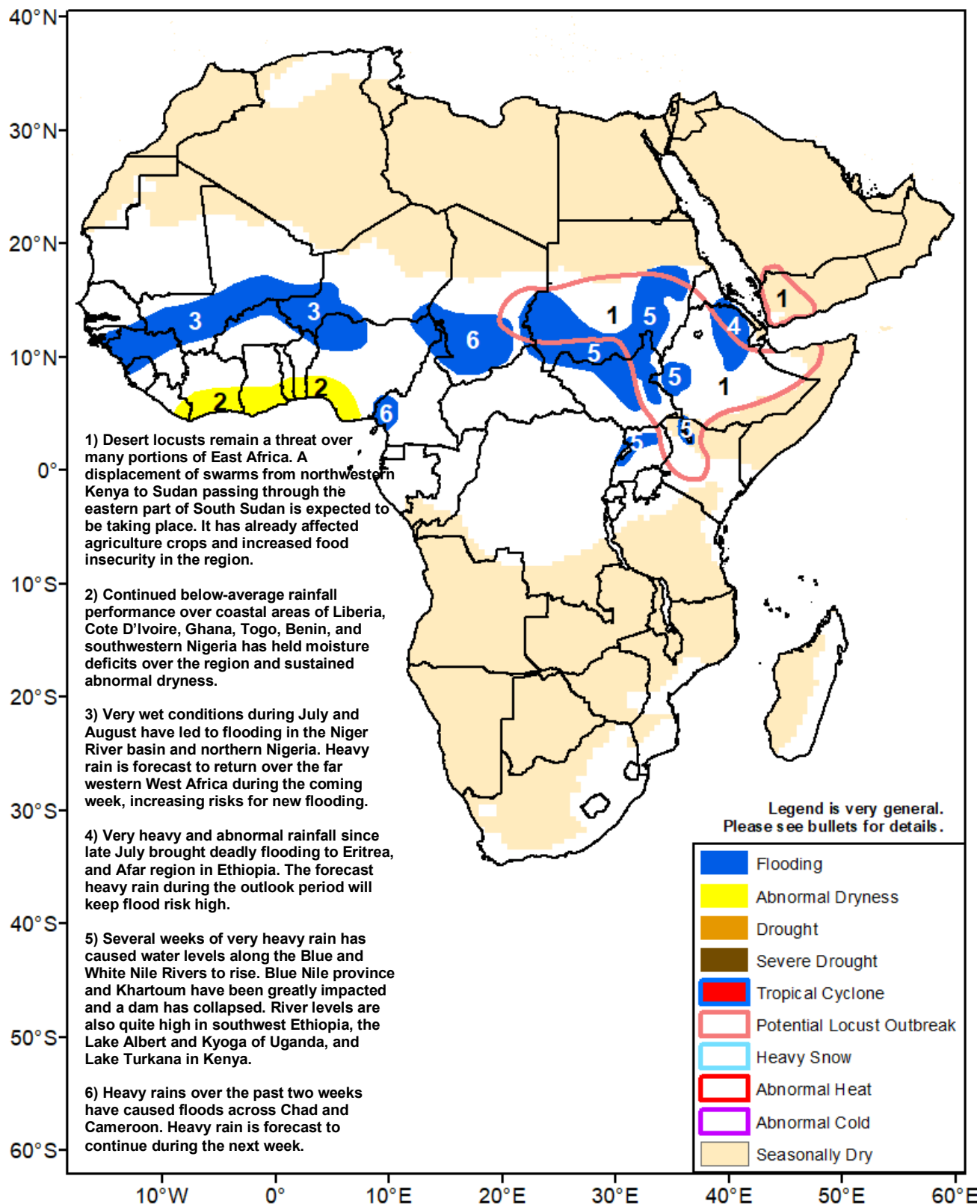# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 3 – 9, 2020

- The forecast, continued heavy rains maintain elevated risks for flooding over many areas of Africa.

1) Desert locusts remain a threat over many portions of East Africa. A displacement of swarms from northwestern Kenya to Sudan passing through the eastern part of South Sudan is expected to be taking place. It has already affected agriculture crops and increased food insecurity in the region.

2) Continued below-average rainfall performance over coastal areas of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria has held moisture deficits over the region and sustained abnormal dryness.

3) Very wet conditions during July and August have led to flooding in the Niger River basin and northern Nigeria. Heavy rain is forecast to return over the far western West Africa during the coming week, increasing risks for new flooding.

4) Very heavy and abnormal rainfall since late July brought deadly flooding to Eritrea, and Afar region in Ethiopia. The forecast heavy rain during the outlook period will keep flood risk high.

5) Several weeks of very heavy rain has caused water levels along the Blue and White Nile Rivers to rise. Blue Nile province and Khartoum have been greatly impacted and a dam has collapsed. River levels are also quite high in southwest Ethiopia, the Lake Albert and Kyoga of Uganda, and Lake Turkana in Kenya.

6) Heavy rains over the past two weeks have caused floods across Chad and Cameroon. Heavy rain is forecast to continue during the next week.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

Legend:
- Flooding
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Tropical Cyclone
- Potential Locust Outbreak
- Heavy Snow
- Abnormal Heat
- Abnormal Cold
- Seasonally Dry

Heavy downpours continue across the Sahel, while suppressed rainfall persists along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the observation period, heavy downpours were again observed throughout the Sahel. Many local areas received more than 75 mm of weekly rainfall totals. Those included Guinea-Bissau, parts of Guinea-Conakry, southeastern Mauritania, central Mali, parts of Burkina Faso, southern Niger, northern Nigeria, and eastern Chad (**Figure 1**). Moderate to heavy rains continued throughout Senegal, southern Mauritania, north-central Mali, north-central Niger, and much of Nigeria, while suppressed rainfall persisted along the Gulf of Guinea, including southern Cote d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, southern Togo, southern Benin, to southwestern Nigeria. Over the Sahel, the consistent enhanced rains over the past several weeks have already caused the overflowing of the Niger River over Niamey of Niger and flooding in the circles of Niono, circles of Mopti, Douentza, circles of Timbuktu, Gao circles, and Ansongo of Mali and N'Djamena of Chad, which displaced many people, according to recent reports. Farther south, in contrast, persistent below-average rainfall over the past several weeks has strengthened moisture deficits in the region.

During the upcoming outlook period, high risks for flooding exist over the far western West Africa and many areas of the Sahel as heavy downpours are forecast to continue, which would further increase rainfall surpluses in the region. In contrast, little to no rainfall is forecast along the Gulf of Guinea, which is likely to strengthen short-term moisture deficits and exacerbate dryness.

Abundant rains left largely oversaturated grounds over eastern Africa.

During August, well above-average rainfall resulted in large rainfall surpluses throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. Positive rainfall anomalies exceeding 200 mm spread over western and eastern Sudan, localized areas of western South Sudan, north-central Ethiopia, and western Yemen (**Figure 2**). During this past week alone, torrential (> 100 mm) rains fell in southern and eastern Sudan, northeastern South Sudan, and northern Ethiopia. Above-average rainfall over the past two weeks has led to the flooding of the Lake Albert and Lake Kyoga of Uganda, and Lake Turkana of northwestern Kenya, according to reports. Flooding has affected much of Sudan and has affected many people, based on reports. Although ample rainfall over the past few months has aided agricultural and pastoral activities over many areas, excessive moisture and oversaturation has already negatively impacted the livelihoods of many people over several areas.

As far as locust outbreak is concerned, swarms continued to be present over many infested areas of the Horn of Africa, including northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeast South Sudan, northeast Ethiopia, and northwestern Somalia. Some swarms are maturing over certain areas and will eventually breed in areas of rainfall, based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) update.

During the upcoming outlook period, heavy rains are forecast to continue over western and southern Sudan, western Ethiopia, and localized areas of southwestern Kenya, northwestern Somalia, and western Yemen, while moderate rains are expected over South Sudan, western Uganda, and eastern Sudan. The forecast additional rains could trigger new flooding or aggravate conditions over many previously-flooded 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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 26 – September 01, 2020

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)
Period: 26Aug2020 – 01Sep2020

2 5 10 25 50 75 100 150 200 300 500 750 1000 1500 2500

Figure 1:   NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: August 03 – September 01, 2020

ARC2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Period: 03Aug2020 – 01Sep2020

−500 −300 −200 −100 −50 −25 −10 10 25 50 100 200 300 500

Figure 2:   NOAA/CPC