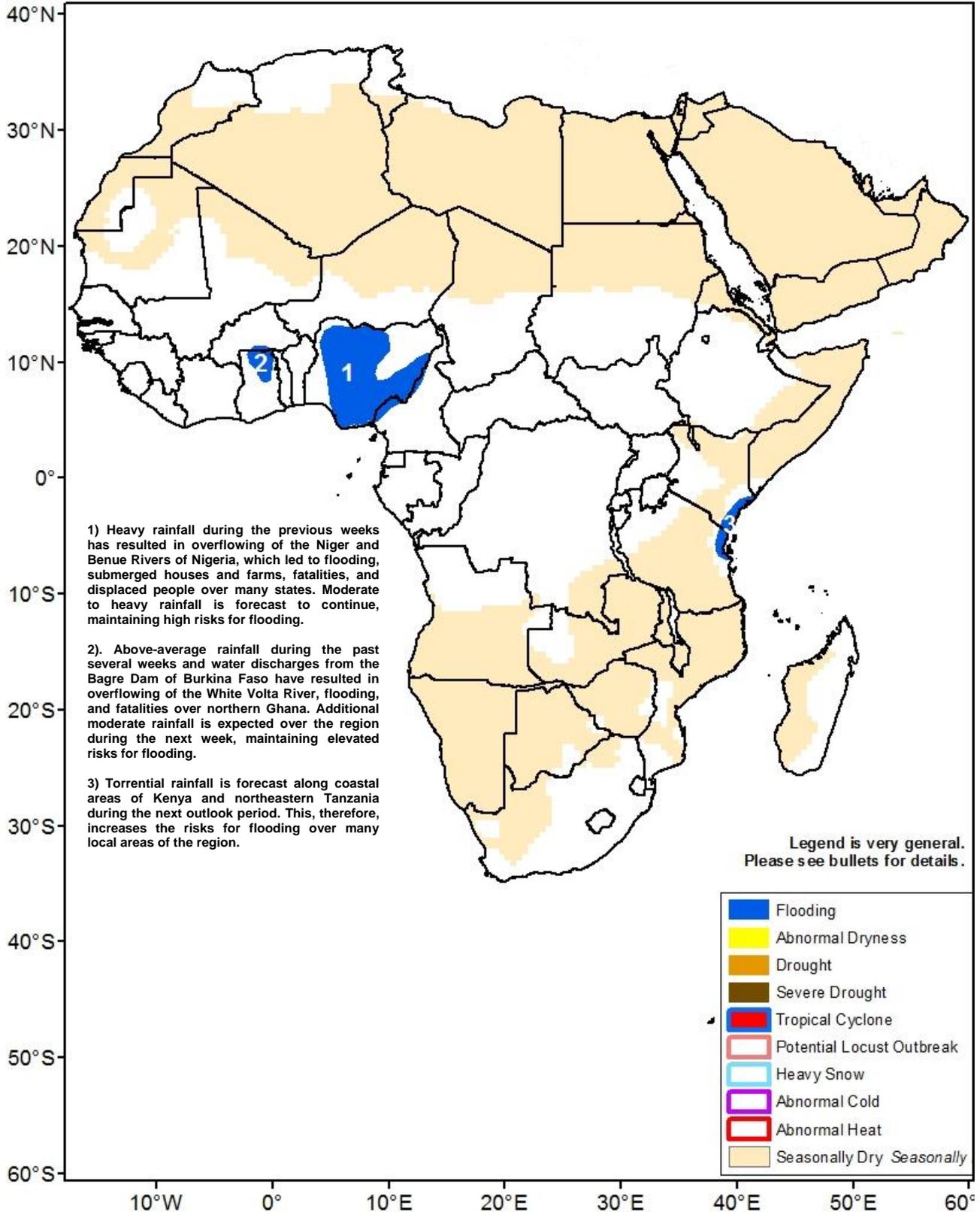




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 27 – October 3, 2018

- Above-average West African monsoon season has resulted in flooding over many areas of West Africa.
 - Torrential rainfall could trigger flooding along coastal areas of Kenya and northeastern Tanzania.



Heavy rainfall continued over much of West Africa.

During the past observation period, heavy rainfall continued over West Africa from the far western portions, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, western Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, to southwestern Chad (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, light to moderate rainfall was received elsewhere. Although this past week's rainfall totals were below-average over certain areas such as Cote d'Ivoire and central Nigeria, abundant accumulation over the past several months has maintained long-term moisture surpluses across much of the region. Moreover, despite an early and rapid withdrawal of the Intertropical Front (ITF), rain-bearing system, since early August, an anomalous northerly position of the ITF has brought above-average moisture conditions over many areas farther north during the second dekad (10-day period) of September.

Since late August to present, wetter than average conditions have been recorded across much of West Africa, with the largest rainfall surpluses over the far western portions of the sub-region and southern Nigeria. As a result, excess moisture has resulted in many rivers bursting their banks, flooding houses and farmlands, leaving fatalities, and displacing many people. In Nigeria, local authorities have already declared National Disaster over many States, including the Kogi, Niger, Anambra, and Delta, according to media reports. In Ghana, the compounded effects of accumulated heavy rainfall and water discharges from the Bagre Dam of Burkina Faso have led to flooding and affected people in northern Ghana, based on reports. Reports of flooding were also indicated over the Koulikoro and Mopti regions.

During the next outlook period, a wet weather pattern is expected to over far western West Africa, with heavy downpours across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast over Burkina Faso and along the Gulf of Guinea countries, which could exacerbate conditions over many already-saturated and flooded areas.

Wetness observed in Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, and northern Ethiopia.

Over the past thirty days, above-average rainfall was observed much of Sudan, northern Ethiopia, southern Eritrea, Djibouti, and portions of western Yemen (**Figure 2**). The largest (> 100 mm) surpluses were recorded over northern Ethiopia and southern Eritrea. This could be attributed to an anomalous northerly position of the ITF and its associated low-level convergence during the late August and early September. Conversely, below-average rainfall was registered over portions of southwestern Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan, and localized areas of Uganda. During the past observation period, reduced rainfall was observed over eastern Africa, with moderate to locally heavy rainfall, concentrated only over parts of western Ethiopia, south-central and southwestern Sudan, and northwestern South Sudan. Elsewhere, little to light rainfall was received, which might have reduced surpluses and benefitted many previously-flooded areas.

An analysis of recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomalies has indicated, overall, average to above-average conditions throughout eastern Africa, except localized areas of eastern South Sudan, eastern Sudan, and southwestern Ethiopia, where below-average conditions were depicted.

For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast over southwestern Ethiopia. Heavy rains are expected along eastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania, which could trigger flooding. Reduced amounts with light rains are expected over South Sudan, Somalia, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania.

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.

