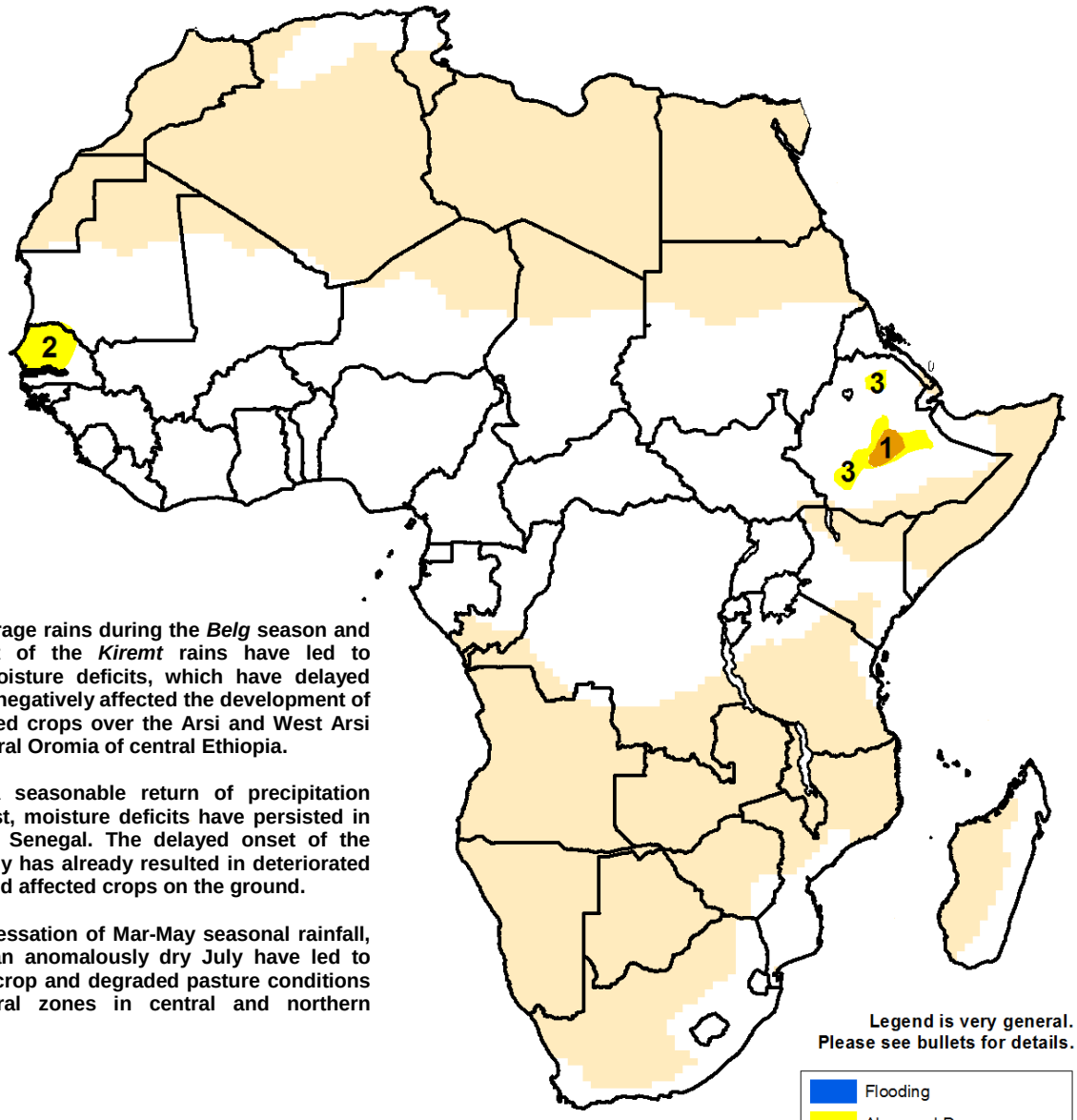
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 4 – September 10, 2014

- **Suppressed seasonal rains were received across the western Sahel during late August.**
- **Enhanced rains continued over western Ethiopia, eastern Sudan and eastern South Sudan.**



1) Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi zones in central Oromia of central Ethiopia.

2) Despite a seasonable return of precipitation during August, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

3) An early cessation of Mar-May seasonal rainfall, as well as, an anomalously dry July have led to deteriorated crop and degraded pasture conditions across several zones in central and northern Ethiopia.

Rains were generally favorable in West Africa during August.

During the last week in August, an axis of moderate to locally heavy weekly rainfall totals (50-100mm) was received from portions of central Senegal, stretching southeastward over southern Mali and into parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. To the north of these areas, however, suppressed seasonal rains were observed mostly across southern Mauritania, central Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger, as weekly accumulations were less than 30mm in this region during the last week (**Figure 1**). In the Gulf of Guinea region and further east, moderate to locally heavy rains also returned to many parts of southern Nigeria, as well as, throughout many parts of southern and eastern Chad.

In the month of August, seasonal precipitation across West Africa has been performed quite favorably, with numerous areas having received average to above-average rains which helped to offset earlier season moisture deficits. In particular, above-average August rains across parts of Senegal, western Mali, and southern Mauritania (**Figure 2**), is expected to benefit areas that experienced a delayed onset of the monsoon in July. Increased moisture throughout parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and along the Niger and Nigeria border is also expected to alleviate concerns of developing mid-season dryness. However, rainfall across portions of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and northwestern Nigeria remained below-average during the last month.

For the start of September, the ITCZ/ITF is expected to make its equatorward retreat, signaling the weakening of West Africa monsoon. However, precipitation forecasts indicate the potential for enhanced rainfall across the lower Sahel and northern Gulf of Guinea countries for the upcoming outlook period. Weekly rainfall accumulations in excess of 75mm are forecast for parts of southern Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Ghana and western Nigeria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 25 – August 31, 2014

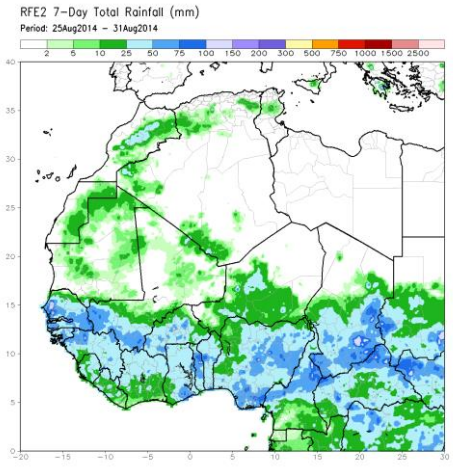


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: August 2 – August 31, 2014

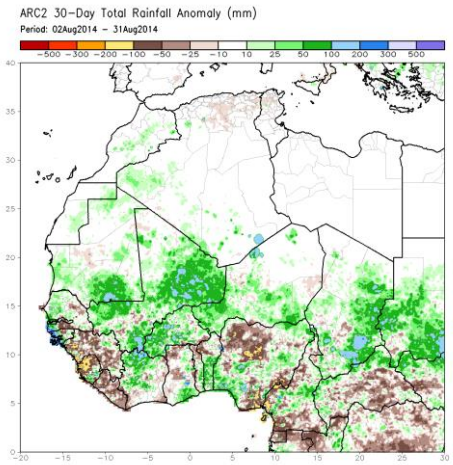


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Dryness concerns grow in central Ethiopia.

During the past week, heavy and above-average rains continued throughout western Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and South Sudan. Further east, lighter to locally moderate rains were receieved across some of the anomaloously dry areas of central Ethiopia. Since the beginning of July, seasonal rains have been consistency above-average, as the highest moisture surpluses have been concentrated over southeastern Sudan, eastern South Sudan, and extending southward into Uganda (**Figure 3**). However, the extent of the anomalous wetness has not been observed in parts of central and northern Ethiopia. Insufficient rainfall associated with an early end of the Mar-May rains season, as well as, anomalously dry conditions in July have reportedly led to adverse crop and pastoral impacts for several zones in the Oromia, SNNP, eastern Amhara, and southern Tigray provinces of the country. Precipitaiton forecasts suggest a seaonable distribution of rains across Ethiopia, with a moderate potential for above-average rains across the central provinces for the upcoming outlook period.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile
Valid: July 1 – August 31, 2014

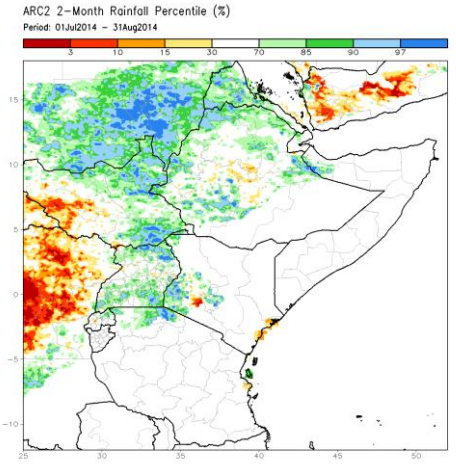


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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