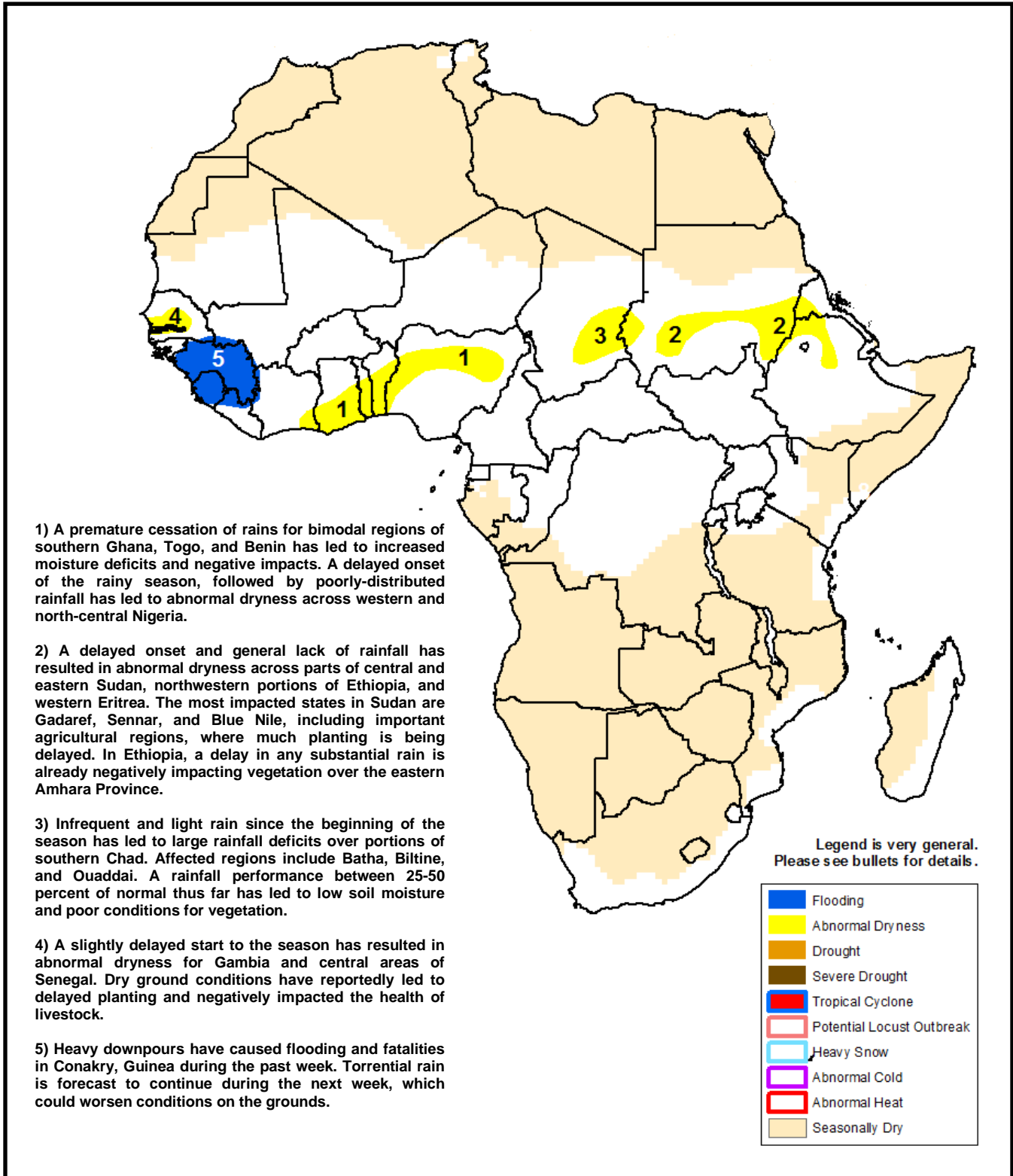




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 6 – 12, 2015

- Torrential rain caused flooding and fatalities in Conakry, Guinea.
- Below-average rain has continued in north-central Ethiopia.



## Heavy rain continues in far western West Africa.

During the past seven days, widespread and heavy rain was observed across West Africa. The largest rainfall amounts were recorded over far western Africa, with over 450 mm of accumulation received in Conakry, Guinea, which has caused flooding and fatalities, according to media reports. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain spread throughout southern Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, northern Benin, Nigeria, and southern Chad (**Figure 1**). Moderate rain also fell in north-central Senegal and southern Mauritania. The continued favorable rain over the Sahel over the past few weeks has helped reduce rainfall deficits, replenish soil moisture, and benefit agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas of West Africa. To the south, suppressed but near-average rain was registered along the Gulf of Guinea region.

During July, an increase in rainfall was observed across much of West Africa, particularly the Sahel and Guinea coasts. An analysis of the thirty-day rainfall percentile indicates much wetter than average conditions across Guinea-Conakry, western Mali, and western Niger, with ranking exceeding the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile (**Figure 2**). While near-average rain was recorded elsewhere across much of the sub region, a very poor rainfall performance, with ranking below the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile, was observed in southeastern Ghana, southern Togo and Benin, and western Nigeria. This was likely attributed to an early cessation of rainfall, associated with the northward migration of the rain-belt. Below-average rainfall was also observed in eastern and southern Chad.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate widespread, heavy rain across much of West Africa, which could exacerbate conditions over already flood-affected areas of Guinea Conakry or trigger new flooding in the region. Heavy rain is expected from southern Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, to central Nigeria. The forecast enhanced rain should further reduce moisture deficits and aid cropping activities over many local areas of West Africa.

## Abundant rain expected over parts of the Horn of Africa.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain fell over southern and eastern Sudan, southern Eritrea, western Ethiopia, and South Sudan. This has helped to partially reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits over the dry portions of Eastern Africa, including eastern Sudan, southwestern Eritrea, and the low-lying areas of northwestern Ethiopia. However, negative rainfall anomalies have persisted across these dry areas, with the largest deficits exceeding 100 mm in north-central Ethiopia over the past thirty days. In Sudan, reports have already indicated delayed planting and stressed vegetation over most parts of the country. The lack of rain has also negatively affected crops in eastern Amhara region of north-central Ethiopia. During the next week, heavy rain is forecast over western Ethiopia and Eritrea, (**Figure 3**), which is expected to help eliminate rainfall deficits over the dry areas of the region. Moderate to heavy rain is also forecast over the Darfur region of western Sudan and western South Sudan. Meanwhile, light rain is forecast in eastern Sudan, southern Somalia, the Afar region of northeastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and parts of northern Somalia.

**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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