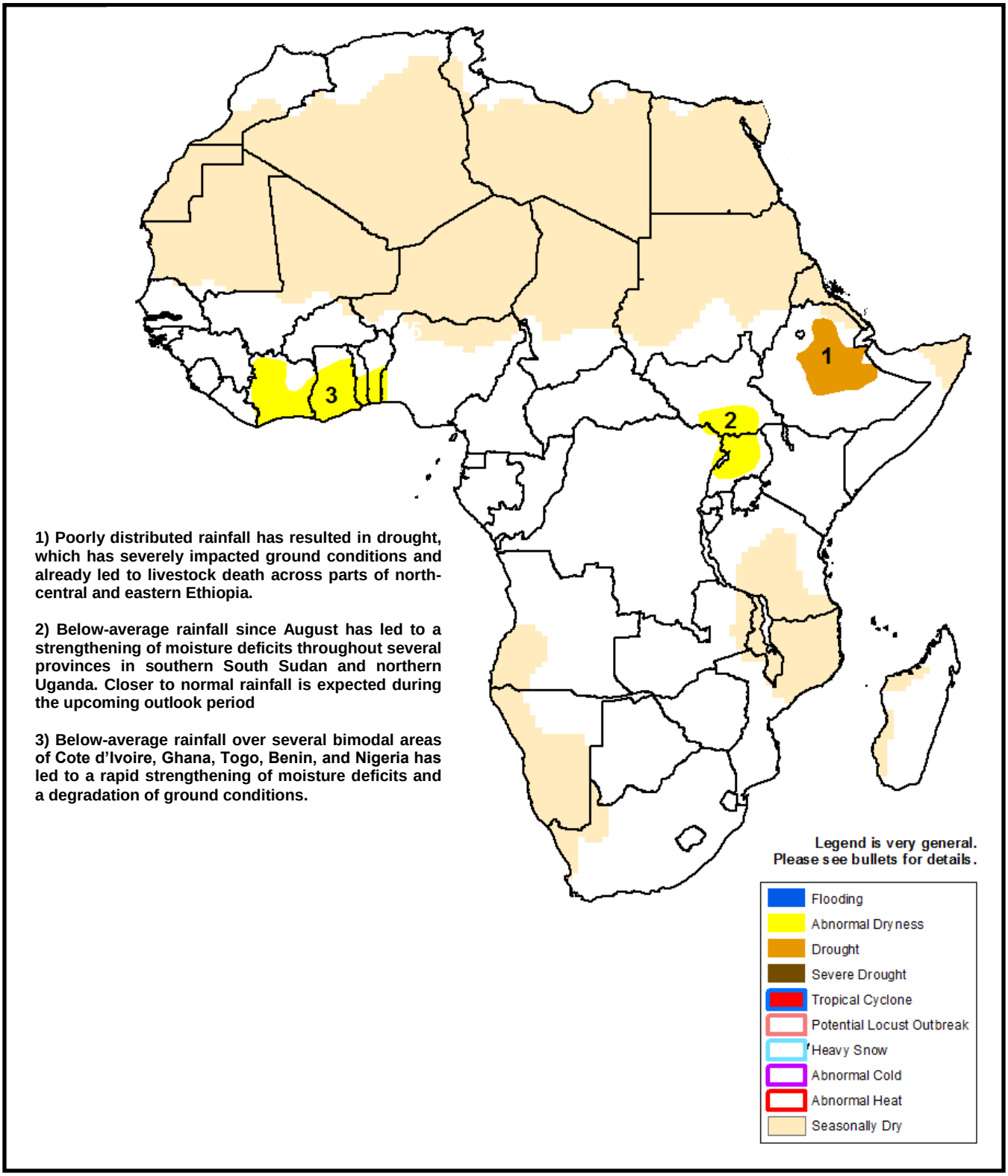
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
October 15 – October 21, 2015

- **Beneficial increase in rainfall along bimodal Gulf of Guinea regions and continued heavy rainfall across the far western Gulf of Guinea.**
- **Many parts of the greater horn receive early season rains.**



1) Poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to livestock death across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

2) Below-average rainfall since August has led to a strengthening of moisture deficits throughout several provinces in southern South Sudan and northern Uganda. Closer to normal rainfall is expected during the upcoming outlook period

3) Below-average rainfall over several bimodal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria has led to a rapid strengthening of moisture deficits and a degradation of ground conditions.

Second season rains have arrived for almost all bimodal areas of West Africa

Locally heavy rains were observed for a consecutive week for many parts of far West Africa. Seasonal rains finally shifted southward into bimodal regions; however widespread moderate rains lingered across central Mali and western Niger. The heaviest rainfall was focused in southwestern Mali where more than 300mm were observed according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). As a result of this heavy rain on saturated soils, flood reports are likely to come out of this region. Many other local areas observed more than 100mm of precipitation, even into northern Senegal. Bimodal Ghana, Togo, and Benin received heavy rains this past week, while more moderate rains were observed in bimodal Cote D'Ivoire. Lighter, suppressed rains prevailed in north and eastern Nigeria, where generally less than 25mm accumulated.

Analysis of satellite estimated percent of normal rainfall shows a well-defined pattern of wet conditions to the north, and dryer-than-normal conditions along the southern coast. Nearly the entire Sahel registers 120% of normal, or more, since the start of August (**Figure 2**). At the same time, areas of southern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana observed less than 50, or even 25 percent of their average rainfall. Signs that monsoonal rains are now shifting southward to a more seasonable position may start to alleviate both concerns of flooding to the north and negative effects for cropping activities stemming from moisture deficits to the south. Vegetation and soil water indices continue to indicate poor rainfall (in the bottom 10% of years) since July for bimodal areas has led to deterioration of conditions on the ground.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest lighter rains for much of West Africa. The southward progression of the ITCZ/ITF should result in diminishing rains for much of the Sahel. Most of Nigeria is especially likely to see below-normal rainfall this week. Moderate rains should continue for bimodal Gulf of Guinea regions. The most substantial, moderate-to-heavy, rain is likely to occur over Guinea, Sierra Leone, and, Liberia.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 06 – October 12, 2015

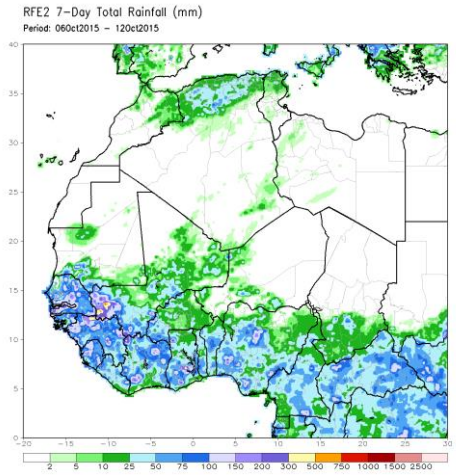


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall
Valid: August 1 – October 13, 2015

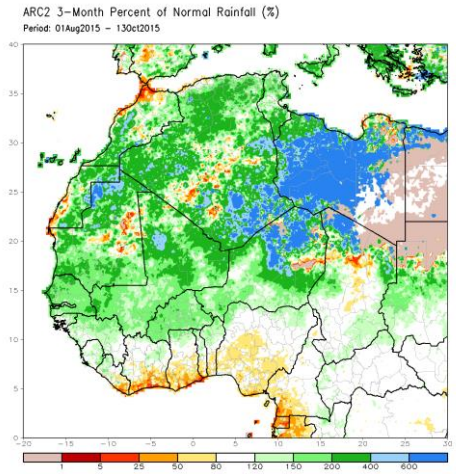


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Rains increase for many parts of the Greater Horn.

During the recent period, widespread rains were observed across much of eastern Africa according to satellite estimates. Moderate-to-heavy rains continued in western Ethiopia and eastern parts of Sudan. Well-distributed rains were observed for South Sudan, Uganda, and the DRC. This near or above average rain will help with moisture deficits in these regions. While rains have largely ended for much of central Sudan and central departments of Ethiopia, unusual early seasonal rain was observed across southern Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and into Tanzania. Analysis of satellite estimated percent of normal rainfall since Mid-September show above-average rain in northern Ethiopia and Sudan. To the south, the recent pattern has yielded less than 80% of typical rainfall (**Figure 3**). The early onset of rains can be observed in Kenya and southern Somalia.

Prolonged erratic and insufficient rainfall over the past couple of months has led to poor and actively degrading vegetation conditions in southern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. Concerns about available moisture for cropping and pastoral activities persist there. During the next 7 days, widespread rains are expected across East Africa according to precipitation forecasts. Above normal rains are likely for much of the Greater Horn. Rainfall should subside in northern Ethiopia and eastern Sudan.

Satellite Estimated 30-day Percent of Normal Rainfall
Valid: September 13– October 12, 2015

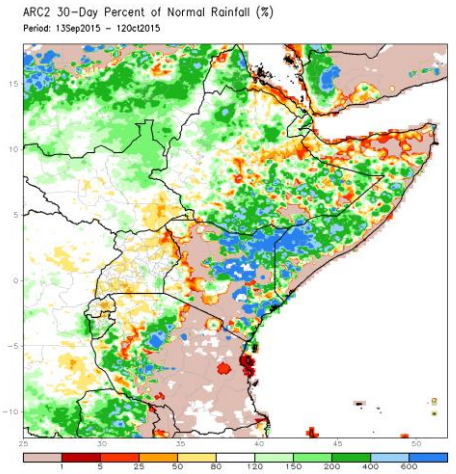


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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