Several consecutive weeks of heavy rainfall have caused flooding across West and East Africa

Africa Weather Hazards

1. A poor start to seasonal rainfall has caused abnormal dryness in parts of Mauritania.
2. Heavy rainfall over the past several weeks has triggered flooding in Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Mali. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue.
3. Several regions in Sudan, including the Khartoum, Sennar, White Nile, River Nile, West and North Kordofan, and the Darfur State experienced flooding during the past weeks. More rainfall is expected in the region next week.
4. Below-average rainfall over the past few weeks has resulted in dryness over the Tigray, Amhara, and Afar states of northern Ethiopia.
5. Heavy rainfall over the past several weeks has caused flooding in parts of Niger and Nigeria. Flooding risk remains high as heavy rainfall is likely to continue next week.
6. Heavy rainfall over the past several weeks triggered flooding in eastern Uganda and western Kenya. Locally heavy rains are expected to continue next week.
Africa Overview

Heavy rainfall continued over West Africa
Widespread and heavy rains continued throughout West Africa last week. The heaviest rainfall was recorded 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). Light rainfall was registered elsewhere. In Niger, the above-average rainfall accumulations caused flooding in Niamey and the Maradi, Zinder, Agadez, and Dosso centers.

Over the past 30-days, wetter-than-average conditions have prevailed across much of West Africa, with moisture surpluses exceeding 200 mm in Guinea-Conakry, southern and central Mali, and southeastern Niger. The excess rainfall has provided mostly favorable crop conditions throughout the region. Meanwhile, in parts of Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, some rainfall deficits have developed.

Next week, widespread, heavy rains are forecast over the far western portions of West Africa, parts of the Sahel, and the Gulf of Guinea. Continued favorable rainfall could aid agricultural and agro-pastoral activities over many local areas, however, excess moisture is also likely to trigger flooding in susceptible areas.

Wet conditions prevailed across eastern Africa
Over the past thirty days, above-average rainfall was received across eastern Africa, with 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, due to poor rainfall distribution over the past several weeks. Last week, there were heavy rainfall accumulations across eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia, while light to moderate rainfall was observed elsewhere in the region.

Wet and favorable conditions have prevailed over much of eastern Africa, except in portions of northeastern Ethiopia and some localized areas of the region. Flood risk persists for much of the region. Next week, heavy rainfall is expected to continue over Ethiopia and the western and eastern parts of Sudan, while light to moderate rainfall is expected in Uganda and southwestern Kenya. The forecast weather pattern maintains an elevated risk for flooding over many local areas.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures
Below normal temperatures (-1 to -6°C) were observed across Central Asia last week. Minimum temperatures reached 1 °C across parts of northern and central Kazakhstan where the first frost of the season likely occurred. Next week, moderate temperatures are forecast with above-average temperatures during the end of the week. Subfreezing temperatures are expected to be limited to northeast Kazakhstan.

Precipitation
Widespread rainfall was received in northern Kazakhstan, with more than 25 mm recorded east of the drought area where 90-day precipitation deficits are the largest (50-100 mm). Next week, mostly dry weather is forecast across northwestern Kazakhstan, and monsoon rainfall is likely to shift east from Pakistan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in western Guatemala next week
Last week, southern Guatemala, El Salvador, parts of Honduras and central Nicaragua received light to moderate rainfall, while Belize and central Guatemala continued to receive below-average rainfall. In central Honduras, a gap of more than 10 days of no rain has been recorded over the past month and similarly, in Belize, a gap of more than 8 days of no rain. Several storm formations have been identified over the eastern Pacific Ocean and the tropical Atlantic, but there is no concerning weather forecast over the next week. Tropical storm Gabrielle developing in the tropical Atlantic is moving away from the Americas and will not impact the Gulf of Mexico or surroundings areas. Next week, light rainfall is forecast in Honduras and Guatemala, while Costa Rica and Panama will likely receive moderate to heavy amounts of rainfall. Northern Guatemala is forecast to receive seasonal rainfall while Belize and eastern Guatemala could register below-average amounts of rainfall. The storm over the eastern Pacific Ocean could bring more precipitation than expected over the southern coast of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Below-normal rainfall has been observed over Hispaniola
Last week, rainfall deficits between 25 to 35 mm were registered throughout Hispaniola. Over the last 30-days, a substantial decrease in rainfall has been observed across most of the Dominican Republic and southern Haiti. An analysis of the three-month percent of normal rainfall shows a 25-50% rainfall deficit over southern Haiti and central and eastern Dominican Republic. A small portion of northwestern Haiti has registered 50% of its seasonal rainfall accumulation. Next week, seasonal rainfall performance is unlikely and marks the beginning of the Postrera season.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS
Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.