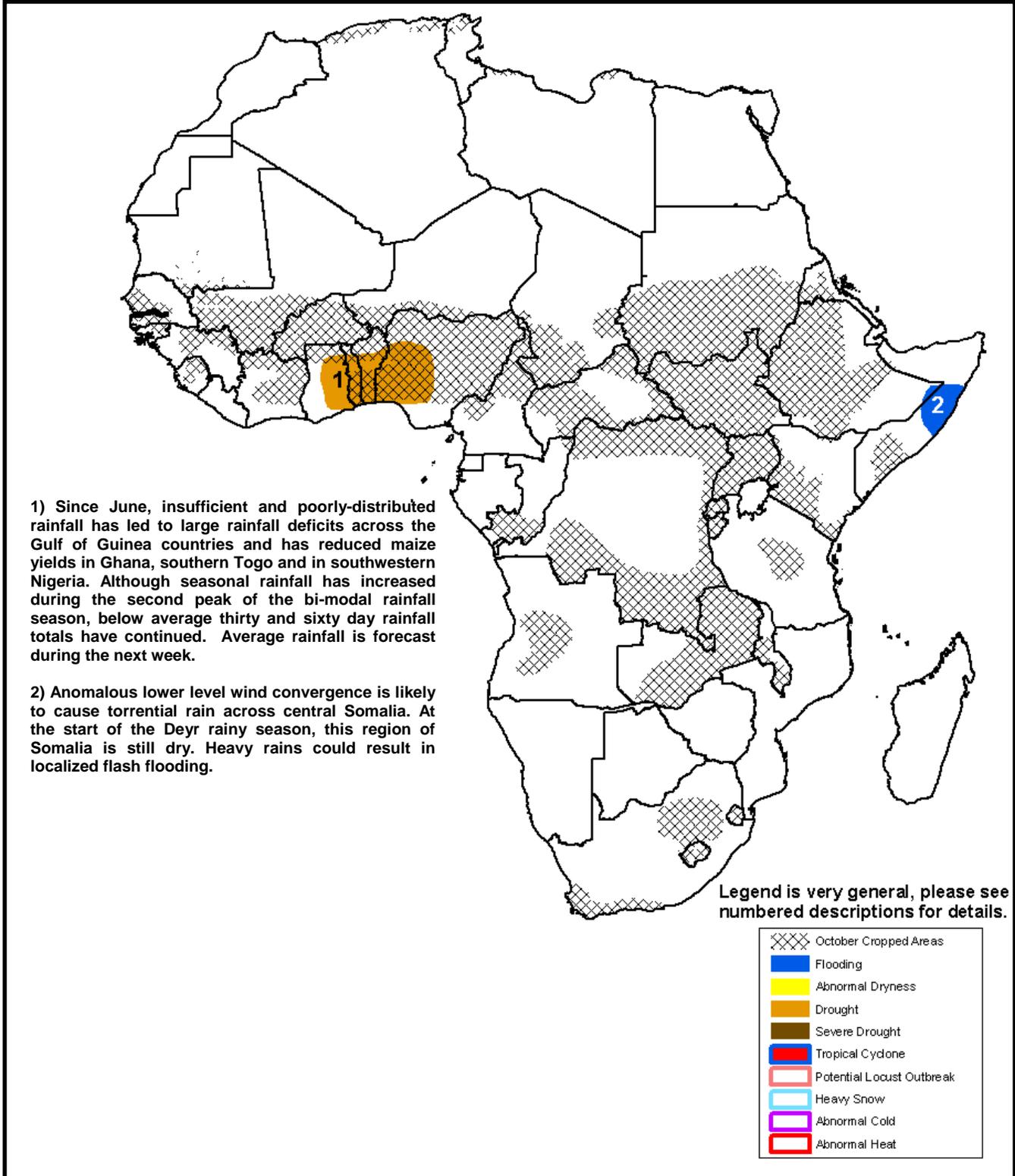




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 17 – October 23, 2013

- Heavy and above-average rainfall was observed in eastern Africa.



Heavy rains fell across much of Ethiopia, South Sudan and areas around Lake Victoria.

During the past seven days, heavy and above-average rain was observed across much of eastern Africa and the Greater Horn. The heaviest rain (>50mm) fell across central and eastern Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and southwest Kenya. Locally moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was recorded in southern Ethiopia as well. The abundant weekly rainfall in Ethiopia helped to reduce thirty-day deficits in western Ethiopia as well as added to surpluses across the rest of the country. Farther south, the copious amounts of early season rainfall around Lake Victoria has resulted in thirty-day rainfall surpluses greater than 50mm in Uganda, Kenya and northern Tanzania. In the past several weeks, heavy rains in Rwanda have resulted in flooding. Meanwhile, the start of the Deyr rainy season in Somalia has been erratic as only light rains (<10mm) fell in central Somalia. In Sudan, light rains fell as an early equatorward progression of the Intertropical Front has resulted in an early end to seasonal rains as evident in thirty-day rainfall deficits in Sudan (Figure 1).

After two consecutive weeks of above-average rain in eastern Africa, rains for the next week are expected to be reduced across South Sudan and central/western Ethiopia. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rains (>25mm) are forecast for Uganda, Kenya, southern Ethiopia and Somalia (Figure 2). The abundant and above-average rains forecast for central Somalia and the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia could result in localized flash flooding, especially in coastal regions in central Somalia.

Abundant rains were observed across previously dry areas along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed across bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea including Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and southern Nigeria. The highest precipitation totals (>75mm) occurred in southeastern Nigeria and Cameroon. Locally moderate to heavy rain showers extended north into parts of Burkina Faso and Mali, which is anomalous for this time of year. Farther east, little rain fell in Niger which is consistent with the early end to the rainy season that has been observed since the middle of September and which could affect crops. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded in Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Liberia (Figure 3). The abundant rains along the Gulf of Guinea have reduced seasonal deficits and provided relief to an area that observed poor seasonal rains during June, July and August. The lack of rains during that time resulted in a reduction of crop yields for the first peak of the bi-modal rainfall season. The second half of the bi-modal season started off below-average. However, recent rains have reduced thirty and sixty day rainfall deficits in Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. Although, deficits still remain. For the next week, moderate to locally heavy rain (>30mm) is forecast for bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea and farther west in Sierra Leone and Guinea. The rains should continue to provide relief for cropping activities.

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.

