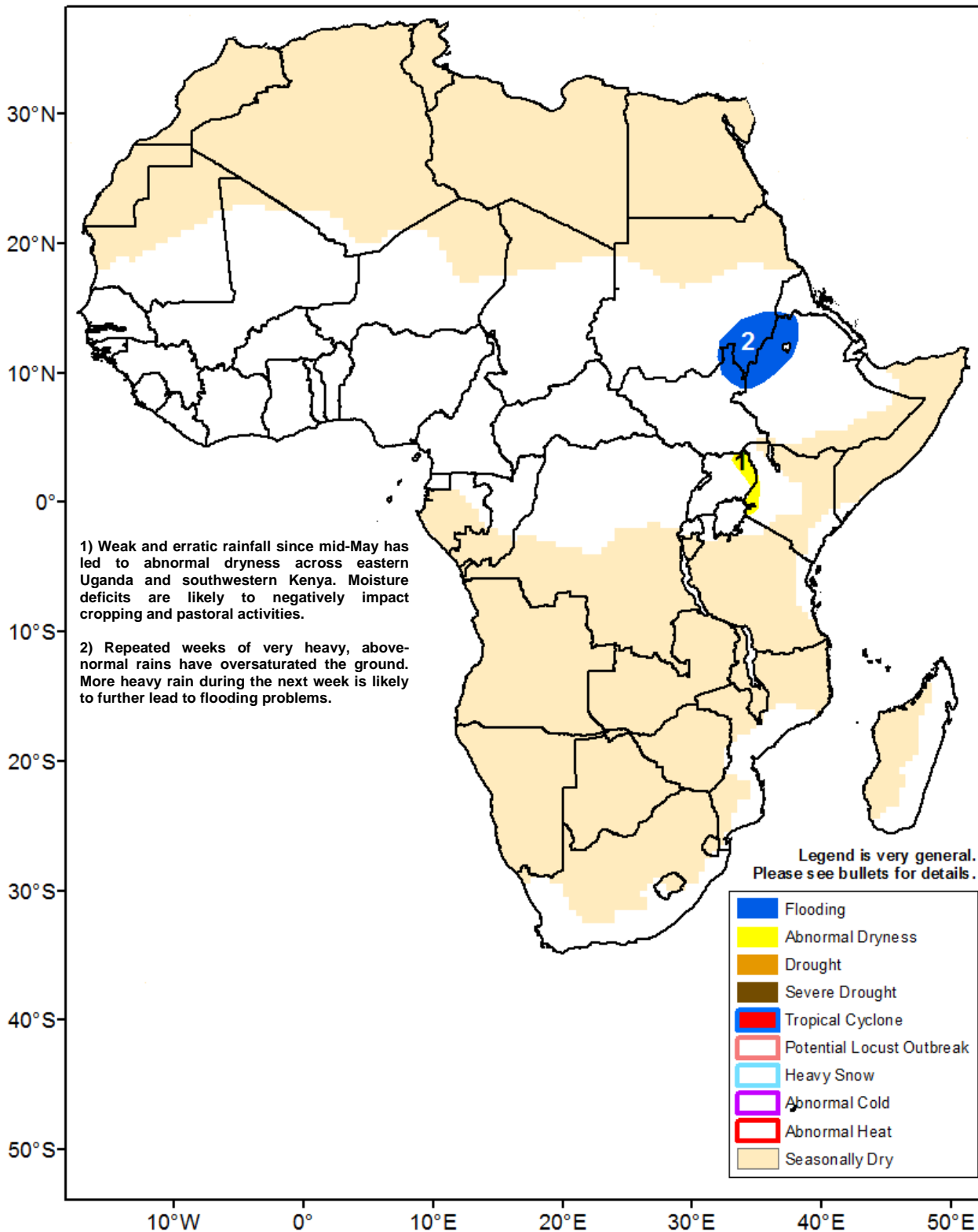




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 20 – July 26, 2017

- Heavy rains continued last week in far western Africa and northern East Africa.



## Rains took a break in southern Gulf of Guinea countries

Very heavy and above-normal rain continued in Guinea and Sierra Leone last week. As much as 200mm of rainfall was observed there according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Heavy rainfall spread into much of southern Mali and parts of Senegal. Moderate rains pushed well to the north, into northern Mali, Niger, and Algeria. Much rain (up to 100mm) was observed in southern Chad as well. At the same time, bimodal areas of the Gulf of Guinea countries have entered the mid-season break in rains. For the first time this past week, only very light and widely scattered showers were observed in those areas.

West Africa continues to experience a prolonged period of wetter-than-average rainfall, now with the exception of bimodal areas. Analysis of current 30-day precipitation anomalies depicts positive rainfall anomalies virtually across the entirety of West Africa. Anomalies of greater than 50mm and even 100mm are common place (**Figure 2**). The largest surpluses in the region (>200mm) are found in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and southwestern Cote D'Ivoire. Overall, this is shaping up to be among the wettest seasons in recent record. Soil moisture is ample for cropping activities; however flooding will be an increasing concern should the wet pattern continue longer through the season.

The forecast for the outlook period calls for very heavy rainfall to persist in the western Gulf of Guinea Countries. Wetter-than-normal conditions are also favored in southern Nigeria, Benin, and Togo. Otherwise rains should be seasonally light in southern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

## Rainfall is well greater than normal for another week over a large portion of Eastern Africa.

Very heavy rainfall was again observed in western Ethiopia, eastern Sudan, and eastern South Sudan. Large totals exceeding 100mm, and locally more than 200mm, were observed by satellite estimates. Resultant rainfall anomalies were 50-100mm or more above average. Ample, but not as extreme, rainfall was widely spread across other areas of Sudan and South Sudan, as well as western Kenya. A few small areas that did exhibit small 7-day anomalies include northern Uganda, Tigre, province of Ethiopia and parts of Eritrea. Multiple consecutive weeks of above-average precipitation have built large 30-day anomalies of 100-200mm and locally higher amounts in these areas (**Figure 2**). The season thus far ranks among the wettest 3% in the climatology.

The forecast calls for the same pattern to continue for another week with heavy rains falling over the same areas of Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan during the outlook period. Soaking rains falling on soils already saturated from the last several weeks may lead to flooding problems. In addition, as water drains into the Blue and White Nile Rivers they will start to rise over the next few weeks. The enhanced rains may continue in western Kenya as well.

**Note:** The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather forecasts 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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to [Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov) or 1-301-683-3424.

