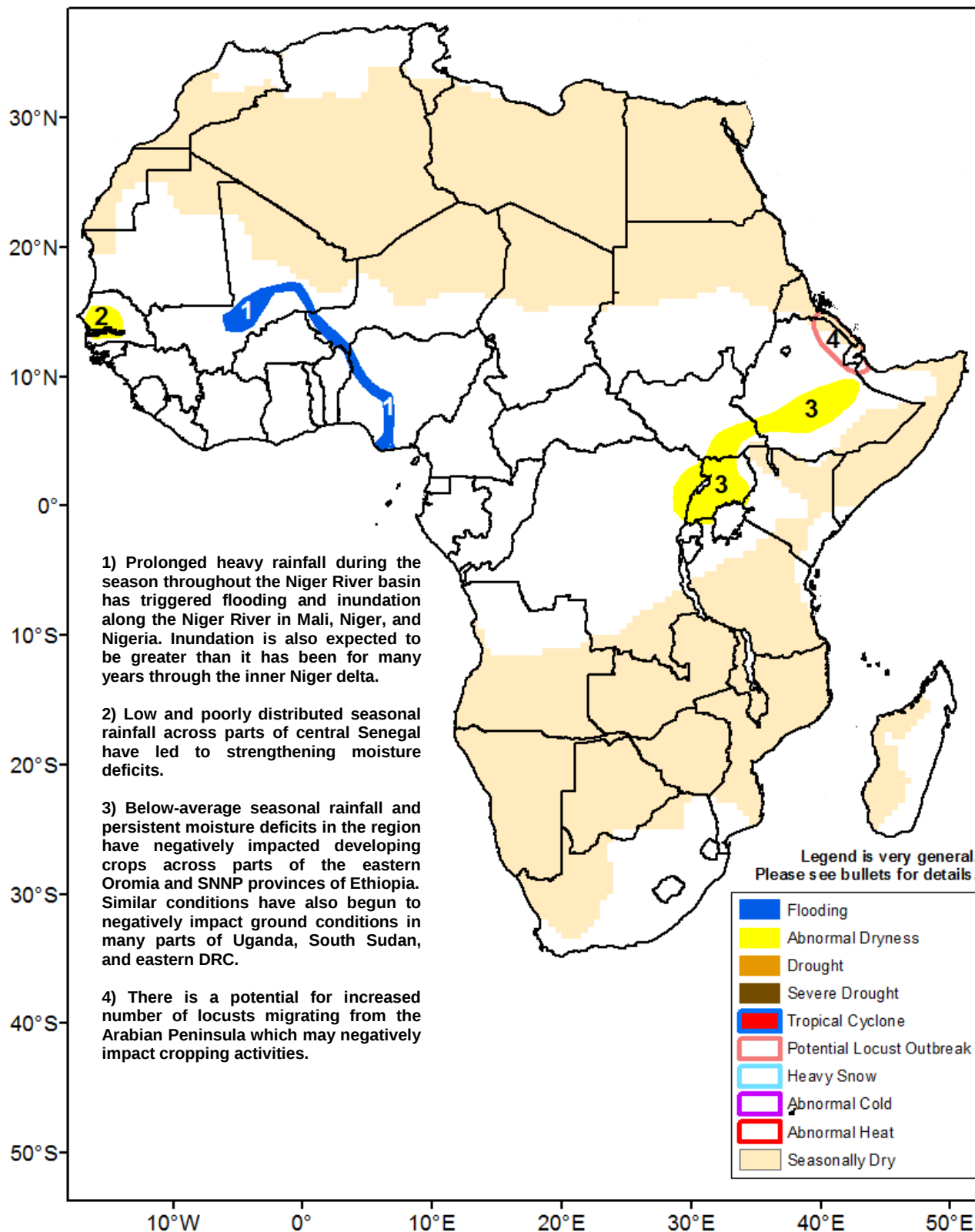




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 22 – September 28, 2016

- A beneficial increase in rainfall occurred for parts of South Sudan and Uganda
- Heavy seasonal rains continue to elevate river levels along the Niger River in Nigeria.



A normal pattern of rains were observed as the ITF continues its seasonal southward retreat.

Seasonable moderate to heavy rain was observed this past week across many western Africa countries. According to satellite rainfall estimates, accumulations greater than 100mm were received in some parts of Guinea (**Figure 1**). Similar totals were also received in southern Nigeria. Scattered rain showers remained present throughout northern parts of the region, including Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger. Light rains were received in southern portions of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and central/northern parts of Nigeria.

Most of the West Africa region shows positive rainfall anomalies over the previous 30-day period (**Figure 2**). The only areas exhibiting significant rainfall deficits are central Senegal, The Gambia, southern Liberia, northern Ghana and north-central Nigeria. Moisture deficits have been persistent for the longest in central Senegal and the Gambia, but rains have been relatively frequent there and increased the previous week. As a result, cropping activities have not appeared to be greatly affected. Heavy and above-average rainfall since late July in the region continues to cause inundation along the Niger River in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. Vegetation Indices indicate normal to better-than-normal vegetation conditions across the entire region. Even in Senegal, index trends show rapidly improving conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest that the monsoon circulation will continue to shift further south. Enhanced precipitation is forecasted for most of the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Abnormal dryness persists despite increased rains for some.

The heaviest rain this past week was observed in western Ethiopia, southern Sudan and southern South Sudan. Locally, greater than 150mm of rain was observed according to satellite estimates. Lighter and slightly below-normal rainfall was observed in parts of central Ethiopia. A strip of above-average rainfall stretching from western Ethiopia, through South Sudan and into Uganda and Rwanda (**Figure 3**) has benefitted some the driest parts of the region. Suppressed and erratic rainfall since August had slowly strengthened negative rainfall anomalies for portions of southern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and Uganda. Deficits expanded into eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well. Last week's rain has helped, but deficits are still widely between 25 and 100mm. A few local areas in South Sudan and Uganda have seen deficits erased. Comparison with remotely sensed vegetation health indices corroborates a shortage of available ground moisture, most notably in the central Oromia region of Ethiopia and in southern Uganda.

For the upcoming outlook period, above-normal rains are expected in western Ethiopia and in northeastern DRC. Moderate rains may also occur in western Kenya. Elsewhere, precipitation is expected to remain seasonable.

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm) Valid: September 14 – September 20, 2016

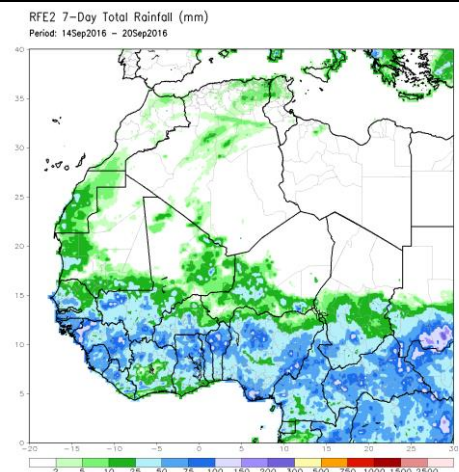


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated 30-Day Rainfall Anomaly Valid: August 22 – September 20, 2016

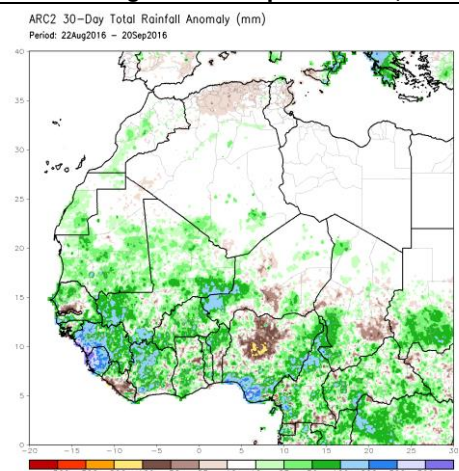


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly Valid: September 14 – September 20, 2016

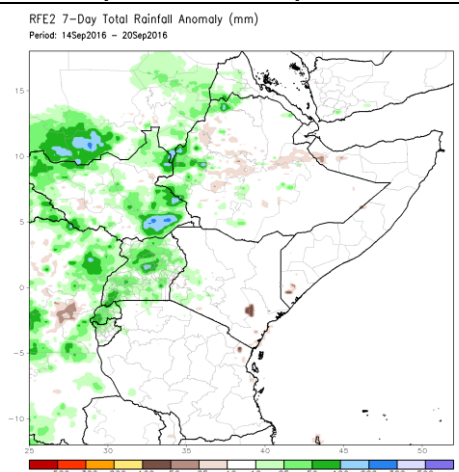


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC