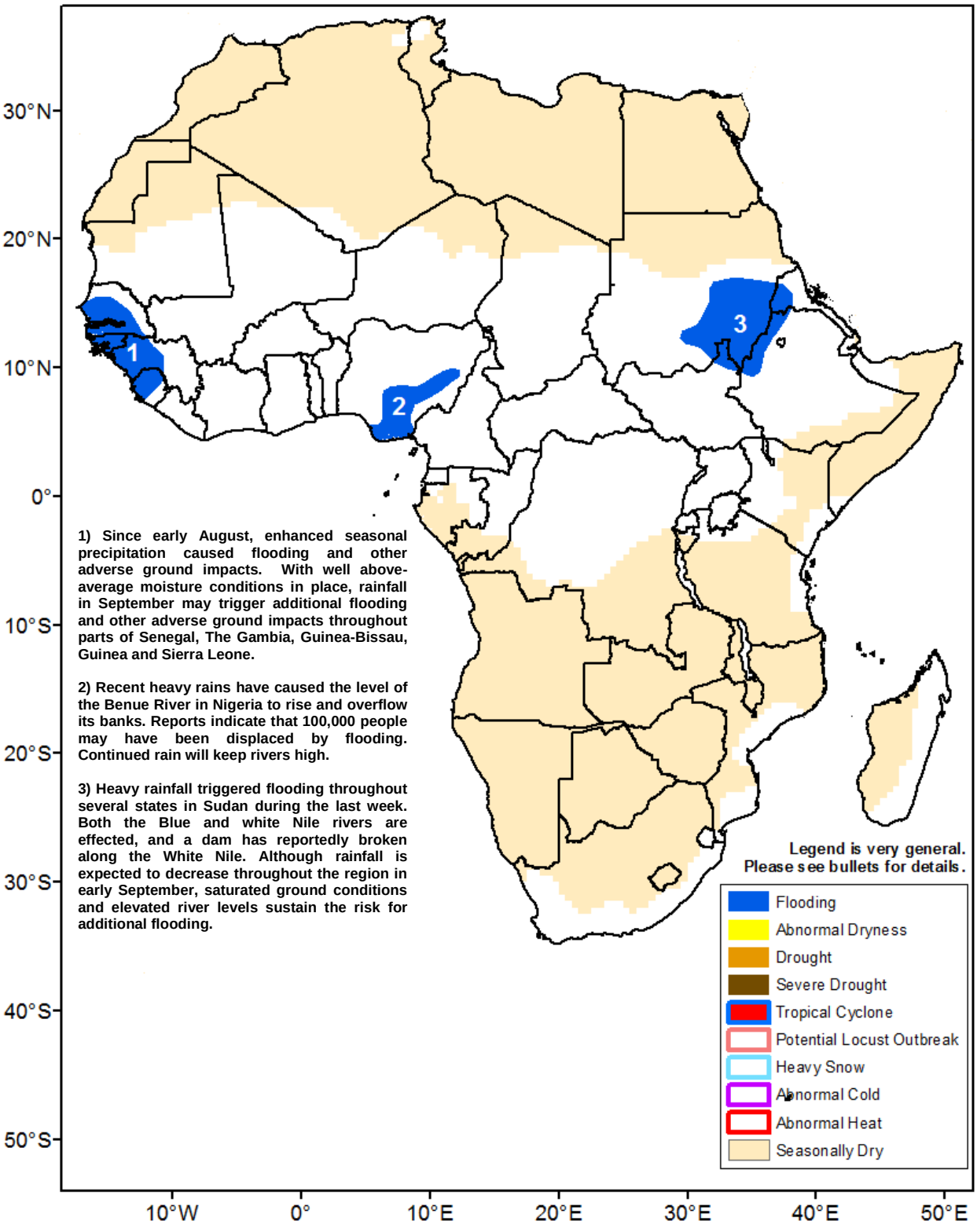
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 7 – September 13, 2017

- **Despite lesser rains for much of West Africa, torrential rains led to flooding in parts of Niger and Nigeria.**



Much of the region experienced a decrease in rainfall.

According to the latest satellite rainfall estimates, many areas of Senegal, Mali, and Nigeria, among other places saw a welcome reprieve to heavy rainfall this week, registering below-normal rainfall totals. Despite these broad decreases, some local areas still received very heavy rain which has led to flooding. These areas include Niamey, Niger and Benue state in Nigeria. Over 100mm of rain was measured in Niamey last week. Other areas that received heavy rain (>100mm) according to satellite estimates include eastern Burkina Faso, northern Benin, Guinea, and Sierra Leone (**Figure 1**). The veracity of rains has begun to lessen across the Sahel as the ITCZ/ITF begins its seasonal retreat back southward. Relatedly, rains were on the increase in southern Gulf of Guinea regions 2 weeks ago, but that has paused during this past week. Little to no rain was observed in southern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

August was characterized by a general decrease in seasonal rainfall, which had led to strengthening moisture deficits over several regions, and then an increase in rainfall towards the month's end. The observed recovery was short lived, as rains lessened again to start September. Even with the decrease, little change has occurred to the 30-day anomaly pattern. Some areas should still be monitored closely as the season winds down, especially parts of southern Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, and Liberia where rainfall deficits exceed 50mm and less than 80% of normal over the last 30 days. Large seasonal moisture surpluses persist in western Gulf of Guinea regions and some portions of the Sahel, where parts of Guinea and Mali have experienced more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation since late July (**Figure 2**). The continuation of heavy seasonal rains in these areas elevates the risk for floods and other adverse ground impacts during September.

During the outlook period, weather models suggest the potential for above-normal rainfall for western Gulf of Guinea countries. The rest of the region is likely to receive seasonable conditions.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 30 – September 5, 2017

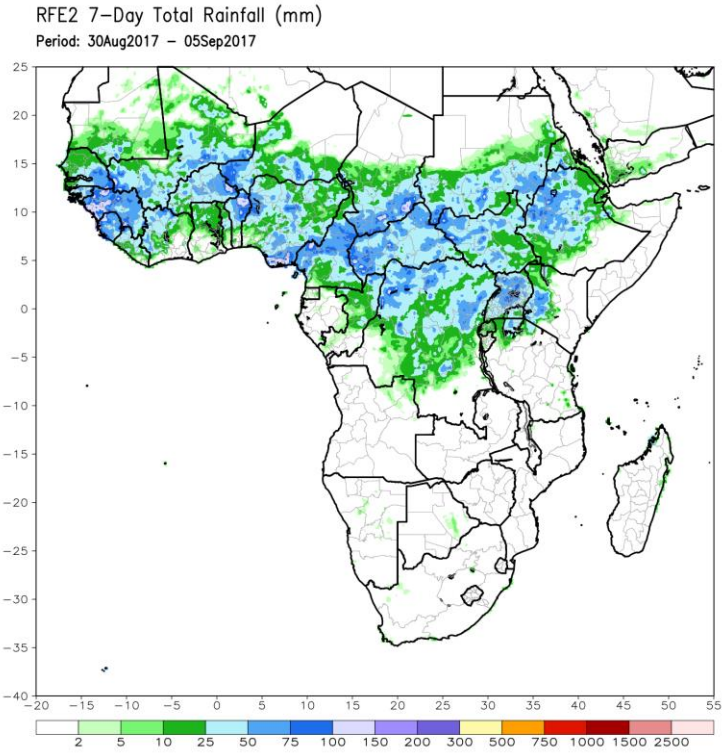


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Percent of Normal
Valid: August 7 – September 5, 2017

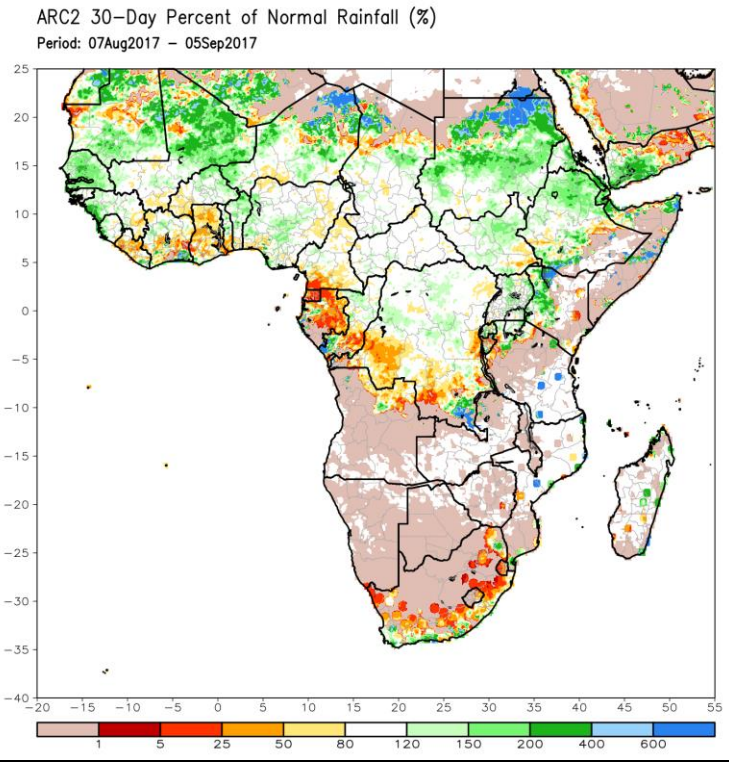


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Locally heavy rains continue to trigger floods throughout Sudan.

A third consecutive week of enhanced rainfall over Sudan has reportedly resulted in floods, damages to infrastructure, and displaced populations over many regions of the country. The areas most affected by overflowing rivers this past week include Sennar, El Gedaref, and White Nile states. Satellite estimates show that more than 100mm of rain fell over parts of the region last week. Persistently enhanced rains across many regions in East Africa over the past few weeks have resulted in generally above-average precipitation since early August (**Figure 2**) and mitigated abnormal dryness in northern Ethiopia.

For the upcoming outlook period, a decrease in rainfall is forecast over eastern Sudan and South Sudan, which is expected to provide much needed relief to saturated ground conditions. However, another week of heavy rainfall over western Ethiopia is expected to sustain the risk for downstream river basin inundation along the Nile River basin.

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.