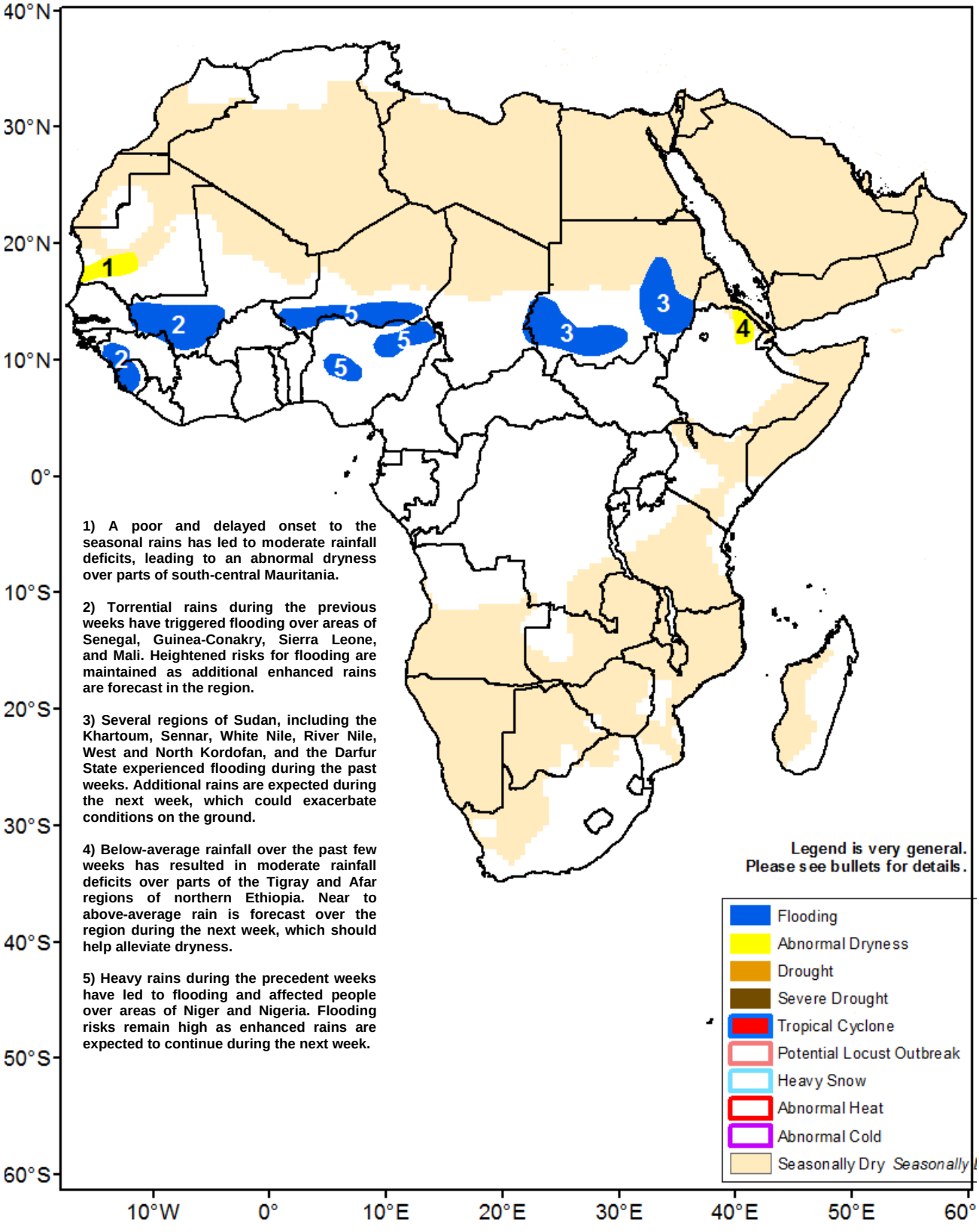
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 26 – October 2, 2019

- **Wet weather conditions are expected over much of Africa during the next period, maintaining high risks for flooding over many local areas.**



Abundant rainfall observed across much of West Africa during the past observation period

During the past observation period, widespread and favorable distribution in rainfall continued across West Africa. Torrential rains fell over the far western West Africa, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Copious amounts of rain were also received over western and eastern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, well-distributed, light to moderate rains were registered across Senegal, parts of southern Mauritania, western and southern Mali, and along the Gulf of Guinea. Over the past thirty days, above-average rainfall prevailed throughout much of the region, with surpluses exceeding 100 mm over portions of Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, northern Cote d'Ivoire, and western Burkina Faso. Large thirty-day moisture surpluses were also registered along coastal southern Nigeria. This has led to many reports of flooding, fatalities, infrastructure damages, and many affected people over several areas during the past few weeks. In contrast, below-average rainfall, with small to moderate deficits, was recorded over some areas such as southwestern Mauritania, parts of Guinea-Bissau; Guinea-Conakry, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria.

During the outlook period, heavy downpours are forecast to continue along the Gulf of Guinea from Guinea-Conakry to southern Nigeria, while light to moderate rains are expected across the Sahel. Therefore, the risks for flooding are still high over many previously flood-impacted or oversaturated areas of the region.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Totals (mm)
Valid: September 18 – September 24, 2019

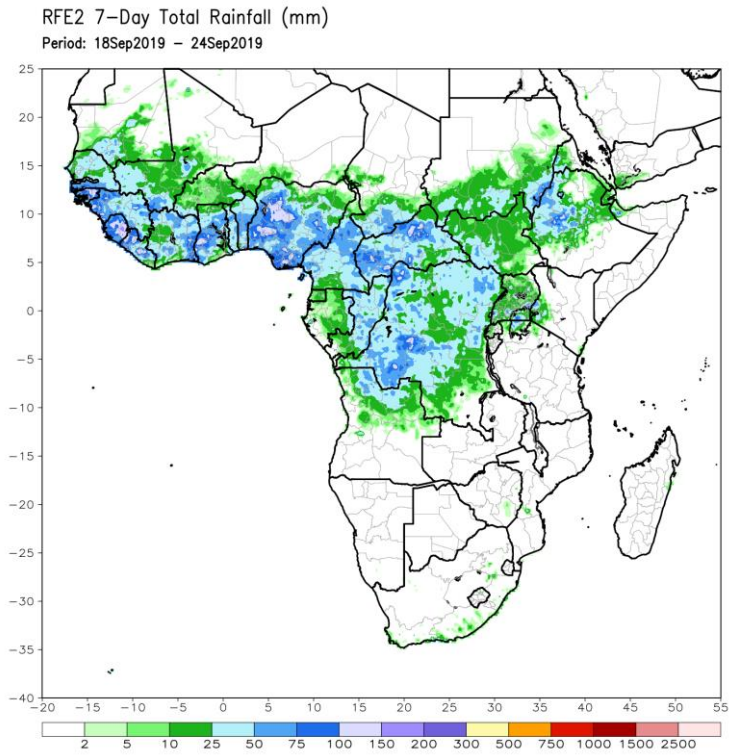


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Good rainfall performance registered over eastern Africa

Since July, eastern Africa has experienced a favorable rainfall performance, with cumulative rainfall accounting for between 80-400 percent of the average throughout the region (**Figure 2**). Some areas, including eastern Sudan and southern Ethiopia, have received more than twice their average rainfall, which has already caused flooding and landslides over many local areas. The observed wetness could be associated with an anomalous northerly position of the Intertropical Front during the previous month. In contrast, a poor seasonal rainfall performance was observed over parts of northeastern Ethiopia, which have received between 25-80 percent only of the average. The dry conditions were attributed to a poor rainfall distribution both in space and time over the areas.

As far as vegetation health is concerned, recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomalies have shown that biomass conditions have improved throughout much of eastern Africa. Average to above-average conditions were observed across much of the June-September benefitting regions of Ethiopia, southern and eastern Sudan, eastern Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. The continuation of favorable seasonal rainfall is expected to maintain adequate soil moisture for cropping activities and livestock production in the region.

During the outlook period, wet weather patterns, with copious amounts of rain are expected over eastern Africa. Heavy rains are forecast throughout western Ethiopia, extending eastward to local areas of northern Somalia. Moderate to heavy rains are also expected over South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya.

3-Month Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: July 01 – September 24, 2019

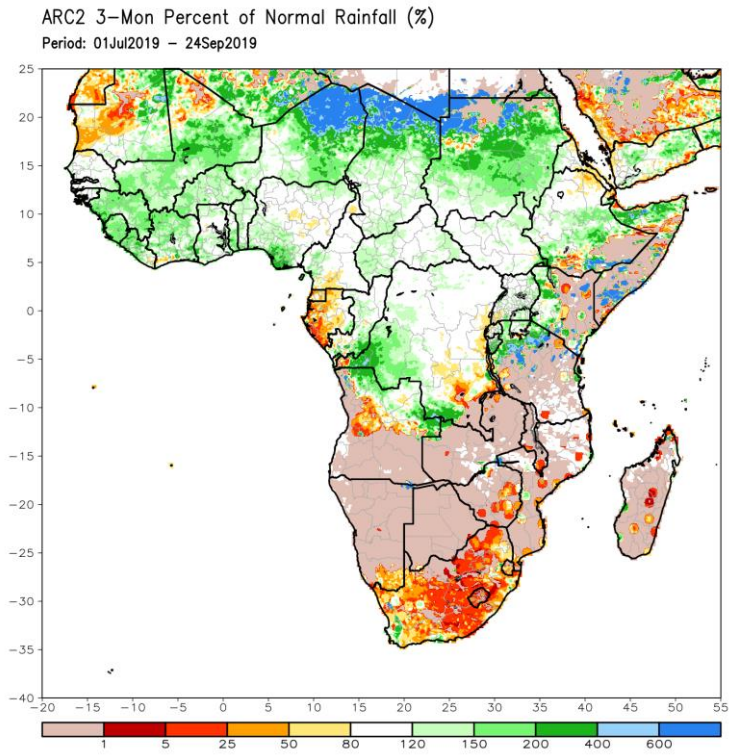


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.