Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
July 3 – July 9, 2014

- **Locally heavy rains caused flooding and damages to infrastructure in southern Nigeria.**
- **Above-average rains were observed across southern Sudan.**

1) Heavy and above-average rains since the beginning of June have oversaturated the grounds of Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern Guinea and western Cote D'Ivoire. With heavy downpours forecast during the next outlook period, the risk for new flooding across the region will be increased.

Locally heavy rain observed across West Africa.

During the previous seven days, most of West Africa observed at least moderate rainfall (15-40mm). Locally heavy amounts of rain (>50mm), though, were recorded across southern Mali, Nigeria, coastal Cote D'Ivoire, coastal Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Torrential rains in Ibadan, Nigeria resulted in flash flooding which destroyed local infrastructure and caused 15 fatalities. The highest precipitation totals (>100mm) were observed in southern Mali near the Mauritania border. The abundant rains in western West Africa helped to increase already substantial seasonal rainfall surpluses. In contrast, rains were light (<15mm) in northern Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and localized areas in northern Cote D'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, northeastern/eastern Nigeria and western Chad (**Figure 1**). The light rains resulted in below average weekly rainfall totals. The lack of rains helped to increase rainfall deficits in Nigeria and Chad as some areas in northern Nigeria and western Chad have received insufficient rainfall during the past two to five weeks.

Over the past thirty days, rains across West Africa have been enhanced in the far west and below-average in Nigeria. Positive rainfall anomalies (150-400% above-average) have been observed in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, western Burkina Faso, Guinea and southern Mali (**Figure 2**). The saturated ground conditions have increased concerns about flooding. Enhanced southerly flow is responsible for this increase in moisture. However, rains have struggled to seasonally progress north into Senegal resulting in early season deficits. Meanwhile, though rainfall has been slightly below-average in Nigeria, locally heavy rains have caused flooding, fatalities and damages to infrastructure.

For next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for far western West Africa including already saturated areas in Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and southern Mali. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) is expected, although light rains (<15mm) are forecast for much of Niger.

Seasonal rains since June have started off slowly in Eastern Africa.

Since the beginning of June, seasonal rainfall in western Ethiopia and bordering areas in eastern Sudan has been below-average. Rainfall deficits range between 25-100mm in northwestern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan (**Figure 3**). Vegetative indices also indicate poor ground conditions over localized areas in eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia. However, rainfall during the past week was heavy (>50mm) which helped to provide relief to the sluggish start to seasonal rains. It is still early in the season, though, and rains could still recover as rains are within 80-120% of normal across much of the area. For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for western Ethiopia which should help to reduce recent dryness, while moderate to locally heavy rain (10-40mm, locally >40mm) is expected in South Sudan and Sudan. Locally torrential rains could cause flash flooding in parts of Sudan.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 25 – July 1, 2014

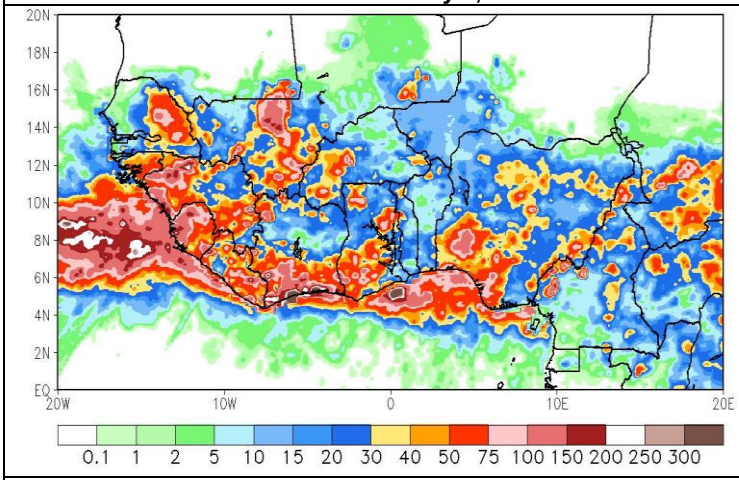

Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (%)
Valid: June 2 – July 1, 2014

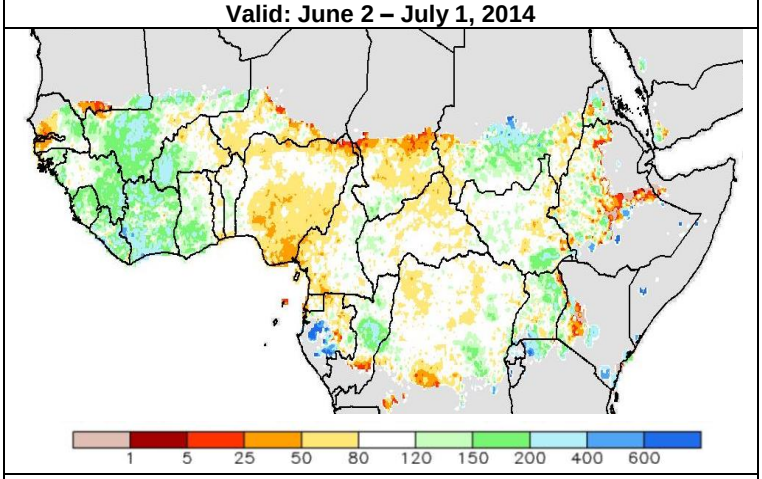

Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 1 – July 1, 2014

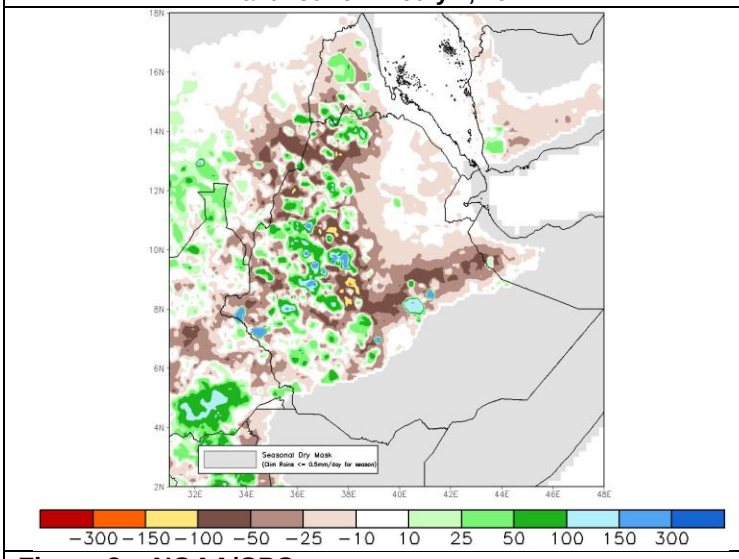

Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.