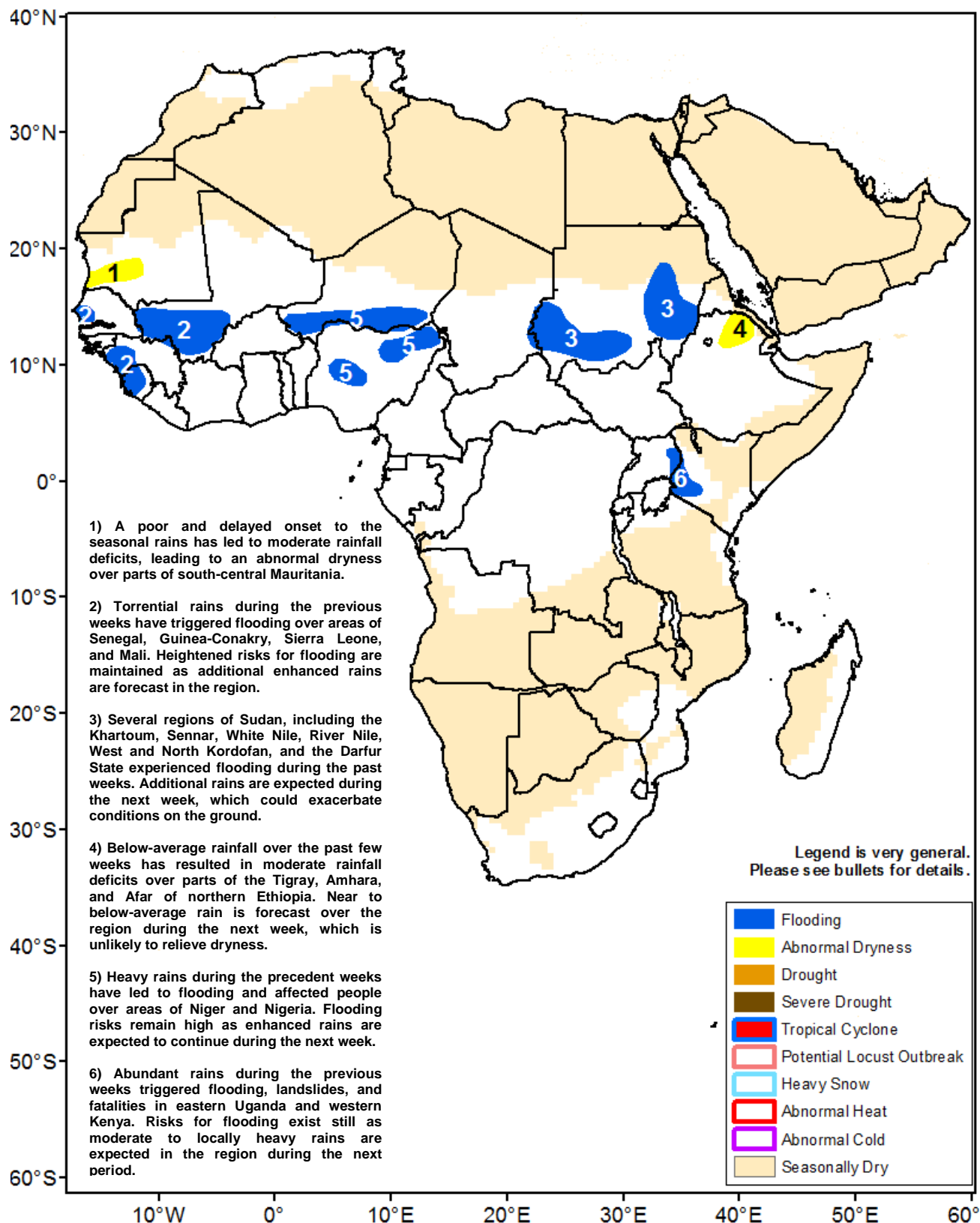




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 12 – 18, 2019

- Many consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall have resulted in flooding over numerous areas of Africa.



Widespread, heavy rains continued over West Africa.

Although the Intertropical Front, rain-bearing system, has already started to withdraw southward, widespread and abundant rains continued throughout West Africa during the past week. Torrential rains were received across Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, western Burkina Faso, and parts of Nigeria. Moderate to heavy rains were also recorded over Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and southern Chad (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, light to locally moderate rains were registered elsewhere. This past week's above-average rainfall has led to flooding, which had caused fatalities and many affected people in Maradi, Zinder, Agadez, Dosso, and Niamey of Niger, according to reports.

A comparison of the cumulative rainfall over the past thirty days with climatology has shown that wetter-than-average conditions have prevailed across much of West Africa, except a few areas in parts of Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, where some deficits have been recorded. Rainfall surpluses exceeded 200 mm over Guinea-Conakry, southern and central Mali, and southeastern Niger. Consequently, crop performance models have indicated mostly favorable conditions throughout the region.

During the outlook period, widespread, heavy rains are forecast to continue over the far western portions of West Africa, parts of the Sahel, and the Gulf of Guinea. While the forecast, continued good rains could aid agricultural and agro-pastoral activities over many local areas, excess moisture could also exacerbate the ground conditions or trigger flooding over susceptible areas.

Wet conditions prevailed over much of eastern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, above-average rainfall was received over much of eastern Africa, particularly Sudan and much of Ethiopia. Rainfall surpluses exceeded 100 mm over parts of eastern Sudan and west-central Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). The observed wet conditions were attributable to an anomalous northerly position of the Intertropical Front during the second dekad (10-day period) of August. Nonetheless, negative rainfall anomalies were registered over the eastern portions of the Tigray, Amhara, and parts of Afar regions of northeastern Ethiopia, which were due to an uneven distribution in rainfall over the past several weeks. During the past observation period, copious amounts of rain were accumulated across eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia, whereas light to moderate rain was observed over the remainders of the region.

As a result, recent crop performance models and climatological indices have exhibited that wet and favorable conditions have prevailed over much of eastern Africa, except portions of northeastern Ethiopia and some localized areas of the region. The major environmental threats for the region remain flooding and waterlogging and their impacts on the livelihoods of people.

During the outlook period, model ensemble rainfall forecasts indicated that heavy and abundant rains are expected to continue over Ethiopia, the western and eastern parts of Sudan. Farther south, light to moderate rains are expected over Uganda and southwestern Kenya. The forecast weather patterns, therefore, maintain elevated risks for flooding over many local areas.

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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