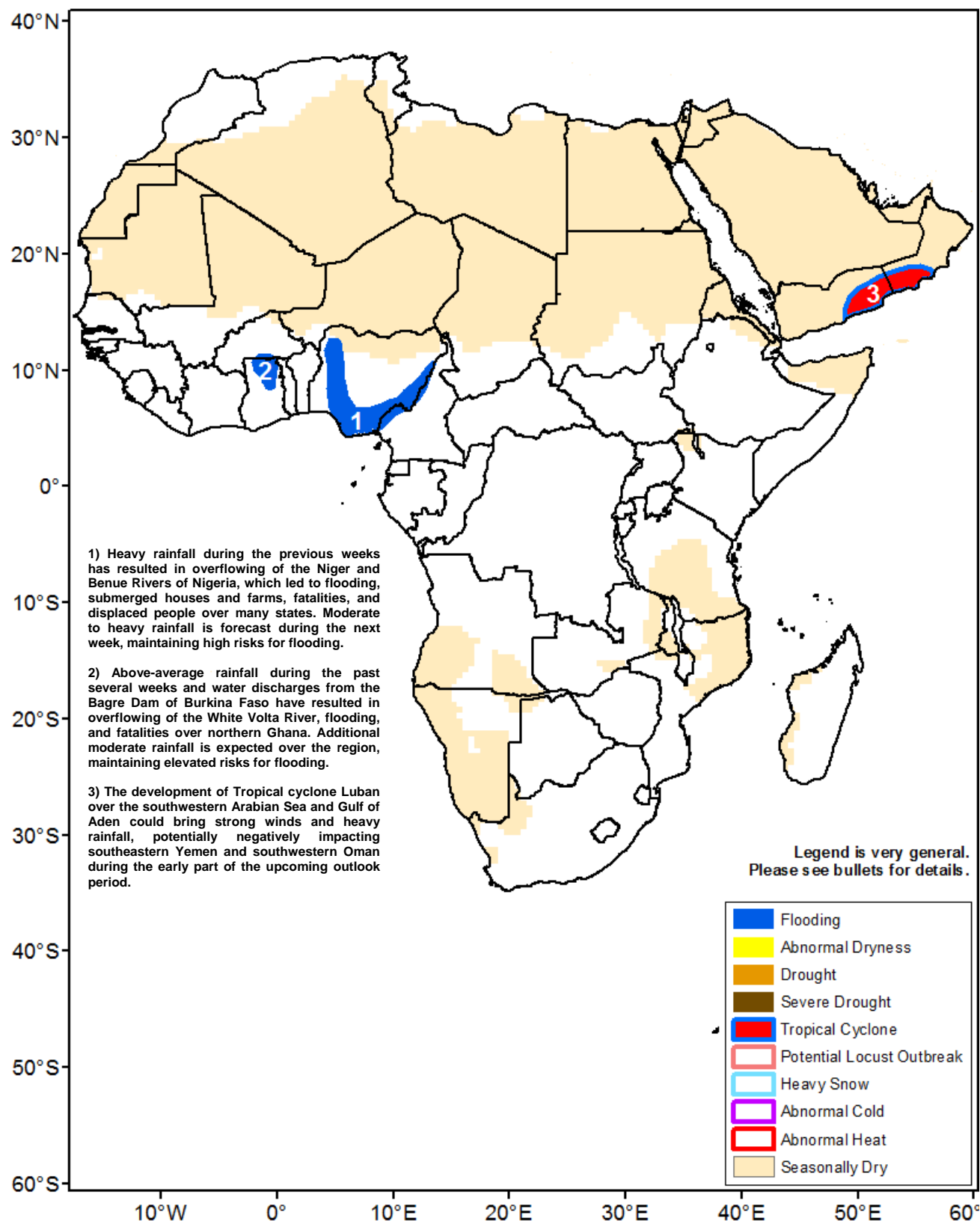




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 11 – 17, 2018

- The forecast additional rains during the next period maintain potentials for flooding over areas of West Africa.
- Tropical cyclone Luban, near the Gulf of Aden, is expected to bring heavy rains in parts of Yemen and Oman.



## Heavy and above-average rainfall continued over many areas of West Africa.

During the past observation period, moderate to heavy rainfall persisted over many areas of West Africa, including Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, western Cote d'Ivoire, eastern Ghana, central Togo, central Benin, and southern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rainfall was received elsewhere. Compared to the long-term average, this past week's rainfall totals were near to above-average, except western Mali and portions of central and eastern Nigeria, where some small to moderate deficits were recorded. Since early September to present, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over much of West Africa, particularly the far western West Africa, western Burkina Faso, and coastal areas of the Gulf of Guinea countries. The wetter than average conditions might be attributable to a northerly displacement of the Intertropical Front (ITF) relative to its average position during the recent dekads (10-day period). In Nigeria, wetness, associated with previous overflowing of the Niger and Benue Rivers and their tributaries were compounded by additional weekly rainfall, which resulted in vast areas submerged under water, affected residents, and many economic losses, according to reports.

As a response to above-average rainfall over the past several months, vegetation conditions were mostly favorable over West Africa, based on the most recent remotely-based vegetation health index. Although a favorable rainfall performance contributed to beneficial moisture conditions for agriculture and livestock production, the excess moisture also led to the destruction of farms, houses, and infrastructures, and affected the livelihoods of residents over many local areas.

During the next outlook period, a decrease in rainfall is expected across West Africa. However, the forecast, additional moderate rainfall could exacerbate ground conditions over many already-flooded and saturated local areas.

## Drier conditions observed over eastern Africa.

Since early September to date, below-average rainfall has been recorded over much of eastern Africa, including southern Sudan, South Sudan, central Ethiopia, eastern Uganda, and southwestern Kenya (**Figure 2**). Over Sudan, the observed thirty-day deficits might be attributed to an anomalous southerly position of the ITF with respect to the average position, which suppressed rainfall in the region. Farther south, lower-level divergence, combined with an insufficient moisture advection from the Congo air boundary might be the cause of deficient rainfall over South Sudan, Uganda, and the Lake Victoria region of southwestern Kenya. During the past week, while moderate to heavy rainfall was registered over localized areas of southeastern Sudan, western South Sudan, and western Ethiopia, little to light rainfall was received across eastern South Sudan, eastern Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. A favorable distribution of rainfall is needed over the upcoming weeks to ensure an adequate onset of the October-December, *short-rains*, season.

Based on the most recent vegetation health index, positive conditions were mostly observed across much of Somalia, Kenya, and northern Tanzania.

During the next outlook period, Tropical cyclone Luban is expected to move west-northward, near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden, likely bringing strong winds and heavy rainfall in southeastern Yemen and southwestern Oman. Locally heavy rain is forecast over South Sudan, Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and western Ethiopia. However, while light to moderate rainfall is possible across the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia, little to suppressed rain is expected over southern Somalia and northeastern Kenya.

**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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