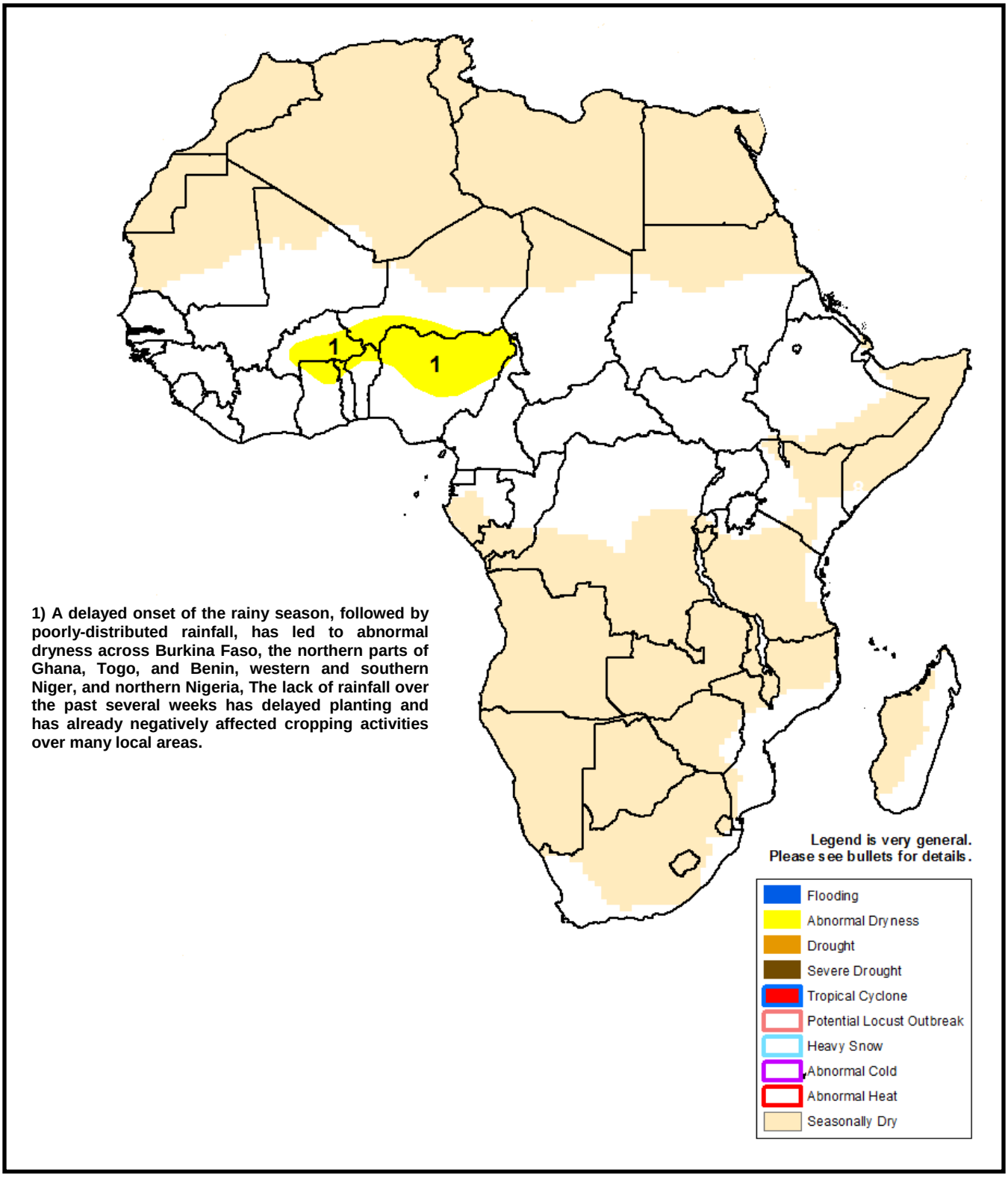
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
July 2 – 8, 2015

- **A slight decrease in rainfall was observed over West Africa during the past week.**
- **Parts of Eastern Africa have received below-average rain since the beginning of the season.**



1) A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western and southern Niger, and northern Nigeria, The lack of rainfall over the past several weeks has delayed planting and has already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas.

Rainfall deficits persist across West Africa.

During the past week, a widespread distribution of rainfall was observed throughout West Africa. The northward movement of the Inter-tropical front (ITF) brought light to locally moderate rainfall as far north as central Mali. The heaviest rain fell over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, and parts of northern Burkina Faso (**Figure 1**). Moderate rain was also registered in western Niger and local areas of Nigeria. In contrast, little to light rain was recorded elsewhere, particularly, the Gulf of Guinea countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Compared to climatology, much of West Africa observed slightly below-average rain during the past week, which contributed to sustaining moisture deficits over many local areas.

An analysis of the percent rainfall, accumulated since June 1st has showed drier than average conditions over much of Nigeria, the northern portions of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, southeastern Senegal, and western Mali. These regions have received mostly between 50-80 percent and even below 50 percent of their averages over some local areas (**Figure 2**). A delayed onset to the rainfall season and poorly distributed rains have already delayed planting and negatively impacted agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas, including southern Niger. In Nigeria, the lack of rain has depleted soil moisture in the north.

During the next week, light to locally moderate and likely to be below-average rain is expected along the Gulf of Guinea region. This includes the southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria. In contrast, heavy rain is forecast to continue over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, and localized areas of Nigeria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 24 – June 30, 2015

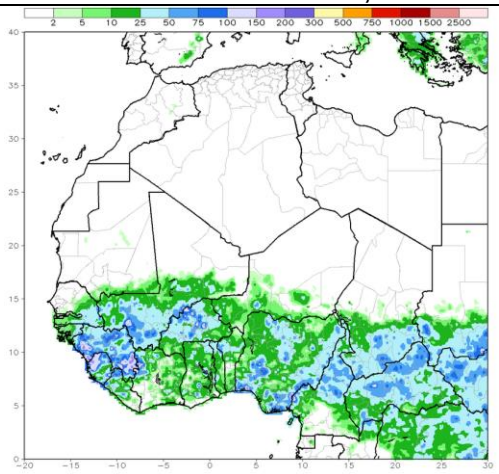


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: June 01 – June 30, 2015

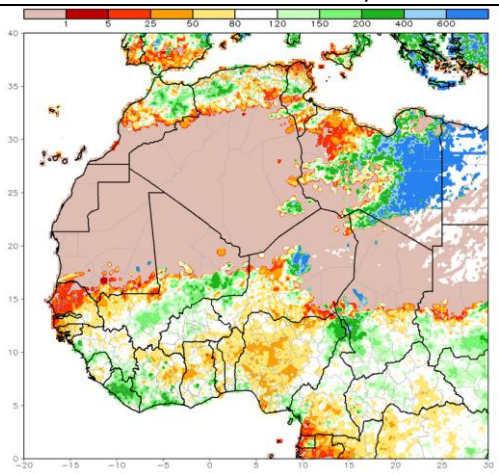


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Below-average rain observed in eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia.

Since the beginning of June, adequate rainfall has been observed over the Greater Horn of Africa. Moisture surpluses in excess of 50 mm were recorded from southern Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda to southwestern and central Ethiopia. However, below-average rain has emerged in eastern Sudan and portions of northwestern Ethiopia over the past several weeks (**Figure 3**). The deficits can be attributed to a dry spell during early June, which was followed by a lack of rain during the past week. During the past week, a decrease in rainfall was observed over Eastern Africa relative to the week prior, with mostly light rain throughout Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and South Sudan. The largest (> 50 mm) amounts of rain were recorded over parts of western South Sudan, southeastern Sudan, and west-central Ethiopia. Compared to climatology, this past week's rain averaged below-normal in western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. During the next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over western Ethiopia and western South Sudan. Heavy rain is also possible along coastal areas of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. Little to light rain is, however, expected in eastern Sudan and eastern South Sudan. Consistent rain is needed to erode deficits over the dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 01 – June 30, 2015

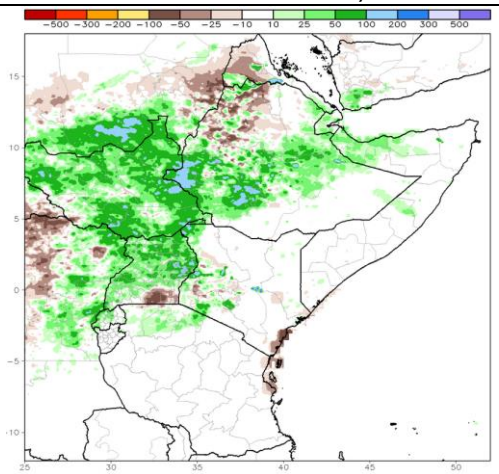


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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