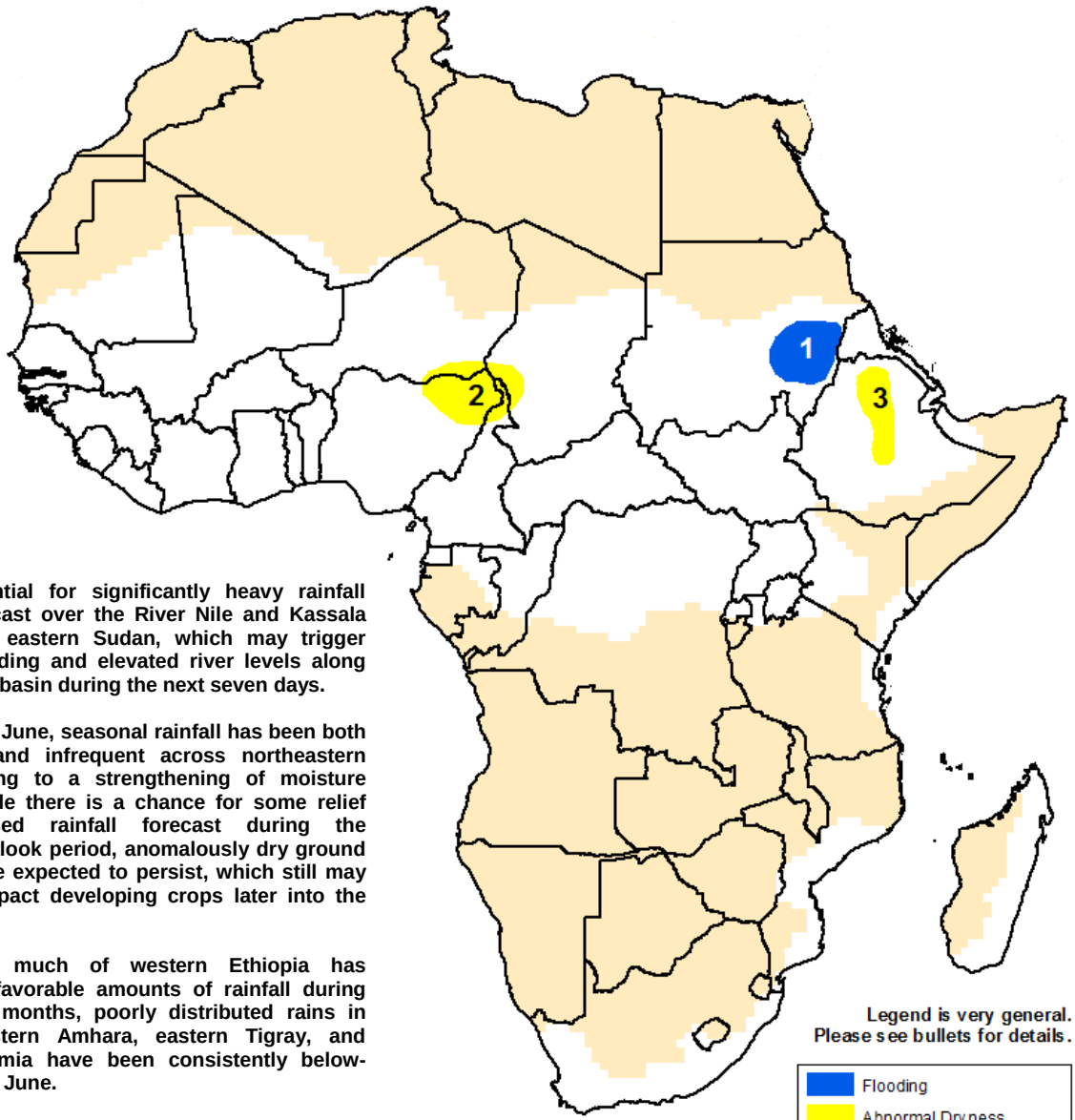
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
July 24 – July 30, 2014

- **A large area of enhanced rainfall may trigger localized flooding across parts of eastern Sudan.**
- **Consistently poor rainfall has led to deteriorating ground conditions across northeastern Nigeria and western Chad.**



1) The potential for significantly heavy rainfall remains forecast over the River Nile and Kassala provinces of eastern Sudan, which may trigger localized flooding and elevated river levels along the Nile River basin during the next seven days.

2) Since early June, seasonal rainfall has been both suppressed and infrequent across northeastern Nigeria leading to a strengthening of moisture deficits. While there is a chance for some relief with increased rainfall forecast during the upcoming outlook period, anomalously dry ground conditions are expected to persist, which still may negatively impact developing crops later into the season.

3) Although much of western Ethiopia has experienced favorable amounts of rainfall during the last two months, poorly distributed rains in parts of eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia have been consistently below-average since June.

Slow starts to seasonal rainfall in parts of Senegal, northeastern Nigeria, and Chad lead to increased dryness concerns.

During the past seven days, a relatively seasonable distribution of rainfall was observed throughout West Africa. The highest weekly precipitation accumulations were received in southern Mali, as well as, bordering areas in Burkina Faso, northern Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea. Further south, a reduction of precipitation was observed in southern Cote d'Ivoire compared to the previous week; however a small increase in rains and moisture fell across southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria. In the Sahel, light to moderate amounts of precipitation were received across southern Niger, with sharp cessation of weekly rainfall observed in northeastern Nigeria, and southeastern Niger (**Figure 1**).

Over the past 30 days, rainfall has been suppressed across parts of Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, as much of the enhanced rainfall has remained over the western Gulf of Guinea countries. The spatial structure of 30-day rainfall anomalies has also been consistent with the longer-term seasonal picture (from May 1st to present). An axis of anomalously wet conditions extending from Sierra Leone, southern Cote d'Ivoire northward into western Mali have persisted since the beginning of May (**Figure 2**). According to the 30-year satellite rainfall climatology, many of these areas have experienced seasonal rainfall amounts that rank in the 90th percentile for the respective period, which has already resulted in an over-saturation of ground conditions, and numerous isolated flooding events. The continuation of average to above-average rainfall for the remainder of July and into August is likely to sustain the potential for additional flooding, and possibly damages to developing crops.

Conversely, both a delayed start and continued suppression of rains have been felt across parts of western Senegal, northeastern Nigeria, and western Chad. Many local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation, and also rank in the 10th percentile since the beginning of May. These below-average rains have already delayed planting in Chad and Senegal, as prolonged moisture shortages are likely to further degrade ground conditions and negatively impact cropping activity for the season. For next week, little to no rainfall is forecast for the anomalously dry parts of Senegal; however the potential for moderate rains exists over parts of Nigeria, Niger and Chad.

Rainfall anomalies continue to strengthen in eastern Africa.

Since late June, seasonal rainfall across many parts of South Sudan, Sudan and western Ethiopia has been above-average, with some local areas experiencing rainfall surpluses in excess of 100mm during the last 30 days (**Figure 3**). However, below-average rains and moisture deficts continue to be observed in parts of central and eastern Ethiopia. While the higher amounts of rain are climatologically expected later in season across eastern Ethiopia, considerable moisture shortages in parts of the eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia remain unfavorable for the development of seasonal crops.

Further northwest, the threat for flooding is expected for the upcoming outlook period, as the potential for significantly heavy precipitaiton remains high over some climatologically drier portions of eastern and northeastern Sudan. Forecast indicate weekly rainfall amounts upwards of 75mm over the River Nile and Kassala provinces of the country.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 13 – July 19, 2014

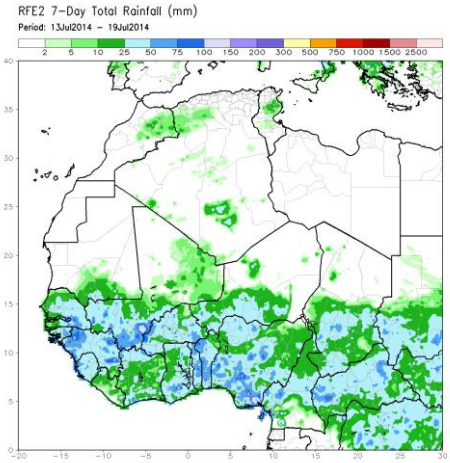


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: May 1 – July 19, 2014

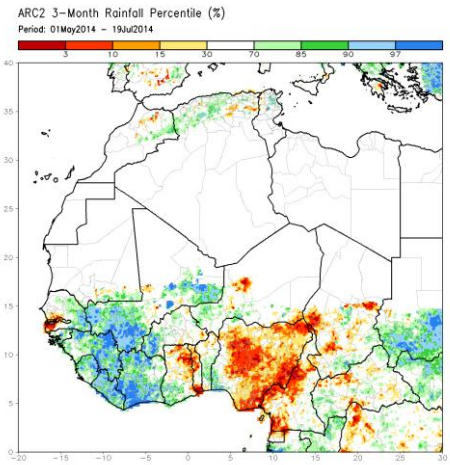


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 20 – July 19, 2014

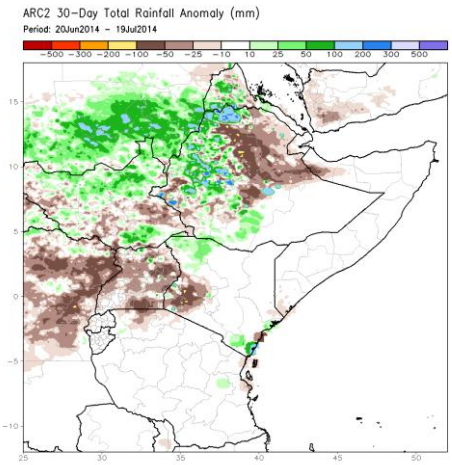


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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