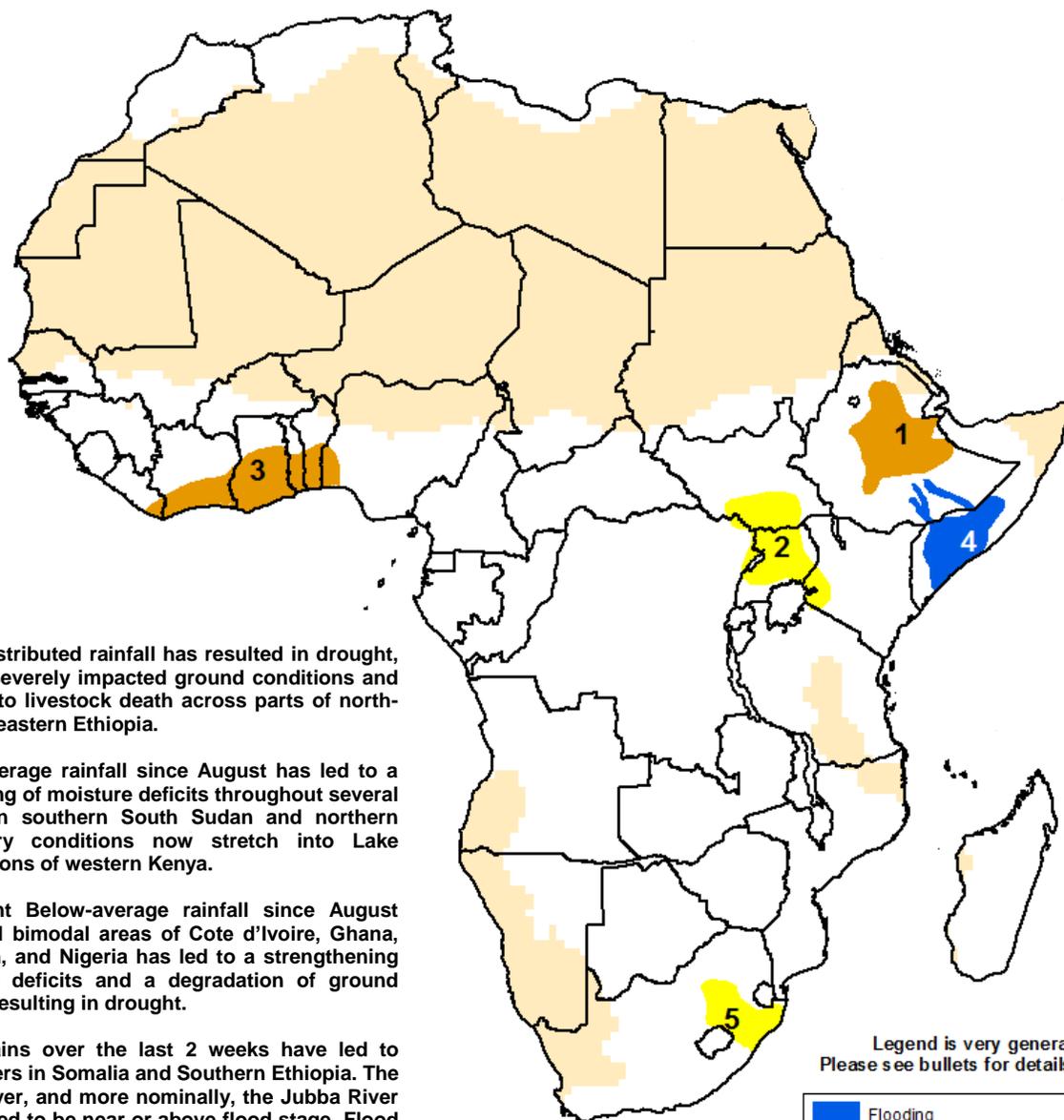




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 29 – November 4, 2015

- Mostly near-average conditions have been observed across West Africa during this past week.
- Heavy rain continues for portions of southern Ethiopia and Somalia, raising flooding concerns in East Africa.



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. Dry conditions now stretch into Lake Victoria regions of western Kenya.

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

4) Heavy rains over the last 2 weeks have led to swelling rivers in Somalia and Southern Ethiopia. The Shabelle River, and more nominally, the Jubba River are forecasted to be near or above flood stage. Flood risk is high for the middle and lower reaches of the Shabelle and moderate for the lower portions of the Jubba River. Additional forecasted rain threatens to exasperate the situation, continuing the threat for river and flash flooding.

5) Erratic and poorly distributed rainfall over the past month has led to moisture deficits to begin the season in the Sugar cane growing region of South Africa. Vegetation indices reveal already degrading conditions on the ground.

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

Near-average rains in bimodal West Africa; abnormal rainfall in northwestern Africa

Rainfall finally returned to more normal totals for far western Africa. The pattern across the West Africa region was characterized by widespread near-normal rains for most. Local areas of Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau observed greater than 75mm. In southern bimodal regions, near or slightly above normal rains have stabilized deficits. A stream of tropical Atlantic moisture brought abnormal amounts of precipitation (25-100mm) to regions in Western Sahara, Mauritania, and western Algeria (**Figure 1**). Rainfall was more mixed in Nigeria, with scattered above and below normal conditions being observed.

Analysis of satellite estimated 30-Day rainfall anomalies reveal wet conditions for much of West Africa with the exception of Nigeria and Cameroon, which have developed substantial deficits over the period (**Figure 2**). The greatest positive anomalies (>200mm) are observed in southern Senegal with widespread anomalies greater than 100mm in neighboring regions. Most of Nigeria exhibits negative anomalies, with the greatest deficits (>200mm) located along the Cameroon border. These regional deficits equate to 25-50% of normal. Monsoonal rains have shifted southward into bimodal areas in recent weeks, but they have been insufficient to alleviate moisture deficits and ensuing cropping and livestock concerns. As a result, drought conditions persist

For the upcoming outlook period, GFS forecasts suggest normal, or slightly below, rainfall remains the rule for all of West Africa. Rains should nearly cease in Senegal and Mali. The most significant rains should be located across Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote D'Ivoire.

Heavy rains continued in Somalia and southern Ethiopia last week.

During the recent period, well-distributed moderate-to-heavy rains were observed across much of East Africa according to satellite estimates. Torrential rainfall (>150mm) was observed in local areas of south-central Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). As a result of these rains on already saturated areas, river flooding is likely in and downstream of the region during the outlook period. Above-normal rains were also observed in the Lake Victoria region. Seasonably distributed light-to-moderate rains occurred elsewhere throughout the region.

Prolonged, erratic and insufficient rainfall over the past 2 months has led to poor vegetation conditions in southern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. Poor conditions extend into southwestern Kenya, where concerns about available moisture for cropping and pastoral activities also persist. Better rains starting this past week should begin to ease the situation in these areas. During the outlook period, widespread enhanced moderate-to-heavy rains are expected across East Africa according to model forecasts. Above-normal rains, possibly greater than 75mm, are likely in south-central Somalia, continuing flooding concerns. Rainfall will remain near normal in north-central Ethiopia.

Rains start slowly as monsoon season begins for Southern Africa.

Rains have been erratic and poorly distributed in the very early goings of the season. Development of moisture deficits is beginning in Angola and the sugar cane growing region of South Africa. Vegetation indices indicate degrading conditions already on the ground. This is concerning as seasonal forecasts call for a dry season, especially for South Africa.

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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