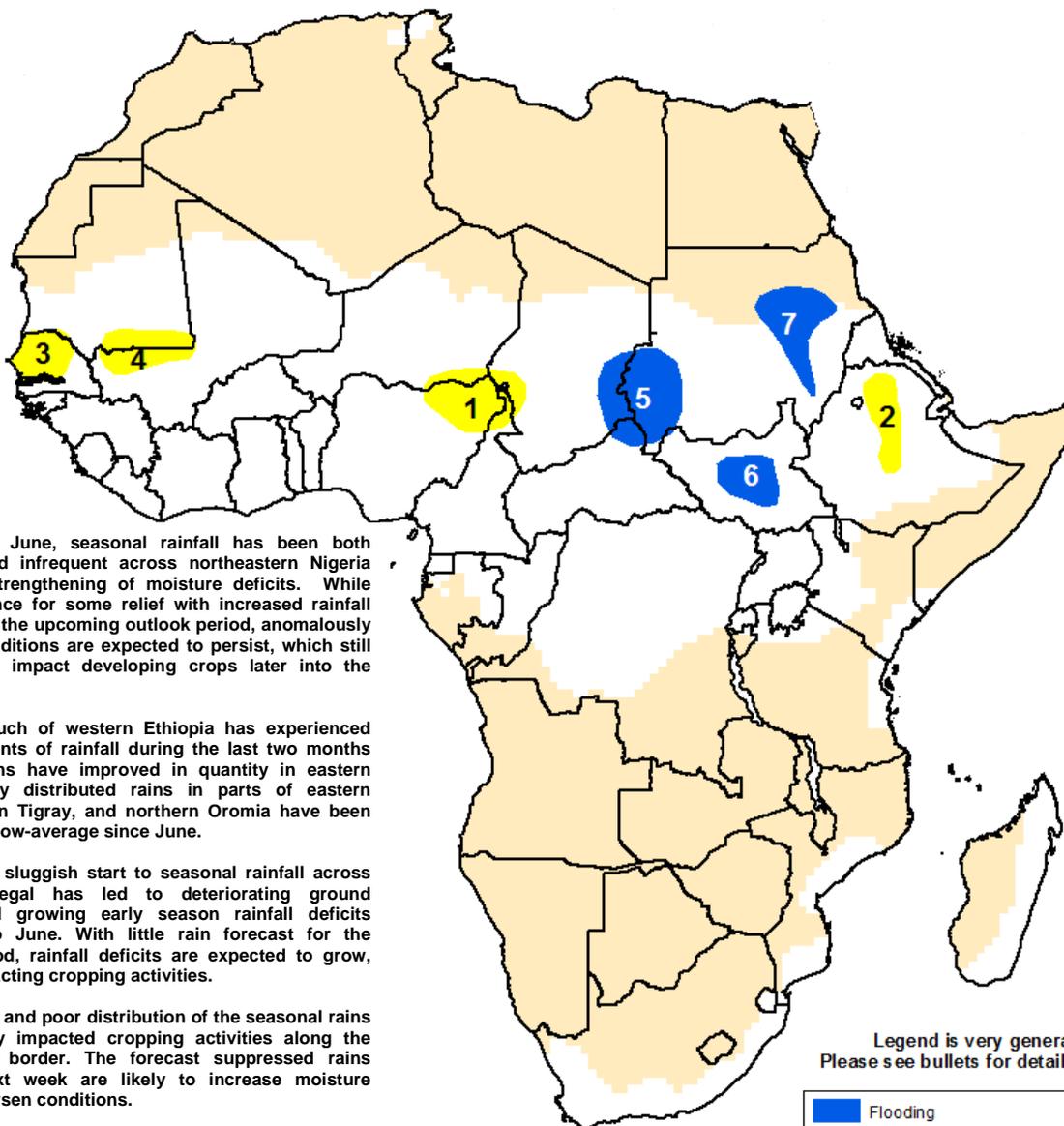




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 7 – August 13, 2014

- Below-average rains observed across western Sahel during late July.
- Wetness continues in Eastern Africa.



1) Since early June, seasonal rainfall has been both suppressed and infrequent across northeastern Nigeria leading to a strengthening of moisture deficits. While there is a chance for some relief with increased rainfall forecast during the upcoming outlook period, anomalously dry ground conditions are expected to persist, which still may negatively impact developing crops later into the season.

2) Although much of western Ethiopia has experienced favorable amounts of rainfall during the last two months and recent rains have improved in quantity in eastern Ethiopia, poorly distributed rains in parts of eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia have been consistently below-average since June.

3) A continued sluggish start to seasonal rainfall across much of Senegal has led to deteriorating ground conditions and growing early season rainfall deficits dating back to June. With little rain forecast for the upcoming period, rainfall deficits are expected to grow, potentially impacting cropping activities.

4) Delayed start and poor distribution of the seasonal rains have negatively impacted cropping activities along the Mauritania-Mali border. The forecast suppressed rains during the next week are likely to increase moisture deficits and worsen conditions.

5) Heavy rains during the past two weeks in the Darfur region of Sudan caused flooding which destroyed shelters over many parts of the Darfur. With heavy and above-average rains forecast for next week, additional flooding is likely.

6) Heavy rains during the past week have resulted in flooding and displaced people across the Unity state of South Sudan. Forecasts call for moderate rains, which can exacerbate conditions on the ground.

7) Heavy downpours during the past week caused flooding, infrastructure damages, injuries, and displaced people across the Khartoum, River Nile, and Al Gazeira states. Potential for flooding remains high as heavy rains are forecast to continue over upstream Ethiopian highland.

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

Irregular distribution of rainfall observed in West Africa during late July.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rains fell throughout Guinea-Bissau, southeastern Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger, the northern parts of Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 1**). In Nigeria, this past week's enhanced rains helped to reduce moisture deficits associated with the lack of rainfall over the past several weeks. However, the increased rains also caused flooding and displaced people over the Maiduguri region in the east. In contrast, reduced rains were observed over dryness affected areas of western Senegal. Suppressed and slightly below-average rains were also recorded along the Gulf of Guinea, including Sierra Leone, southern Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

During the third dekad (10-day period) of July, above-average rains were observed over the central and eastern portions of the Sahel. This includes central and eastern Mali, much of Niger, and central Chad (**Figure 2**). This was mostly attributed to a vigorous northward push of the Inter-Tropical Front across central West Africa. In contrast, the Inter-Tropical Front was deflected more to the south along its western edge, bringing below-average rains over northwestern Senegal, southern Mauritania, and parts of western Mali. The growing moisture deficits since July has delayed planting and negatively affected cropping activities in the region. Vegetation indices have shown degraded and below-average conditions in northern Senegal and along the Mauritania-Mali border. If poor rains continue, soil moisture will continue to deplete, increasing risks for crop damages and reduced yields.

During the next seven days, suppressed rains are forecast to continue in northern Senegal and along the Mauritania-Mali border. Light rains are also expected along the Gulf of Guinea countries. However, heavy rains are expected throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Liberia, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, western and southeastern Niger, and central and northeastern Nigeria.

Wetness continues in Eastern Africa.

Abundant and above-average rains continued over much of Eastern Africa during the past week. Heavy downpours fell over the Darfur of western Sudan, the northern half of South Sudan, northwestern Ethiopia, and eastern Sudan (**Figure 3**). In South Sudan, this past week's heavy rains caused flooding and displaced several thousands of people, according to news media. To the north, heavy downpours resulted in flooding, damaged houses, and injuries across the Khartoum, River Nile, and Al Gazeera states of Sudan. Over the past four weeks, rainfall surpluses, with positive anomalies exceeding 100 mm were observed across eastern Sudan, northwestern Ethiopia, Eritrea, and northeastern South Sudan. For next week, heavy and above-average rains are expected to continue in eastern Chad and western Sudan and western Ethiopia. This maintains elevated risks for flooding along the Chad-Sudan border and northeastern Sudan. Moderate to heavy rains are also forecast over South Sudan, potentially exacerbating conditions over already-saturated grounds.

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.

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