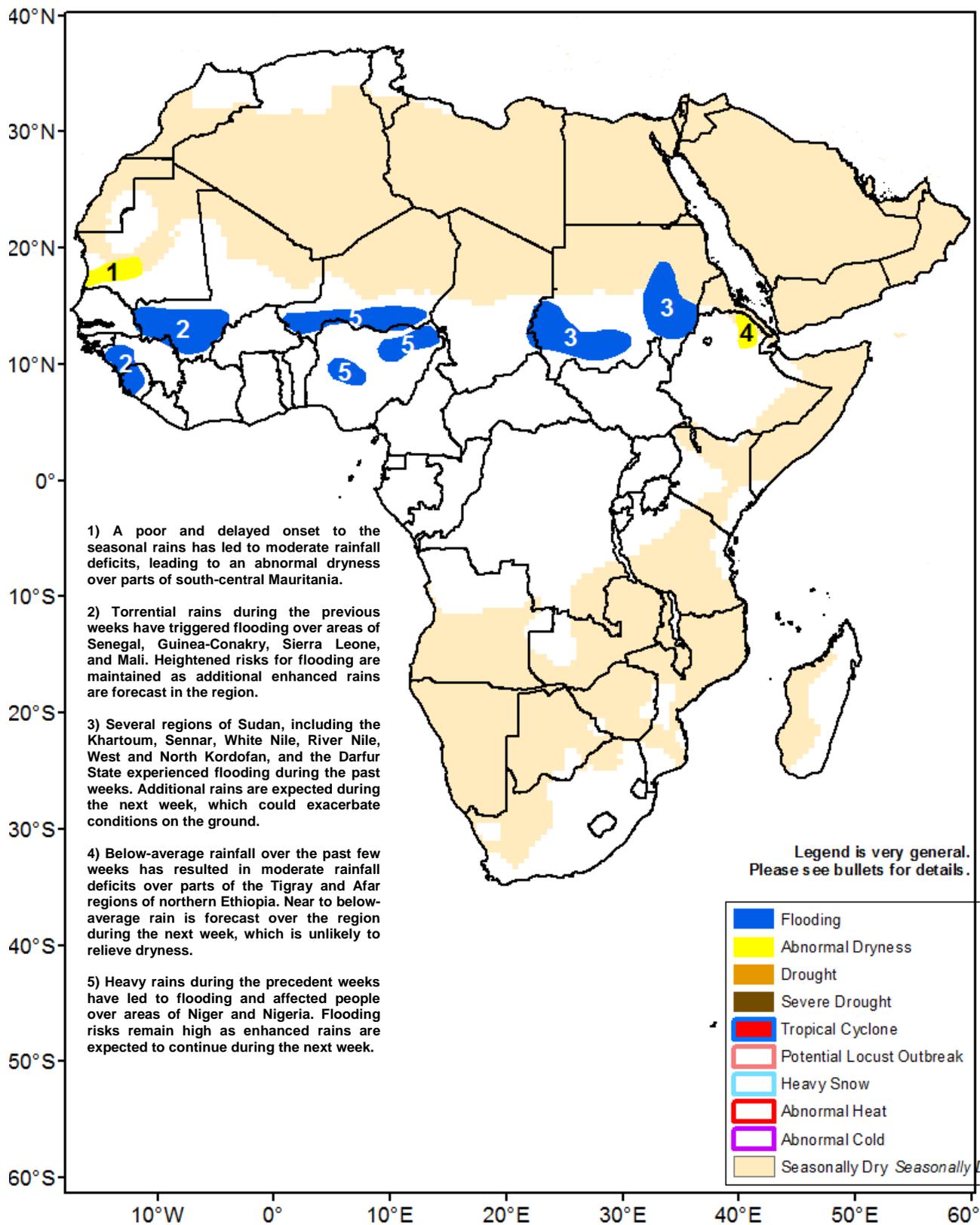




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 19 – 25, 2019

- Flooding concerns remain for many areas of Africa as heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next period.



## A favorable seasonal rainfall performance observed over much of West Africa

This season, West Africa has, so far, experienced a favorable monsoon. Cumulative rainfall since July was above-average throughout the region from Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, to Chad (**Figure 1**). Positive rainfall anomalies spread across many countries, with the largest surpluses exceeding 300 mm over the far western West Africa, namely Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone and parts of Nigeria. This wetness has caused flooding, leaving many fatalities, destruction of properties, infrastructures, and crops over several areas during the past few weeks, according to reports. The wetter-than-average conditions were partly associated with a near to anomalously northern position of the Intertropical Front (ITF), rain-bearing system, since July. However, a delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution has led to below-average seasonal rainfall in northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, and parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Due to a favorable rainfall distribution, recent vegetation health index exhibited mostly positive conditions throughout West Africa, particularly the Sahel. Though the ITF has already retreated equatorward, the continuation of seasonal rains are expected to maintain favorable conditions for agricultural and livestock production.

During the outlook period, torrential rains are expected from the far western Guinea-Conakry to the Gulf of Guinea countries. Widespread, light to moderate rains are forecast to continue over the Sahel and remainders, which heighten the risks for flooding over many local areas of the region.

## Above-average rains continued over Ethiopia and parts of Sudan.

During the past period, moderate to heavy rains were received over western and eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia. Scattered moderate to locally heavy rains were also registered over the northern parts of Somalia and western Yemen. The largest rainfall amounts were registered in northern Ethiopia, where more than 100 mm of rainfall was recorded, based on satellite-derived estimates (**Figure 2**). This past week's rainfall was above-average over western and eastern Sudan, which might have aggravated conditions on the ground over many previously-flooded areas of the country. Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, the increased rainfall during the past few weeks helped reduce short-term (30 days) moisture deficits over the dry areas to the northeast. Farther south, widespread, light to locally moderate rains were received over South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. Since July, wetter-than-average conditions have persisted over much of eastern Africa, with the largest surpluses over eastern Sudan and areas of central Ethiopia. However, an uneven distribution in rainfall has led to seasonal deficits over portions of the Amhara, Tigray, and Afar regions of northern Ethiopia.

During the outlook period, heavy rains are forecast over western Ethiopia stretching to the east parts of the country and northern Somalia. Moderate rains are expected in southern Sudan and western South Sudan. In contrast, little to light rainfall is forecast over the Afar region of northeastern Ethiopia 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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