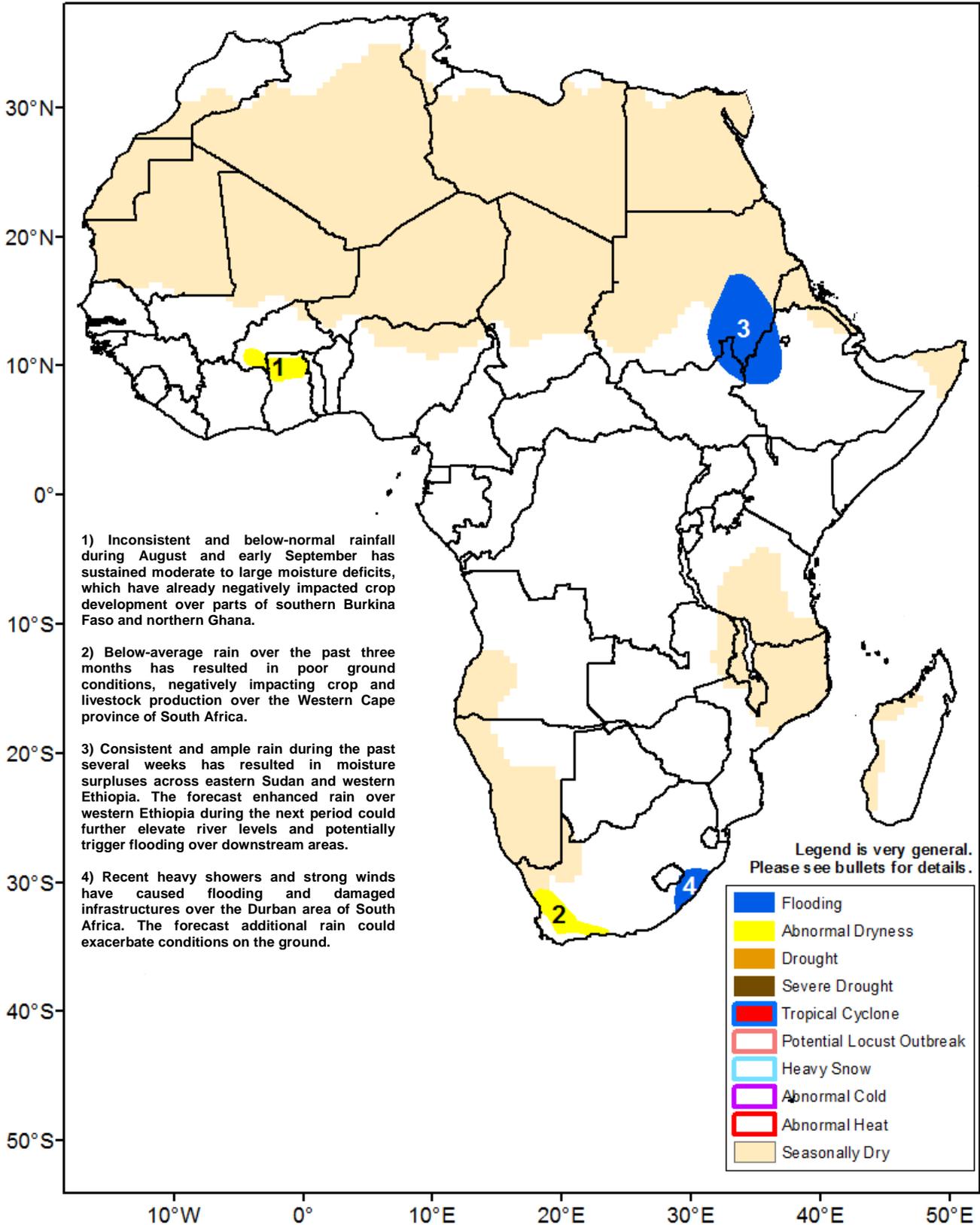




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 12 – 18, 2017

- The forecast reduced rain is likely to increase moisture deficits along the Gulf of Guinea, while continued enhanced rain over the Ethiopian highlands maintains risks for river flooding in eastern Sudan.



A reduction in rainfall observed over many areas of West Africa during the past seven days

During early October, widespread, moderate to heavy rain fell over eastern Liberia, coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, northern Benin, and southern Nigeria. Meanwhile little to light rain was recorded throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Liberia, western Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, and northern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Since early September, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over Cote d'Ivoire, northwestern Burkina Faso, and central Mali, while negative anomalies spread across southern Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, western Mali, southern Niger, and northern Nigeria. The drier than average conditions might be attributable to a rapid southward retreat of the Inter-Tropical Front over some areas of the sub-region. Additionally, moderate to large rainfall deficits were also recorded throughout northern Ghana and the southern parts of Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, which were mostly due to a poor rainfall distribution during the early part of September.

On a longer time scale, since August, many areas of West Africa received ample rainfall, with surpluses exceeding 50 mm. These included Senegal, southern Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, eastern Mali, northern Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, western and southeastern Niger, northern Benin, southern Nigeria, and southeastern Chad (**Figure 2**). In contrast, areas such as western Mali, Guinea-Bissau, western Liberia, southern Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, portions of Nigeria, south-central Niger, and western Chad have accumulated below-average rain. As the West African season is coming to an end, many areas should continue to receive decreased rain.

During the next week, drier weather pattern, with mostly light rain is expected to prevail along the Gulf of Guinea. However, moderate to heavy rain is forecast across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, western Cote d'Ivoire, and southeastern Nigeria.

A favorable seasonal performance observed over Eastern Africa

During the past seven days, a decrease in rainfall was observed over the Greater Horn of Africa relative to that during the precedent period. Light to locally moderate rain fell over western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. The largest (> 25 mm) rainfall amounts were received throughout southern Sudan and northeastern South Sudan. Since August, positive rainfall anomalies dominated Eastern Africa, with seasonal surpluses, exceeding 100 mm across eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia. The frequent and above-average rain over the past several weeks has benefited ground conditions over most areas but also caused oversaturation and flooding over many local areas of the region.

During the next seven days, an increase in rainfall, with moderate to heavy rain, is forecast over South Sudan, northern Uganda, western Kenya, and southwestern Ethiopia. Light to moderate rain is also expected over central 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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