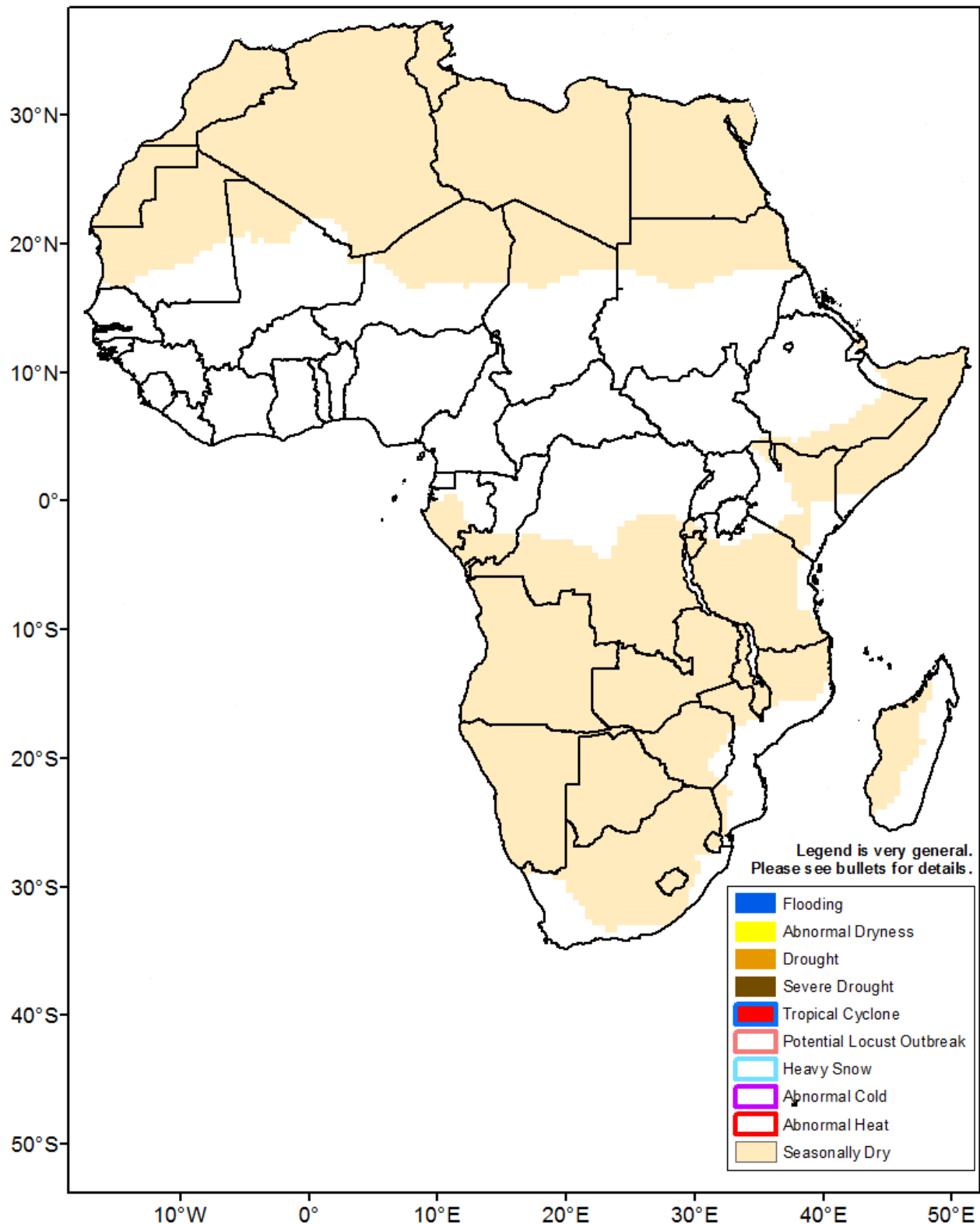




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 7 – July 13, 2016

- Above-average rain fell over the far western West Africa and many parts of the Sahel.
- Abundant rain expected in western Ethiopia during the next week.



Wetness observed throughout the Sahel.

West Africa experienced another period of widespread, moderate to heavy rain during the past week. The heaviest (> 100 mm) rain was received over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of southern Mali (**Figure 1**). Moderate to heavy rain was also recorded throughout northern Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, northern parts of Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Niger, and Nigeria. It is also noteworthy to mention that moderate rain fell as far north as north-central Mali and southern Mauritania. In contrast, light to little rain was registered in central Senegal, southern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and south-central Nigeria.

Due to consistent, favorable rain during the past four weeks, much of West Africa has experienced wetness. An analysis of the accumulated rain since early June shows high percentile rankings (among the wettest in record) throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and portions of Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The resulting rainfall surpluses have provided favorable soil moisture for cropping activities over many areas. In contrast, a delayed onset of seasonal rain has led to dryness in central Senegal, where low thirty-day rainfall percentile rankings have been observed. An additional delay in the start of the rainfall season could adversely impact agricultural activities over those areas. Similarly, low rainfall percentiles have been observed over localized areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria due to erratic rainfall distribution.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest widespread and heavy rain across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, central Mali, and western Burkina Faso. Abundant rain is also expected over southern Niger and the northern and southeastern parts of Nigeria. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rain is forecast across the Gulf of Guinea countries. Suppressed rain is forecast over Senegal.

Heavy rain caused flooding in Sudan.

During the past week, heavy rain fell in northwestern Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and South Sudan (**Figure 3**). Elsewhere, light to locally moderate rain was observed. In Sudan, this past week's rain resulted in flooding and destroyed houses over the Sennar state in the eastern parts of the country, according to reports. Over the past thirty days, most areas of Eastern Africa, including northeastern Uganda, have accumulated above-average rain due to consistent rainfall. In contrast, west-central Ethiopia has received insufficient rain as a result of a delayed onset of the June-September season. The continuation of the seasonal rain should help provide beneficial soil moisture for cropping activities over many local areas of Eastern Africa. For next week, widespread and heavy rain is forecast over western Ethiopia, which may trigger flooding over some local areas. Moderate to locally heavy rain is also expected in southern Sudan and South Sudan, increasing risks for localized flooding over many flood-prone areas. Light and seasonable rain is expected in 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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