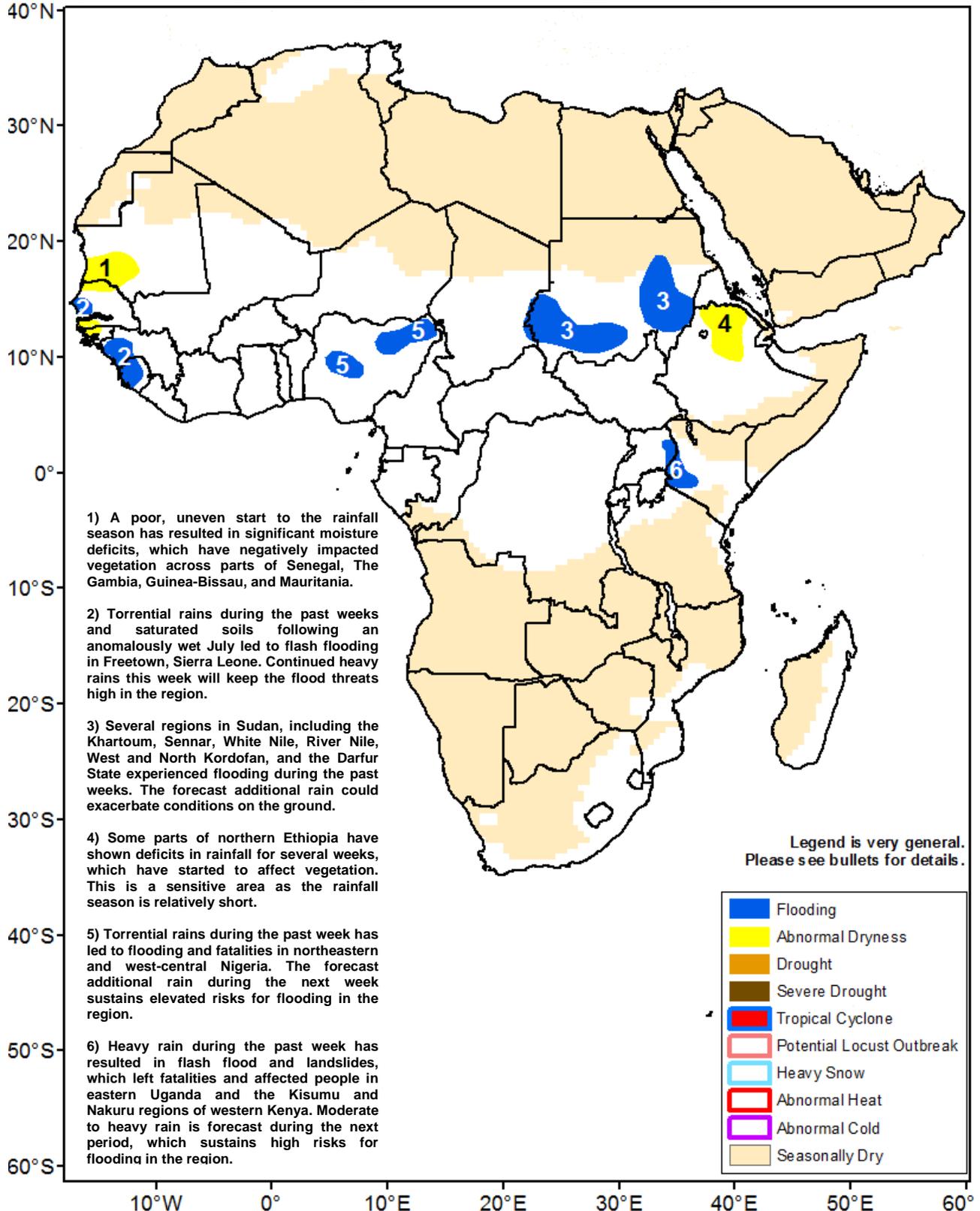




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 6 – 12, 2019

- Consistent, heavy rains during the past weeks have saturated the grounds of many areas of West Africa.
- Heavy and above-average rains during the recent weeks have triggered flooding over areas of east Africa.



Consistent, heavy rains continued over West Africa.

From August 28 – September 3, wet conditions were observed over much of West Africa. Abundant and torrential rains fell over Senegal, southern Mali, Guinea-Conakry, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, southern Nigeria, and southern Chad (Figure 1). In Mali, this past week's torrential rains damaged infrastructure and crops over many local areas, based on reports. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rains were received as far north as northern Mali and Algeria. Over the far western West Africa, the continued enhanced rain helped to overcome short-term moisture deficits in central Senegal and western Mali. Similarly, the southward shift of the Inter-Tropical Front helped bring increased rain along the Gulf of Guinea, which has reduced thirty-day rainfall deficits over some areas, including southern Cote d'Ivoire.

Due to a favorable distribution of rainfall over the past few weeks, favorable vegetation conditions were observed throughout much of West Africa, including previously dryness-stricken areas of central Senegal western Mali, according to the vegetation health index. Although the continuation of good rain should, in general, help benefit cropping activities over many local areas of West Africa, excessive moisture could damage and reduce yields over some local areas.

During the outlook period, heavy rain is forecast across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Nigeria, southern Niger, and southern Chad. Light rain is expected throughout northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, western Mali, western Niger, and northeastern Nigeria.

Wetness observed over most areas of east Africa

An analysis of the accumulated rain since the beginning of July to date has indicated that above-average rain spread over Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, western Kenya, and parts of Ethiopia, while below-average rain was recorded over northern Ethiopia and parts of Eritrea (Figure 2). In Sudan, above-average rainfall frequency, combined with heavy downpours has contributed to moisture surpluses exceeding 100 mm over a wide area to the east. Farther south, this past week's enhanced rain has led to flash floods and landslides, which caused fatalities in eastern Uganda and the Nakuru and Kisumu regions of Kenya, according to media reports. In contrast, an uneven distribution of rainfall, both in space and time, has led to persisting, accumulated rainfall deficits over parts of northern Ethiopia and eastern Eritrea. If poor rain continues over the upcoming weeks, vegetation conditions will likely deteriorate further, which could reduce yields over sensitive areas of northeastern Ethiopia.

Based on the most recent vegetation health index product, positive conditions were observed over much of Sudan and South Sudan, while near to below-average conditions were depicted over localized areas of west-central and northeastern Ethiopia.

During the outlook period, heavy rain is forecast to continue over western Ethiopia and South Sudan. Moderate to locally heavy rain is expected over Uganda and western Kenya, which could trigger new flooding and landslides or exacerbate conditions on the grounds. In contrast, reduced and limited rain is forecast over central and eastern Sudan.

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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