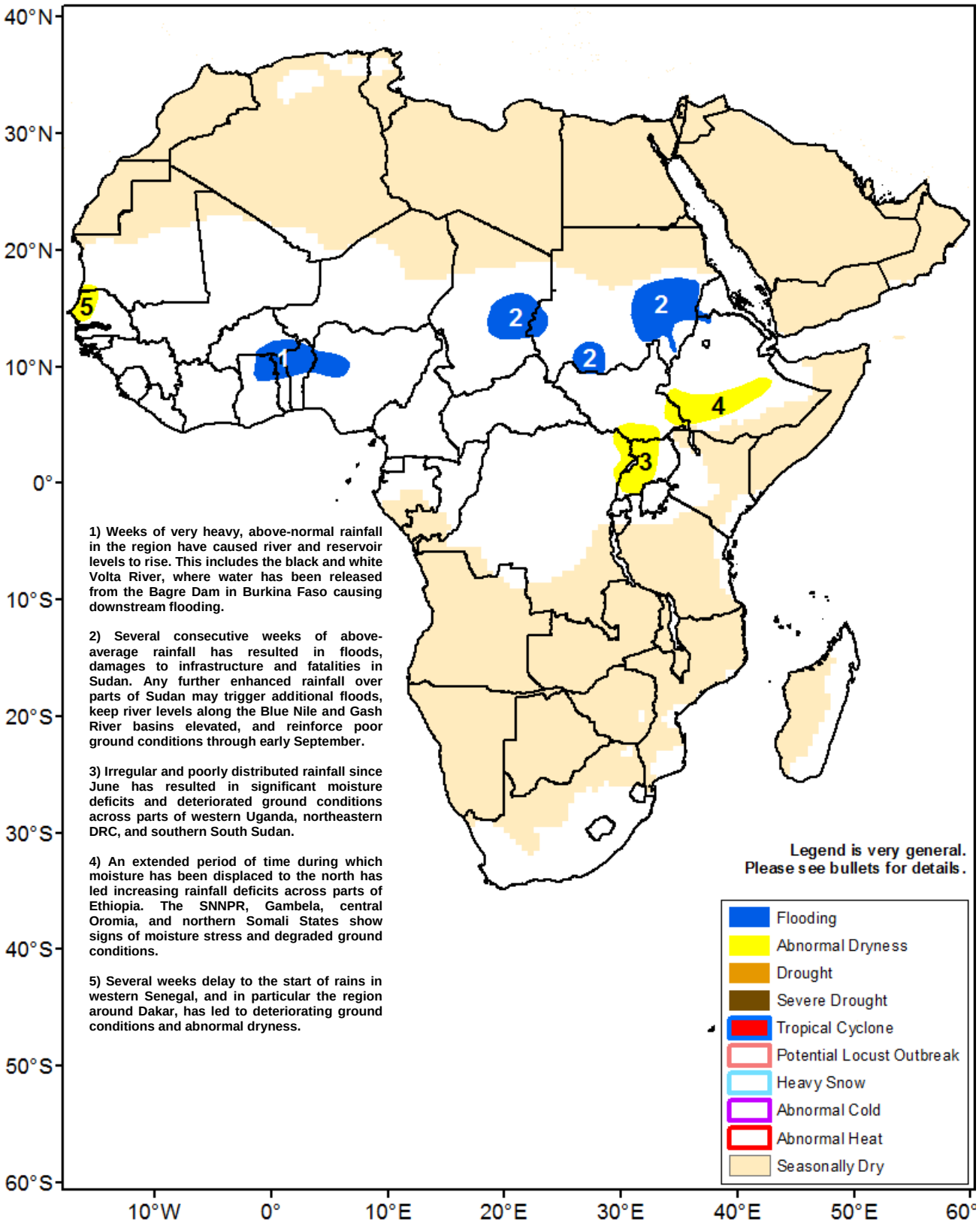
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 30 – September 5, 2018

- The corridor of heaviest rains has begun to shift south over West Africa this past week.
- Eastern Africa experienced a more normal distribution of rainfall.



1) Weeks of very heavy, above-normal rainfall in the region have caused river and reservoir levels to rise. This includes the black and white Volta River, where water has been released from the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso causing downstream flooding.

2) Several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall has resulted in floods, damages to infrastructure and fatalities in Sudan. Any further enhanced rainfall over parts of Sudan may trigger additional floods, keep river levels along the Blue Nile and Gash River basins elevated, and reinforce poor ground conditions through early September.

3) Irregular and poorly distributed rainfall since June has resulted in significant moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions across parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan.

4) An extended period of time during which moisture has been displaced to the north has led increasing rainfall deficits across parts of Ethiopia. The SNNPR, Gambela, central Oromia, and northern Somali States show signs of moisture stress and degraded ground conditions.

5) Several weeks delay to the start of rains in western Senegal, and in particular the region around Dakar, has led to deteriorating ground conditions and abnormal dryness.

Seasonal rainfall has finally increased for much of northern and western Senegal.

During the end of August, the heaviest rains shifted farther south. Rainfall accumulations greater than 100mm were received throughout several West African nations including Guinea, southern Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Benin. Scattered moderate rain showers continued across desert areas of northern Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and Algeria (**Figure 1**). Beneficial seasonal rains overspread northern and western Senegal during the week with observed totals of more than 50mm. Dakar received some, but much lesser, accumulations. Along the Gulf of Guinea, southern portions of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana received a large increase in rainfall.

As of late August, the performance of the West Africa monsoon continues to be favorable, with much of the domain experiencing average to above-average precipitation over both short and long-term timescales. Since the beginning of June, the highest moisture surpluses remain along the Sahel, where portions of southern Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad have received more than twice their normal rainfall accumulations (**Figure 2**). Towards the south, positive seasonal anomalies are more moderate but are beginning to increase in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana. Central and eastern parts Nigeria depict slightly drier than average conditions. Significant increases in rain recently are beginning to erode 30-day deficits in Senegal. The delayed onset of rains led to degradation of vegetation health for these areas, while the rest of West Africa generally looks favorable.

During the outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of average to above-average rainfall throughout much of West Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) are forecast for the far western countries as well as Nigeria. Torrential rains yielding over 200mm for the week are possible in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: Aug 22 – August 28, 2018

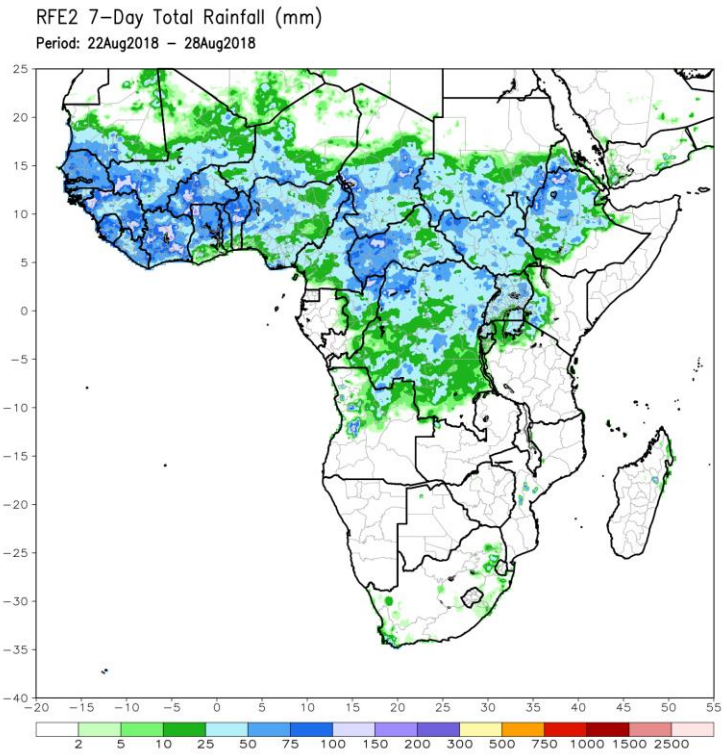


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Large 30-day rainfall deficits remain extensive across Ethiopia

While few parts of the East Africa region experienced extremely heavy rainfall totals this past week, rains were generally well-distributed. According to satellite rainfall estimates, a large portion of the region received at least 25mm of rain with many embedded regions receiving more than 50mm (**Figure 1**). This pattern is associated with decreasing rainfall in northern Ethiopia and increasing rainfall in areas of central Ethiopia that really need it. Rainfall was also beneficial for many dry portions of Uganda and neighboring portions of DRC.

Portions of Sudan, South Sudan and northern Ethiopia continue to experience above-average seasonal rainfall, displaying significant surpluses on both 30-day and 90-day timescales. August was a poor month of rainfall performance for Ethiopia. 30-day moisture deficits exceed 100mm over many local areas of western and central Ethiopia. Parts of the SNNP, Gambela, and Oromia regions, as well as the Afar region and neighboring eastern Eritrea have received less than half of their normal rainfall since the beginning of July (**Figure 2**). In parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan, significant seasonal moisture deficits and poor ground conditions are evident according to remote sensing products.

Weather models suggest the potential for above-average rainfall during the next week in South Sudan, and Uganda. Near-average rain is expected elsewhere. A second consecutive week of near to above normal rainfall in Uganda may improve abnormally dry conditions and improve ongoing cropping activities there.

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: June 1 – August 28, 2018

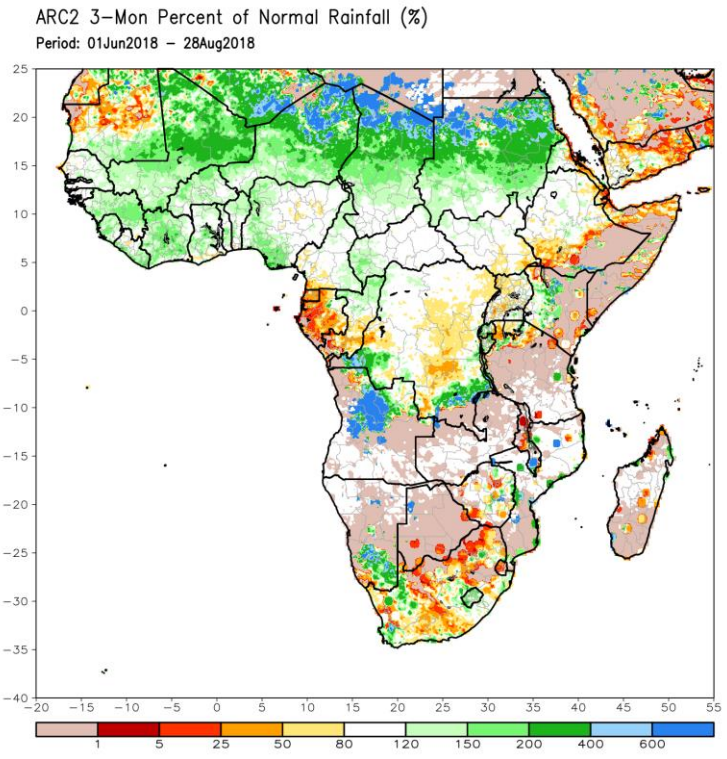


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.