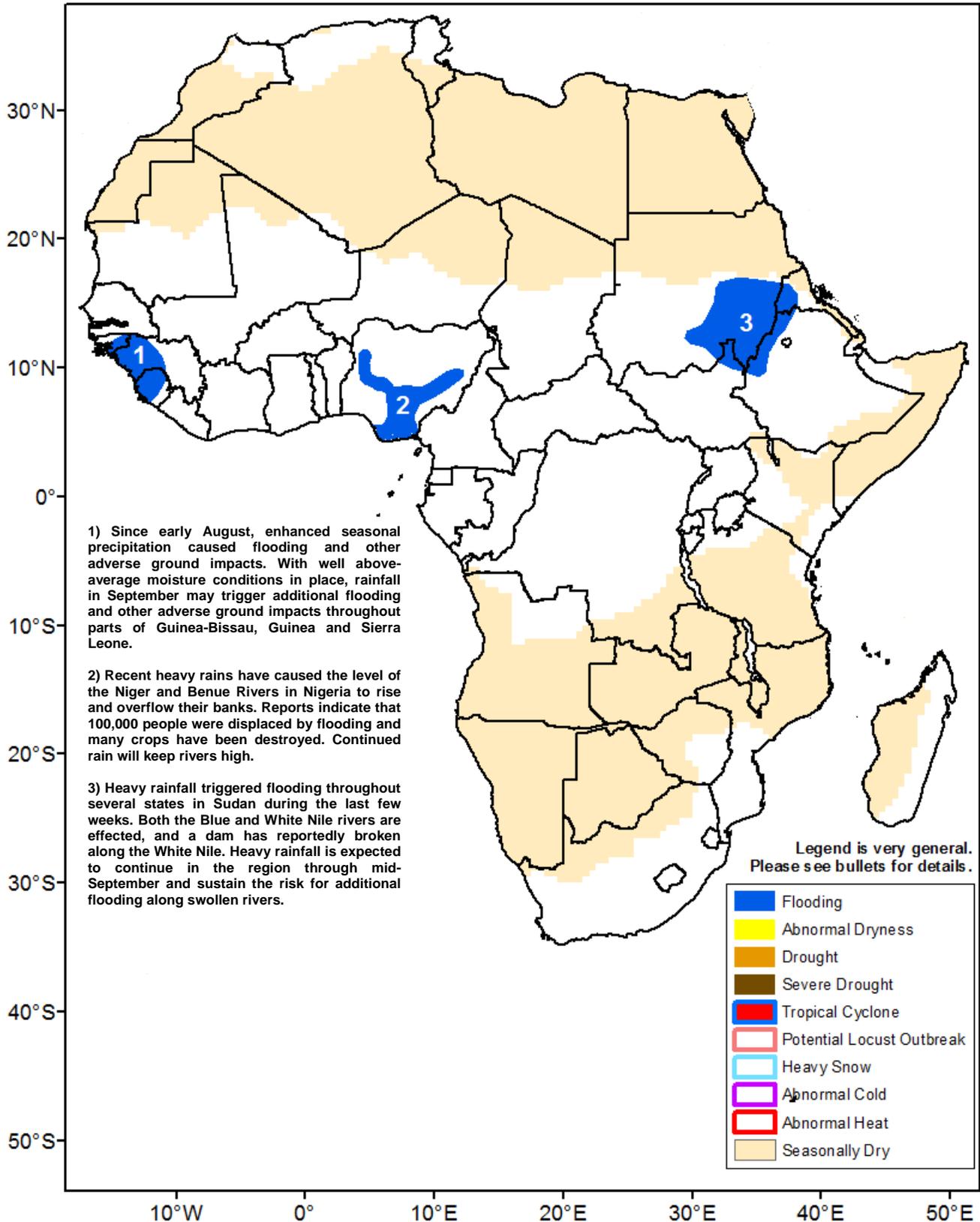




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 14 – September 20, 2017

- Many parts of West Africa received near or lesser than average rainfall during the last week.



The threat of river flooding remains for Nigeria.

According to the latest satellite rainfall estimates, many parts of the West Africa region received near or below-normal rainfall. Northern Guinea, Côte D'Ivoire, and portions of Nigeria received the greatest rainfall this past week. Totals exceeded 100mm according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Many other parts of the region received light rains this week. Notably, parts of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal received little or below-normal rainfall. Anomalies ranged from 10-50mm below normal for many of these areas. Despite these broad decreases, wet periods during August brought large moisture surpluses leading to inundated rivers which continue to drain downstream, prolonging the flood threat in Nigeria.

After a broad increase in rains at the end of August, a suppressed pattern has returned to the region. Rainfall deficits have begun to increase once more in some areas. Southern Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Liberia are all beginning to exhibit percent of normal precipitation values nearing 50% (**Figure 2**). These areas should be closely monitored to see if dry spells continue and vegetation indices indicate a response on the ground to diminished rainfall. VHI currently indicates very lush conditions through the Sahel, and mixed conditions in areas with moisture deficits. 30-day moisture surpluses persist over southern Nigeria, Togo, Benin, and parts of the Sahel. In many cases, these surpluses exist on a wider seasonal basis as well. Such long-term wetness forms the basis for river flooding through Nigeria during September.

During the outlook period, weather models suggest near-normal conditions throughout much of the West African region, with the opportunity for suppressed rains in southern parts of Nigeria Ghana, Togo, and Benin. There is a tilt in the odds towards enhanced rains in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

Persistent heavy rains continue to trigger floods throughout Sudan.

This past week marked a fourth consecutive week of enhanced rainfall over Sudan and west-central Ethiopia. Rain totals of 75-100mm (**Figure 1**) and positive 7-day anomalies greater than 25mm have kept the risk of river flooding and resulting damages to infrastructure high. Water levels on both the Blue and White Nile Rivers have not had the chance to recede. Parts of northern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda received slightly below-normal rainfall for the week. Persistently enhanced rains across many regions in East Africa over the past several weeks have resulted in wide swaths of large positive precipitation anomalies since early August and mitigated earlier abnormal dryness in northern Ethiopia. Moisture surpluses since Aug 1 locally reach 200mm in northern Ethiopia. Surpluses are only slightly less for many parts of Sudan and South Sudan.

For the outlook period, near or above-normal rainfall is forecast for the region. Totals exceeding 100mm are possible in western Ethiopia. Another week of heavy rain is expected to sustain the risk for downstream river inundation along the Nile River Basin. Elsewhere, rains should start to push into northern Somalia.

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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