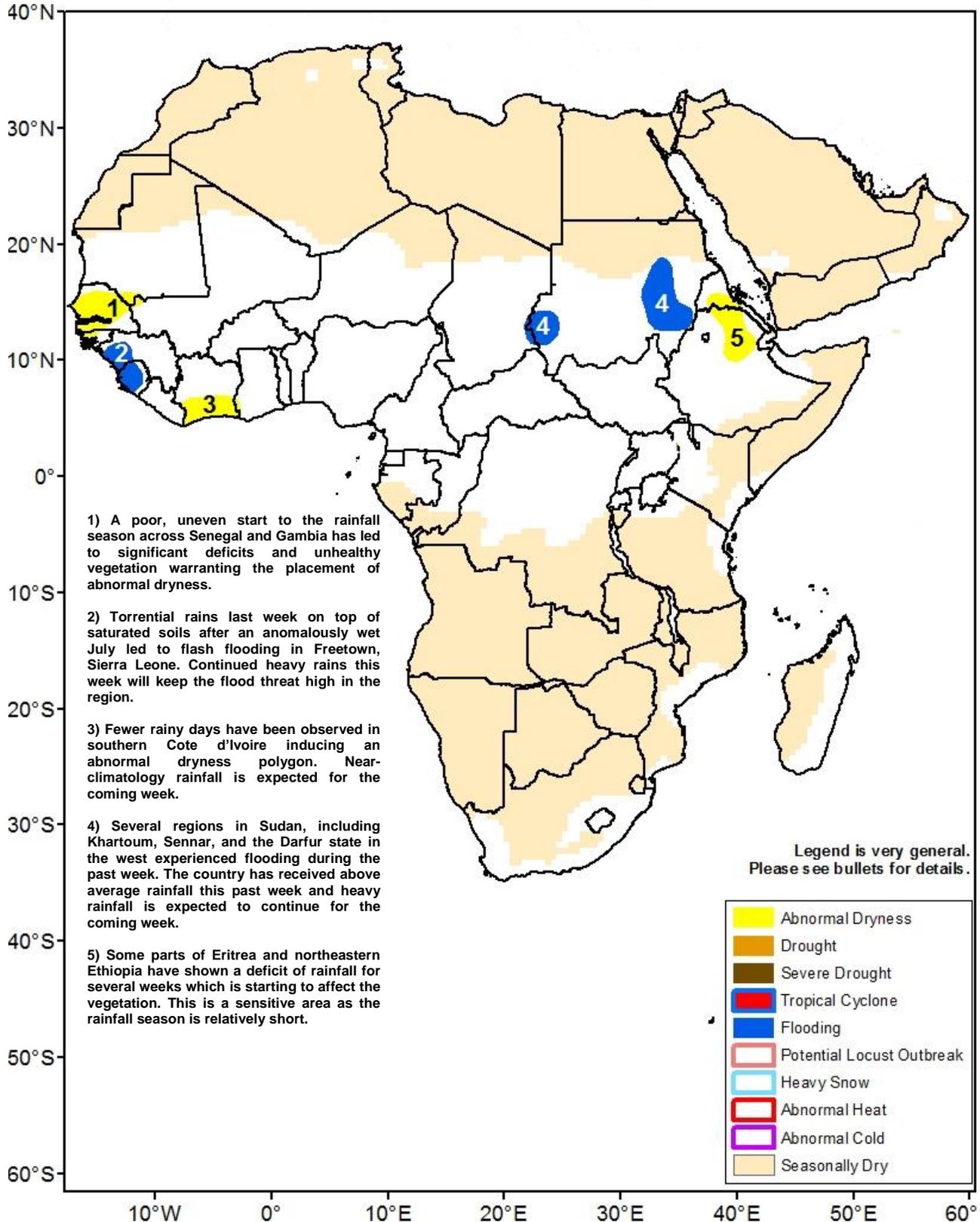




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 15 – August 21, 2019

- Persistently heavy rainfall is causing problems with flooding in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Sudan.
- An entrenched pattern in West Africa continues to limit rainfall in Senegal and southern Mauritania.



## Heavy rains have been persistent in Guinea and Sierra Leone leading to flooding issues.

During the second week of August, a dipole pattern of rainfall was observed over far western Africa. Rainfall was heavy over Guinea, Sierra Leone, and northern Liberia and significantly suppressed rain over Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. According to satellite estimates, totals of more than 100mm were widely received in Sierra Leone and Guinea, with local amounts of up to 300mm near the coast (**Figure 1**). Well-distributed and above-normal rainfall was observed in many other parts of the region including northern Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin and parts of Nigeria. Other areas experiencing rainfall suppression include Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and parts of eastern Nigeria.

Since the beginning of June, Guinea and Sierra Leone have experienced persistent periods of heavy rain. Positive rainfall anomalies of 300-500mm+ have been observed in Guinea-Conakry, and Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, deficits are growing to 50-200mm in Senegal, Gambia, and southern Mauritania (**Figure 2**). Impacts from the poor start to the rainy season are evident by very low vegetation health indices over Senegal. To the south, moisture deficits in southern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana are holding steady as that area is experiencing their mid-season dry spell. Elsewhere, in central Nigeria, rains have improved over the last several weeks reducing any abnormally dry conditions. Rainfall has been ample through most of the rest of West Africa during July and early August.

During the outlook period, models suggest the pattern in West Africa will hold steady. Suppressed rain should continue across Senegal, while rains remain heavy (>100mm) over Guinea, Sierra Leone, and southern Mali. Rains are likely to continue to be enhanced throughout the Sahel.

## Seasonal rainfall surpluses are increasing in Sudan

Rains were widespread and above normal in quantity throughout Sudan last week. Heavy rainfall totals of more than 50mm were observed both in the Darfur region and in the Nile river region. Rainfall totals of at least 25mm were widely distributed across western and northern Ethiopia, South Sudan, northeastern DRC, and Uganda (**Figure 1**). This generally resulted in negligible 7-day anomalies, except for western Ethiopia where totals should be much greater. Negatively anomalies of 25-50mm are registered near the border with Sudan. This marks a westward shift in the region of suppressed rainfall from previous weeks, and some improved moisture conditions in the Afar state. Since June, abnormally dry conditions with less than 80% of normal rainfall persist in the Amhara, Tigre, and Afar states, along with portions of Eritrea. Visible impacts to vegetation health can be observed by satellite derived indices. Since the rainfall season is relatively short for these regions, we are especially sensitive to the impacts on agro-pastoral activities. In eastern Sudan, rainfall surpluses now exceed 300mm since June 1. This has led to reports of flooding and resulting fatalities across the country.

Heavy rain is forecast to continue across Sudan during the outlook period, likely totaling 50mm or more. Additional flash flooding and higher river levels along the Nile and its tributaries are likely. South Sudan and DRC may also receive near or above normal amounts of rain.

**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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