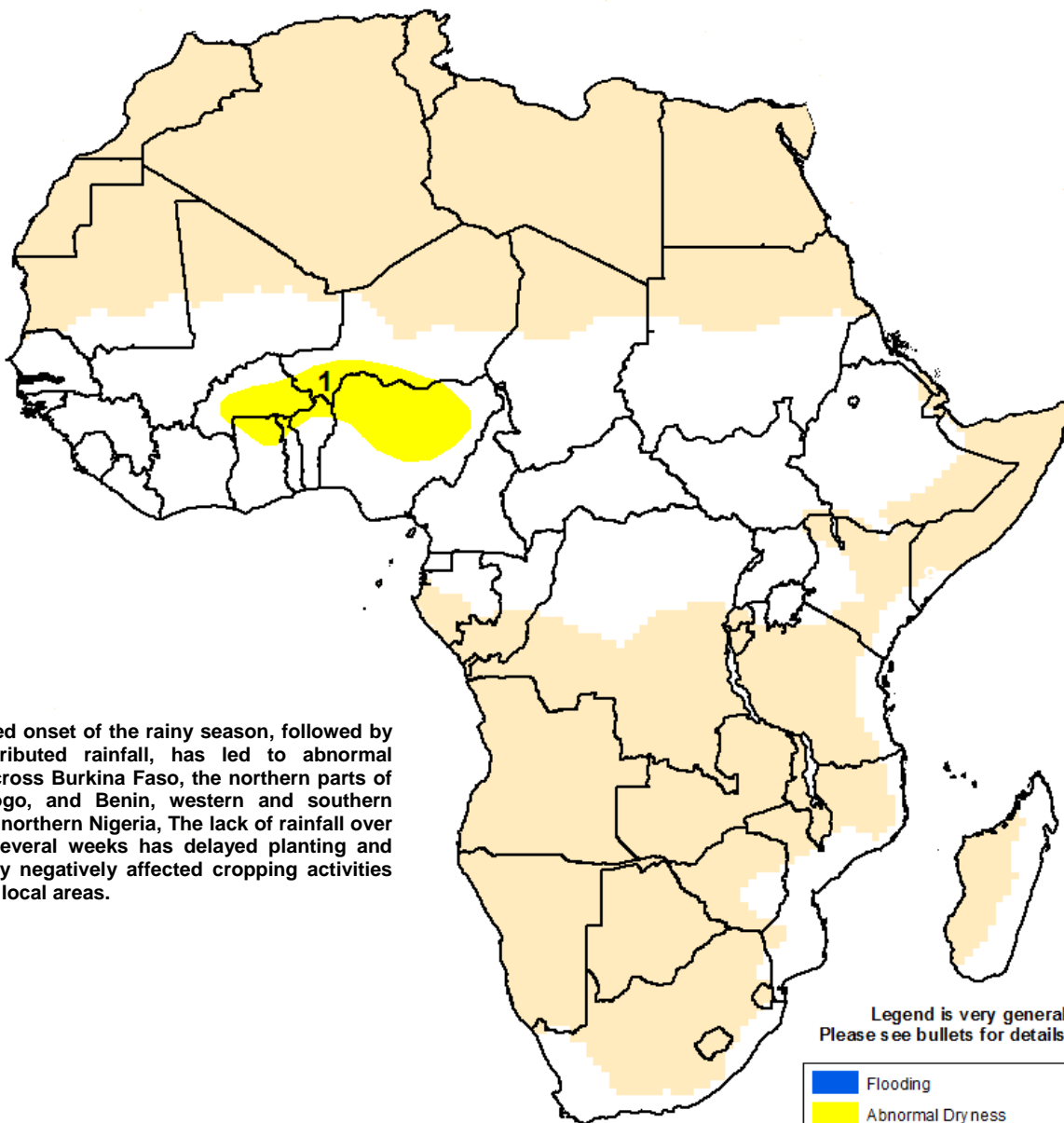




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 25 – July 1, 2015

- Drier than average conditions observed in southeastern Senegal and western Mali.
- Favorable rainfall distribution continues over the Greater Horn of Africa.



1) A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western and southern Niger, and northern Nigeria. The lack of rainfall over the past several weeks has delayed planting and has already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas.

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

Below-average rain observed over many parts of West Africa.

An analysis of cumulative rainfall since May 1 has indicated that several regions of West Africa have received below-average rain. This included Nigeria, where the largest (> 100 mm) deficits were observed, and parts of the neighboring Gulf of Guinea countries such as Ghana, Togo, and Benin (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, insufficient rain was also observed farther north and west, including western and southern Niger, central and eastern Burkina Faso, southeastern Senegal, and western Mali. The persisting rainfall deficits were mostly attributed to a delayed onset of the rainy season, which in turn, was followed by a poor distribution of rain. Although rainfall has been relatively frequent over Nigeria during the past few weeks, the accumulated amounts have remained below-average. To the west, extended dry spells have delayed the onset of the rainy season, which also have pushed back planting in eastern Senegal and western Mali. The most recent vegetation indices have shown further degradation of conditions over eastern Senegal and western Mali. The continued lack of rain could negatively impact agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas.

During the past week, a widespread distribution of rainfall was observed across West Africa. Locally moderate rain fell over Nigeria, northern Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and southern Mali (**Figure 2**). In Nigeria, this past week's enhanced rain has resulted in flooding over Lagos in the southwest of country. To the west, scattered moderate to heavy rain continued throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. However, this past week's cumulative rain averaged slightly below-normal throughout the African sub-region.

During the next week, the GFS model suggests a wet weather pattern, with heavy and above-average rain to continue over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and southern Mali. Heavy showers are also possible over localized areas of western Niger and along the Niger-Nigeria border. In contrast, light to locally moderate and below-average rain is expected along the Gulf of Guinea.

Seasonal rain continues in the Greater Horn of Africa.

During the past week, a favorable distribution of rainfall was observed over the Greater Horn of Africa. Moderate to heavy and above-average rain fell over southern Sudan, South Sudan, and western Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). The observed, enhanced rain has contributed to partially remove moisture deficits over some areas of west-central Ethiopia and central South Sudan. Since the beginning of the month, mostly positive rainfall anomalies have been observed throughout the Greater Horn of Africa, except localized areas of northwestern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. The continuation of seasonal rain is expected to provide adequate soil moisture and benefit cropping activities over the sub-region during the June-September rainy season. During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate heavy rain over the western two-thirds of Ethiopia. Heavy showers are also expected over southwestern Kenya, northern Uganda, and along the border with South Sudan. In contrast, light to moderate rain is forecast over southern Sudan and the interior of South Sudan.

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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