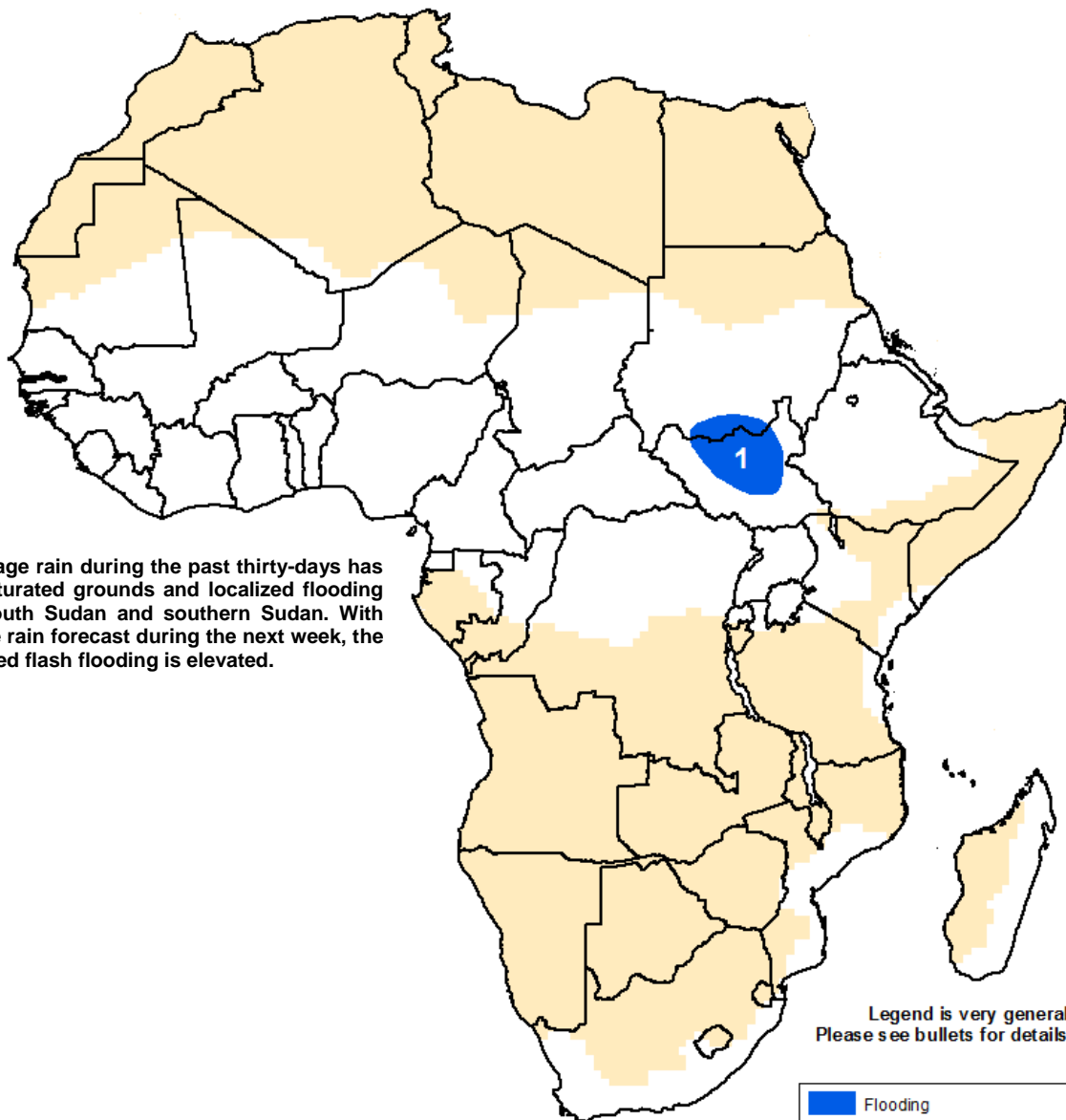




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 17 – July 23, 2014

- Below-average rains were observed across much of West Africa during the past week.
- Locally heavy rains continued across saturated areas in South Sudan and southern Sudan.



1) Above-average rain during the past thirty-days has resulted in saturated grounds and localized flooding in parts of South Sudan and southern Sudan. With above-average rain forecast during the next week, the risk for localized flash flooding is elevated.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

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

A reduction in rain was observed across West Africa.

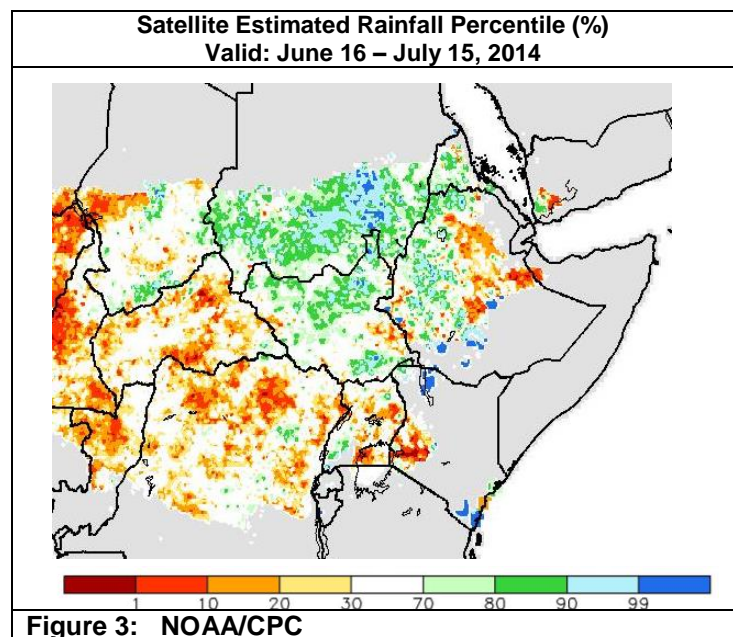
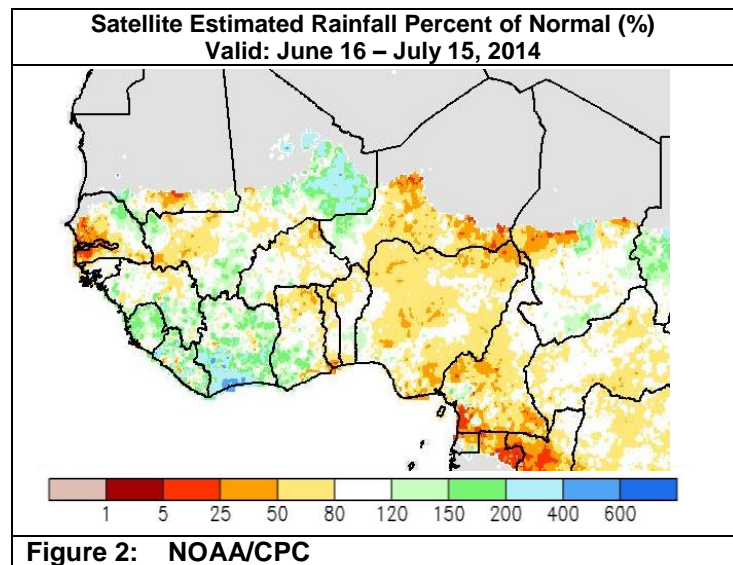
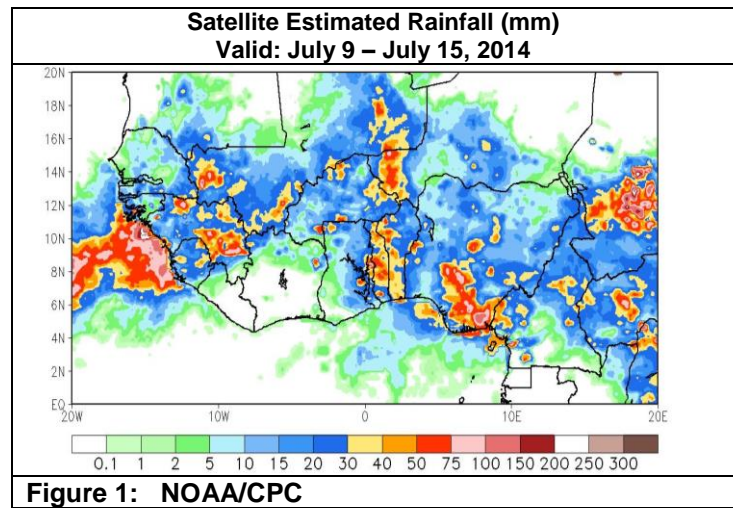
During the past seven days, a reduction in rain was observed across West Africa as rains continued to push seasonally north into the Sahel. The highest rainfall totals (40-75mm) were observed in localized areas in Guinea, western/northern Mali, southern Guinea, western Niger, Chad, and eastern/central Nigeria. Meanwhile, moderate rains (10-40mm) fell across Nigeria and much of the Sahel. A week of average rainfall in Chad has provided beneficial moisture to recently dry areas. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) were observed from Liberia to Benin and areas farther north in Senegal (Figure 1). Outside of localized areas that received heavy rain, weekly rainfall was below-average in West Africa. While the lack of rains provided relief to saturated grounds in Sierra Leone and Liberia, the dry conditions increased seasonal deficits in Nigeria and prolonged the poor start to seasonal rains in Senegal.

The lack of rain across the Gulf of Guinea helped to slightly reduce longer term rainfall surpluses. Thirty-day rainfall anomalies continue to be well above-average (120-200%) in far western West Africa except Senegal. In eastern West Africa, conditions have been dry as rains were 50-80% of normal in Chad, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, eastern Burkina Faso and Niger. The below-average rains have delayed planting in Chad and Senegal. However, weekly rains during the past week provided needed moisture to countries in the Sahel including Chad, Niger and Mali. In contrast, seasonal rains remain sluggish in other areas as thirty-day rainfall deficits have grown across Senegal as rains remain below-average (Figure 2).

For next week, light rains (<15mm) are forecast across the Sahel in Burkina Faso and Niger while heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast farther south in Nigeria and farther west in southern Mali, northern Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Below-average rains are also expected in dry areas in Senegal.

Average to above-average rains continue in eastern Africa.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) were observed across eastern Africa. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell in the Tigray, Amhara and western Oromia departments of Ethiopia and localized areas in South Sudan and southern Sudan. After poor rains created early season rainfall deficits in northern Ethiopia and bordering Sudan, rains during the past several weeks have been heavy and above-average leading to average to above-average thirty-day rainfall totals. While dryness concerns were mitigated in some areas, flooding concerns continue across saturated areas in South Sudan and central southern Sudan. Consistent heavy rains have led to thirty-day rainfall percentiles above the 80th percentile (Figure 3). The torrential rains have led to reports of flooding in South Sudan, and southern Sudan. Vegetative indices still indicate poor ground conditions in eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia but recent rains should help improve ground conditions. For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for saturated areas in South Sudan and southern Sudan which will keep flooding risks elevated. Heavy rain (>50mm) is also expected across western Ethiopia.



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.