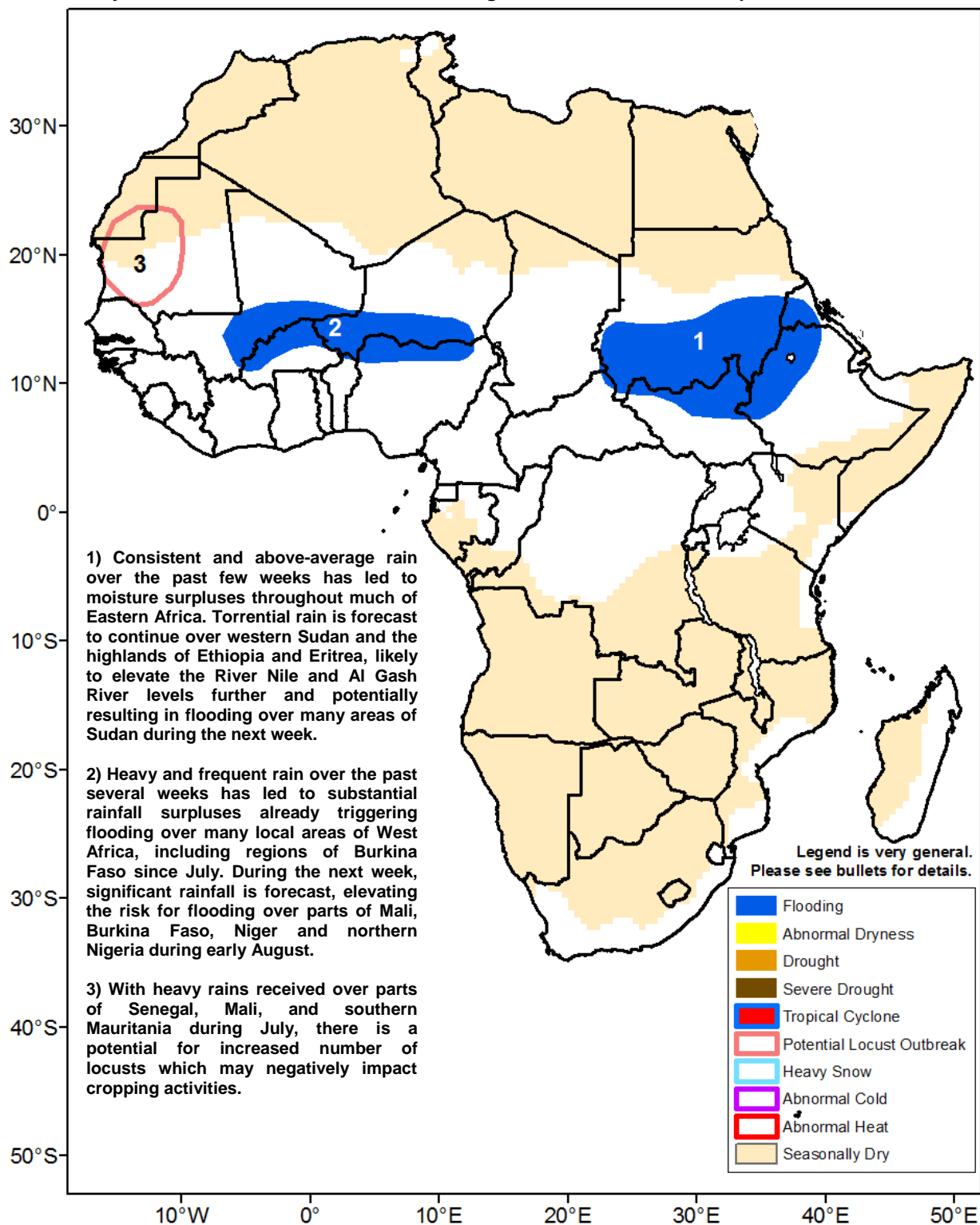




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 4 – August 10, 2016

- Enhanced seasonal rainfall continued over many parts of West Africa during the past week.
- Heavy rainfall forecast sustains risk of flooding over eastern Sudan, Ethiopia.



A significantly wet July observed over West Africa.

During the last week in July, significantly heavy rains continued over many anomalously wet regions of West Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly rainfall accumulations (>150mm) were received across western Guinea and Sierra Leone, with isolated pockets of heavy rains (>100mm) observed over Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Niger (Figure 1). The northern extent of monsoon rains was also observed as being higher than average, with considerable amounts of moisture and moderate rainfall totals received over northern Mauritania and northern Mali during the last week. Further south, low to moderate weekly accumulations were received over southern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, as seasonal rainfall is entering its drying phase during this time of the year.

Over the past 30 days, much of West Africa has experienced one of the wettest July's on record. Analysis of precipitation percentiles show month to date rankings being well above 90th percentile, which cover a large portion of western Sahel and western Gulf of Guinea countries (Figure 2). Notably, percentiles greater than 97th percent have prevailed across portions of southern Mauritania, Mali, and Niger suggesting an early and robust onset of rains, as higher amounts don't typically reach these areas until later into the season. Although frequent and abundant rains in July have been favorable for ongoing cropping activities, excess rains and ground moisture has sustained the risk for flooding over much of the region heading into August.

For the upcoming outlook period, a more seasonable distribution of rainfall is forecast, with lesser precipitation totals expected over many areas that are already above the 90th percentile for July. However, the risk for flooding continues as river levels remain fairly elevated throughout the region.

No relief expected to heavy rains over eastern Sudan, Ethiopia.

Since mid-July, significantly heavy rains continued to saturate many areas of Sudan and Ethiopia. While rainfall during the last seven days was generally lesser in quantity compared to the previous week, the spatial extent of moderate to heavy rainfall accumulations have both sustained and strengthened positive rainfall anomalies. Over the past 30 days, a remarkable breadth of surpluses exceeding 100mm can now be seen covering a large portion of eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia. While the abundance of seasonal rain is expected favor cropping activities over many areas of the region, frequent and above-average rain over the western Ethiopian and Eritrean Highlands also raises the Nile and Al Gash River levels and thus increases the risks for river flooding along downstream areas in Sudan. For next week, the probability for above-average precipitation remains quite high in the outlook over western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan (Figure 3), which could trigger flash flooding and destruction of houses over many local areas of the country. To the south, moderate to heavy rain is also expected over many provinces South 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.

