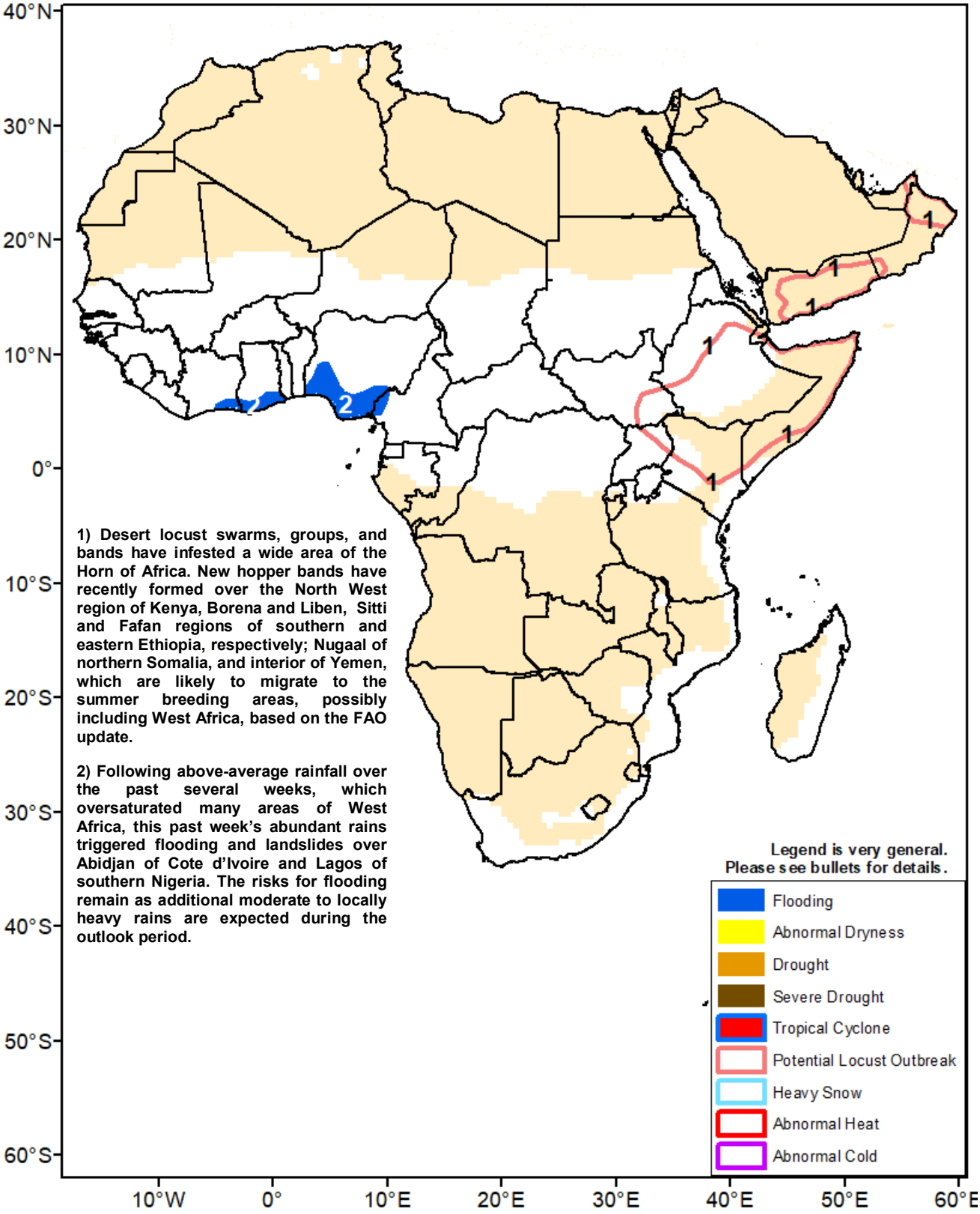
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
June 25 – July 1, 2020

- **Flooding concerns persist along the Gulf of Guinea despite forecast reduced rains during the outlook period.**
- **Current climatic conditions are likely to favor further locust migration in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia.**



1) Desert locust swarms, groups, and bands have infested a wide area of the Horn of Africa. New hopper bands have recently formed over the North West region of Kenya, Borena and Liben, Sitti and Fafan regions of southern and eastern Ethiopia, respectively; Nugaal of northern Somalia, and interior of Yemen, which are likely to migrate to the summer breeding areas, possibly including West Africa, based on the FAO update.

2) Following above-average rainfall over the past several weeks, which oversaturated many areas of West Africa, this past week's abundant rains triggered flooding and landslides over Abidjan of Cote d'Ivoire and Lagos of southern Nigeria. The risks for flooding remain as additional moderate to locally heavy rains are expected during the outlook period.

Torrential rains triggered flooding in Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria during the past week.

During the past seven days, heavy rains were observed over much of West Africa. While heavy downpours fell along the Gulf of Guinea, which triggered flooding and affected people in Abidjan of Cote d'Ivoire and Lagos State of Nigeria, according to reports, moderate to heavy rains were also registered farther north across the Sahel (**Figure 1**). Abundant rains were received in local areas of southern and central Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, northern Nigeria, and southern Chad. Meanwhile, Light to locally rains were recorded elsewhere. During the past thirty days, wetter-than-average conditions were depicted throughout West Africa, with the largest moisture surpluses ranging between 100-300 mm over Sierra Leone and Liberia and southern and central Nigeria.

Consequently, vegetation conditions were mostly positive across the region, based on an analysis of recent vegetation products. Favorable conditions for agricultural and pastoral activities are likely to continue, provided seasonal rains persist over the upcoming few weeks. However, oversaturation from excessive moisture may also damage crops and negatively impact the livelihoods of many people in the region.

During the outlook period, a reduction in rainfall with light rains is forecast along the Gulf of Guinea and much of the Sahel. In contrast, moderate to heavy rains are expected to continue over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, western Mali, southern and northern Nigeria. The forecast additional rains maintain flooding potentials over many previously-impacted areas.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 17 – June 23, 2020

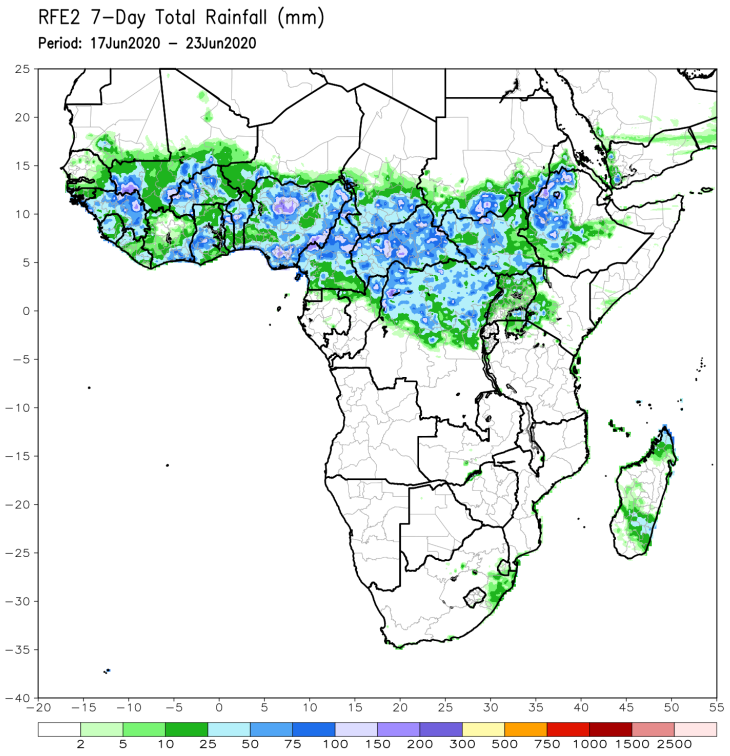


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

The ongoing climatic conditions may favor further locust migration in South Sudan, northern Kenya, northern Ethiopia, and northeastern Somalia.

Since mid to late May to present, above-average rainfall was registered over many areas of eastern Africa. These included South Sudan, southern and eastern Sudan, western Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and much of Yemen. Large (> 100 mm) rainfall surpluses were recorded over South Sudan, localized areas of southern and eastern Sudan, and the western and southern areas of Yemen (**Figure 2**). In contrast, below-average rainfall was recorded over localized areas of western and central Ethiopia, southern Sudan, eastern Uganda, and central Kenya. During this past week, heavy and above-average rainfall continued over South Sudan, western Ethiopia, and southwestern Kenya, which helped to maintain near-average to wetter-than-average conditions over the sub-region.

Recent vegetation products have indicated that favorable vegetation conditions prevailed over eastern Africa. However, widespread desert locust outbreak has already negatively impacted many local areas, including northwestern Kenya, according to reports. With the progress of current growing season and forecast meteorological conditions, locust development and migration is projected over the summer breeding areas. New locust hoppers and bands were reported in northwestern Kenya, southern and eastern Ethiopia, which are expected to migrate farther north to South Sudan and southern Sudan, eastern and northern Ethiopia, and northeastern Somalia, based on the IGAD ICPAC prediction.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 25 – June 23, 2020

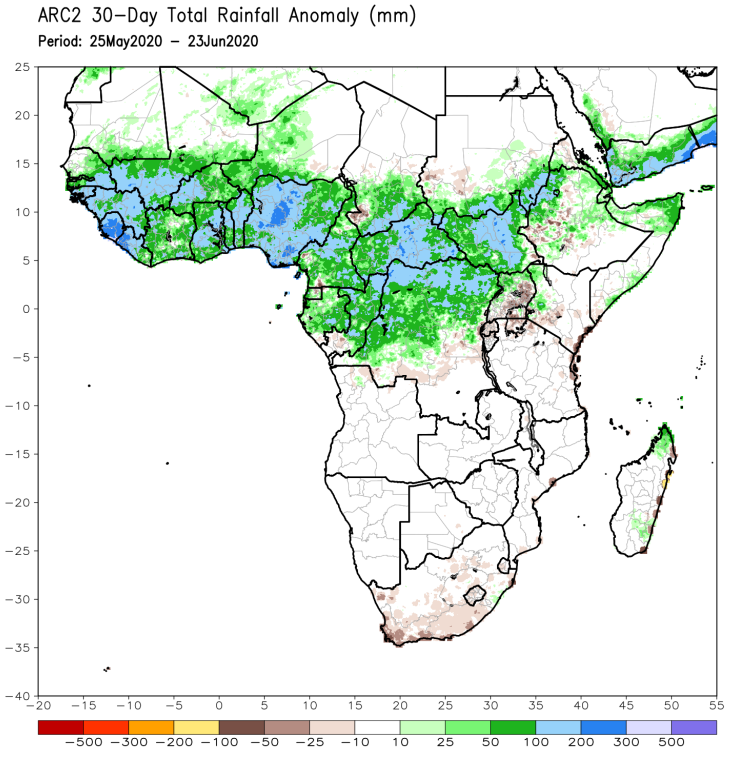


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

During the outlook period, heavy rains are to continue in western Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya, while moderate rains are possible in South Sudan.

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.