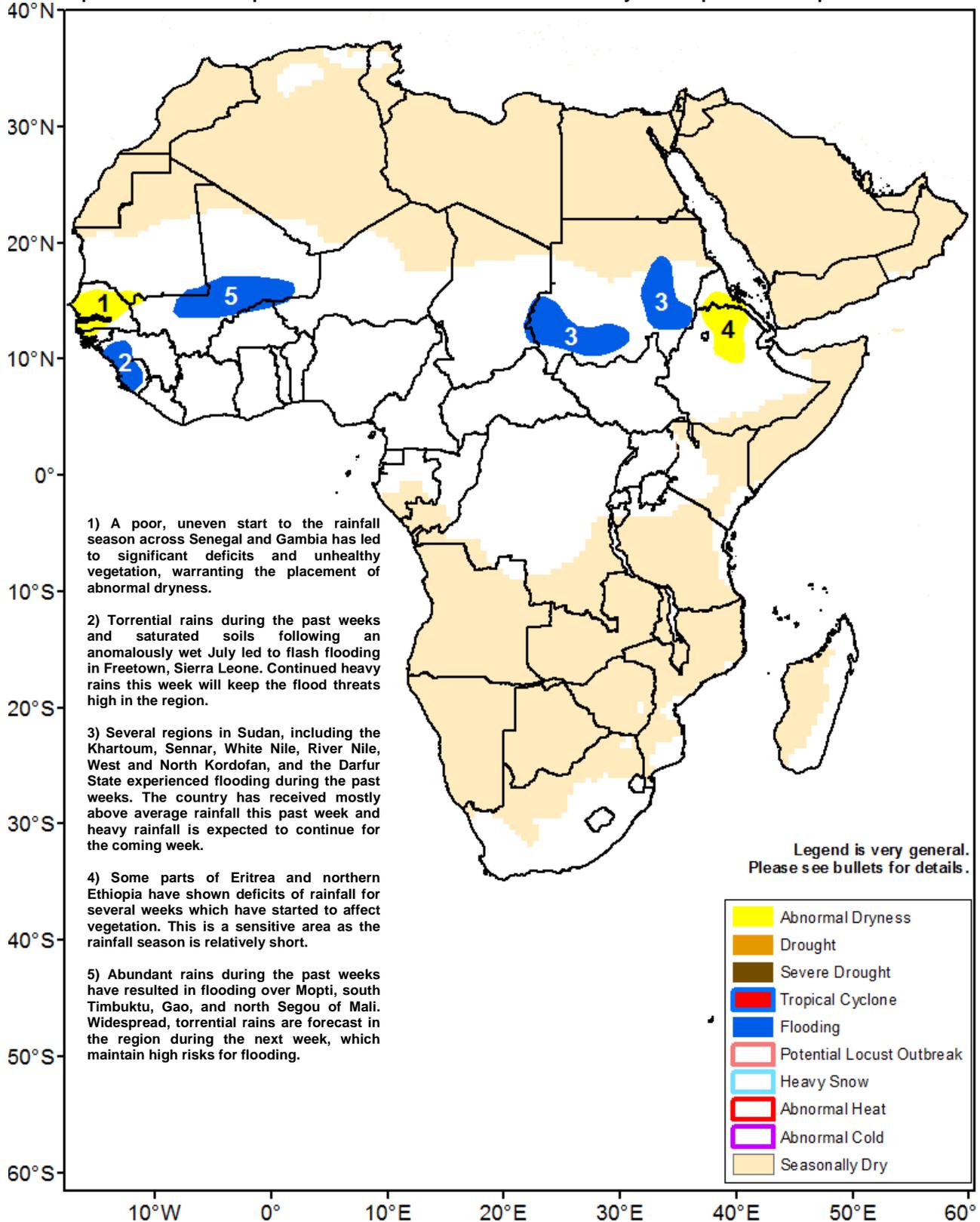




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 22 – 28, 2019

- Observed wetness and forecast heavy downpours increase the risks for flooding over parts of West Africa.
- Infrequent rains over the past several weeks have led to abnormal dryness in parts of Ethiopia and Eritrea.



## Moderate to locally heavy rains helped ease dryness over the central and northern parts of Senegal.

The spatial distribution of rainfall totals during the past week showed some increase, with moderate to locally heavy rainfall over the already-dry areas of West Africa, including the central and northern parts of Senegal; and portions of western Mali (Figure 1). This, therefore, has contributed to partially reduce accumulated moisture deficits and alleviate dryness in the region. Abundant rains also persisted throughout Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone, exacerbating, in contrast, previously-flooded and water-logged areas of the region. Farther east, scattered moderate to heavy rains were observed over the Sahel, which resulted in flooding over Mopti and several areas of Mali, according to reports. Meanwhile, widespread, copious amounts of rain were received across southern Niger and northeastern Nigeria. In contrast, suppressed rainfall but typical during this time of the year was registered along the Gulf of Guinea.

Over the past few weeks, vigorous, onshore westerlies along with their influx of moisture have contributed to wetter-than-average conditions over Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone. In contrast, an abnormal southward deflection of the Inter-Tropical Front over Mauritania, Senegal, and parts of Mali has led to insufficient rainfall and moisture deficits, which have already negatively impacted biomass conditions in the region.

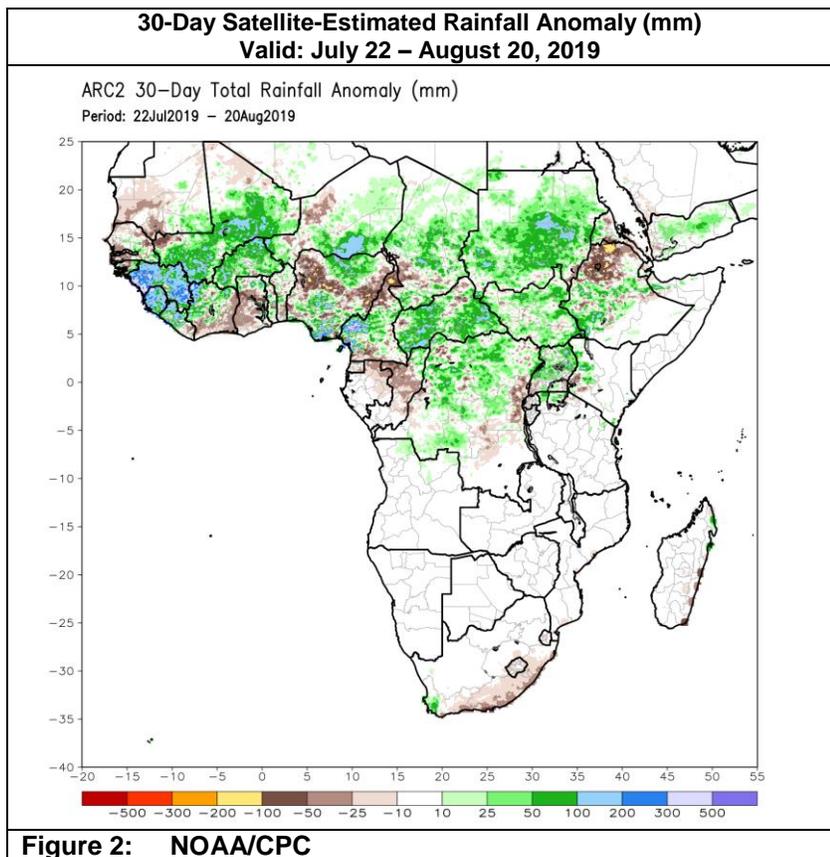
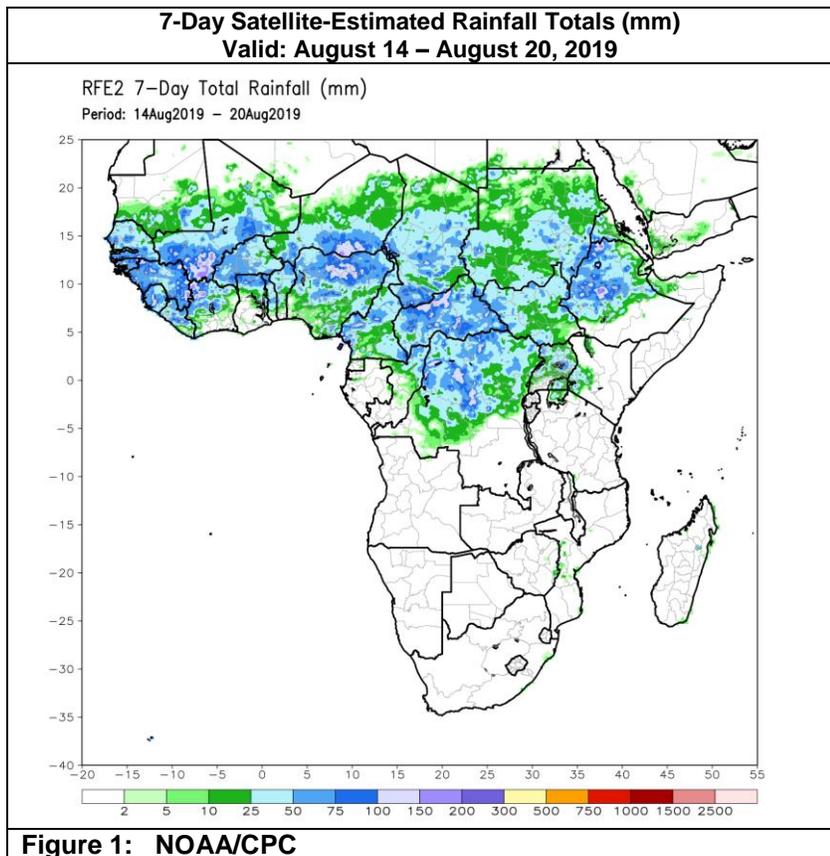
During the outlook period, wet weather conditions are expected to return across the Sahel. Heavy downpours are forecast throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, and northern Nigeria. This could trigger widespread flooding over many local areas.

## Continued heavy rains over Ethiopia sustain heightened flooding risk over eastern Sudan.

Cumulative rainfall over the past thirty days was above-average over eastern Africa for the most parts. Positive anomalies spread across Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and parts of western Ethiopia (Figure 2). In Sudan, both consistent rains, received over the country and excess moisture from upstream Ethiopian highlands contributed to flooding over many states, based on reports. In contrast, insufficient rains have led to moderate to large rainfall deficits across northern Ethiopia, which have already started to negatively impact vegetation along the northeastern escarpment and parts of Eritrea.

An analysis of crop performance model assessment indicated that some of these areas of Eritrea and northeastern Ethiopia could experience further degradation in vegetation conditions as the rainfall season is relatively short for these areas. The return of favorable rainfall distribution is needed over the upcoming weeks to replenish soil moisture and ensure adequate crop growth and development.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rains over western Ethiopia, eastern and western Sudan, and South Sudan. Therefore, the risks for flooding remain high over the Darfur region, south-central, and the east-central parts of Sudan. However, the forecast enhanced rains could help partially reduce deficits in northern Ethiopia.



**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.**