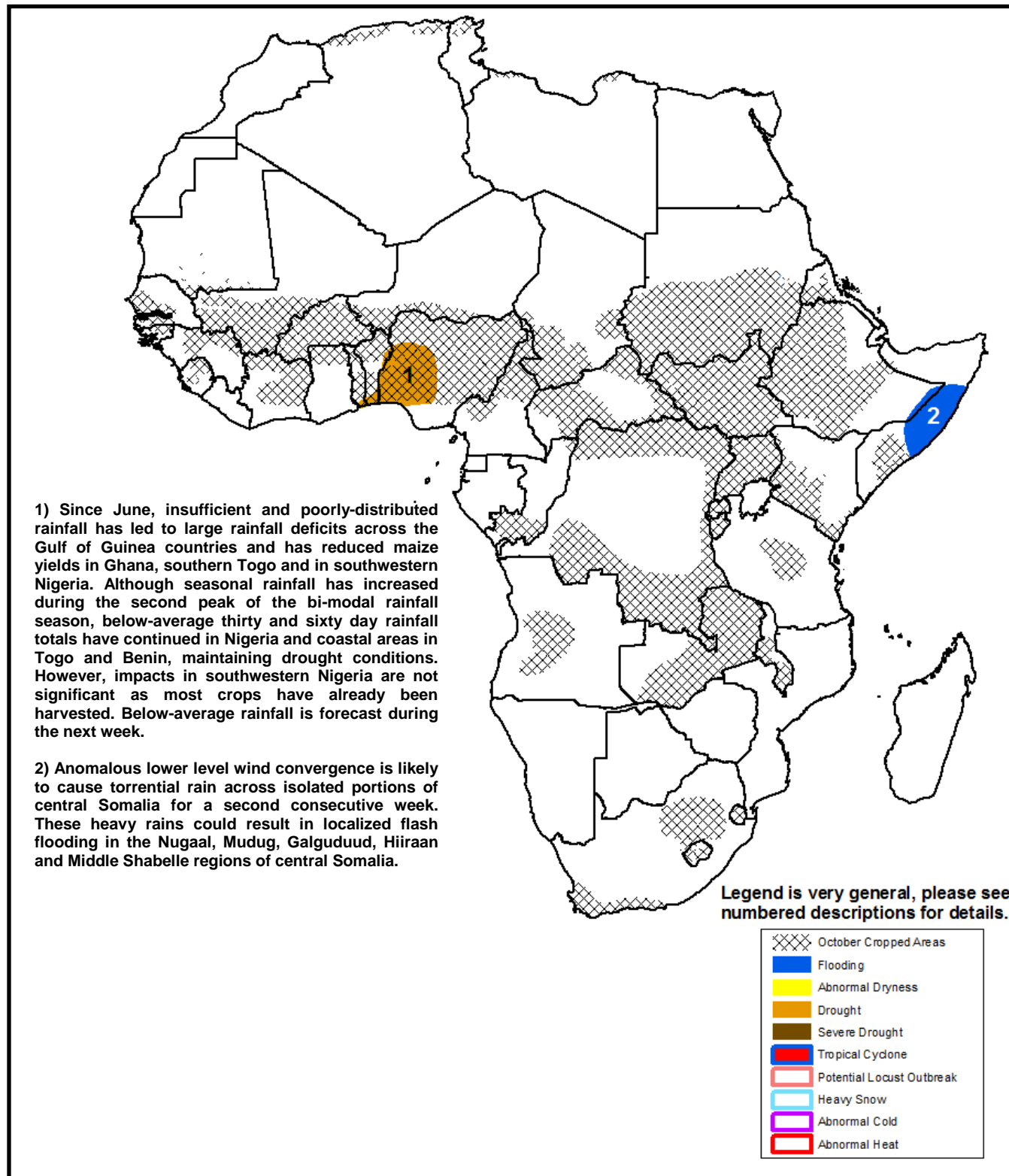




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 24 – October 30, 2013

- Localized heavy rain showers were observed across central Somalia.



Locally heavy rains fell in central Somalia.

During the past week, a decrease in rainfall was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa. Heavy rain (>50mm) was still observed in western Ethiopia and central Somalia. The abundant rains in Ethiopia and central Somalia increased rainfall surpluses during October. In contrast, weekly rains were light to moderate (<40mm) in Sudan, South Sudan, and around Lake Victoria. However, in the Mubende district of Uganda, there were localized reports of flooding and hail which damaged infrastructure. The lack of rains in Sudan is reflective of an early end to the rainy season. Farther south, below-average rains since the start of October have led to rainfall deficits between 25-50mm around Lake Victoria. The recent poor rains followed heavy seasonal rains during the end of September. In Somalia, the start of the Deyr rainy season has been erratic with only localized areas in central Somalia receiving rains. Little rain has fallen in southern Somalia, resulting in 10-50mm deficits during October (**Figure 1**). For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for central Somalia and southern Ethiopia which could lead to localized flooding. In contrast, below-average rains are expected in South Sudan and around Lake Victoria, increasing recent rainfall deficits.

A below-average start to seasonal rains in South Africa.

Throughout October, seasonal rains in southern Africa are expected to increase from the north into parts of Zambia and Angola as well as from the south into South Africa. However, during the past thirty-days, rains have been slow to develop across South Africa and Angola, which has led to thirty-day rainfall deficits between 25-50mm (**Figure 2**). Since seasonal rains last year were below-average across portions of central South Africa, a slow start to seasonal rains this year will only worsen already poor ground conditions. For the next week, an increase in rain is expected for Angola, South Africa and Mozambique with heavy rains (>50mm) forecast for much of Angola and moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) expected in South Africa and southern Mozambique.

Gulf of Guinea area received moderate to heavy rain.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) was observed in southern West Africa. The heaviest rain (>50mm) fell in southeastern Nigeria and Guinea (**Figure 3**). Overall, weekly rains were below-average in West Africa. However, the average to above-average rains that fell across Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria helped to provide relief to drought conditions that developed during the first peak of the bi-modal rainfall season. Rains during the second peak have been near average or above-average in Ghana, Togo, and Benin; although rains continue to be below-average in Nigeria. This lack of rain in Nigeria has continued drought concerns; though, the impact in southwest Nigeria is lessened because most crops have been harvested. Farther north, rains were light across the Sahel as the Intertropical Front moved south of the region. The end to the rainy season in parts of Niger in September was marked by an early secession of rains. For the next week, rains are expected to seasonally decrease as only light to moderate rain (5-30mm) is forecast for areas along the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa.

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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