Rains shift south over West Africa and Eastern Africa records average rainfall

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Weeks of above-normal rainfall have caused river levels to rise. This includes the Volta River, where water has been released from the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso causing downstream flooding.

2. Above-average rainfall has damaged infrastructure and caused fatalities in Sudan. Continuing rainfall may trigger additional floods through early September.

3. Poorly distributed rainfall since June has resulted in significant moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions across parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan.

4. Rainfall deficits are increasing across parts of Ethiopia. The SNNPR, central Oromia, and northern Somali States show signs of moisture stress and degraded ground conditions.

5. Several weeks delay to the start of rains in western Senegal has led to abnormal dryness
Weather Hazards Summary
August 31 - September 6, 2018

Africa Overview

Seasonal rainfall returns to Senegal
During the end of August, rainfall shifted farther south. Rainfall totals greater than 100 mm were recorded throughout several West African nations including Guinea, southern Mali, Cote D’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Benin. Scattered rain showers continued across desert areas of northern Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and Algeria (Figure 1). Seasonal rains in northern and western Senegal totaled more than 50 mm. Along the Gulf of Guinea, southern portions of Liberia, Cote D’Ivoire, and Ghana received a large increase in rainfall.

As of late August, the performance of the West Africa monsoon continues to be average to above-average. Since the beginning of June, the highest moisture surpluses remain along the Sahel, where portions of southern Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad have received more than twice their normal rainfall accumulations (Figure 2). Towards the south, positive seasonal anomalies are beginning to increase in Liberia, Cote D’Ivoire, and Ghana. Central and eastern parts Nigeria depict slightly drier than average conditions. Significant increases in rain recently are beginning to erode 30-day deficits in Senegal. The delayed onset of rains led to degradation of vegetation health for these areas, while the rest of West Africa generally looks favorable.

Next week, models suggest another week of average to above-average rainfall throughout much of West Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>100 mm) are forecast for the far western countries as well as Nigeria. Torrential rains yielding over 200 mm for the week are possible in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

Rainfall deficits remain extensive across Ethiopia
While few parts of the East Africa region experienced heavy rainfall totals this past week, rains were generally well-distributed. A large portion of the region received at least 25 mm of rain with many regions receiving more than 50 mm (Figure 1). Rainfall was also beneficial for many dry portions of Uganda and neighboring portions of DRC.

Portions of Sudan, South Sudan and northern Ethiopia continue to experience above-average seasonal rainfall, displaying significant surpluses on both 30-day and 90-day timescales. August was a poor month of rainfall performance for Ethiopia. Parts of the SNNP, Gambela, and Oromia regions, as well as the Afar region and neighboring eastern Eritrea have received less than half of their normal rainfall since the beginning of July (Figure 2). In parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan, significant seasonal moisture deficits and poor ground conditions are evident according to remote sensing products.

Weather models suggest the potential for above-average rainfall during the next week in South Sudan, and Uganda. Near-average rain is expected elsewhere. A second consecutive week of near to above normal rainfall in Uganda may improve abnormally dry conditions and improve ongoing cropping activities there.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

**Temperatures**
Weekly temperatures averaged at or below-normal across much of the region. Minimum temperatures remained above 5°C across north-central Kazakhstan. Temperatures are forecast to remain at or below-normal through the beginning of September. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall below 5°C across northeast Kazakhstan, where patchy frost may occur.

**Precipitation**
A strong area of mid-level low pressure resulted in widespread, heavy rainfall (50 to 133 mm) across north-central Kazakhstan from August 19 - 25. Heavy rain was limited to northeast Pakistan. During the past 90 days, precipitation deficits range from 25 - 50 mm across northwest Kazakhstan.

Widespread rain (>25 mm) is forecast across northeast Kazakhstan during the next week. Only isolated thunderstorms are expected across northern Pakistan and adjacent areas of northeast Afghanistan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Insufficient rain since May has resulted in abnormal dryness throughout Hispaniola and drought in southern Haiti and northeastern Dominican Republic.

2. Extended dry spells and little rainfall have rapidly increased short-term deficits. Negative ground impacts are apparent in dry areas over western Nicaragua, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and central Guatemala.
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Uneven rainfall distribution continues
Last week, unevenly-distributed rainfall continued over Central America. Torrential rainfall was again received over northern and southwestern Guatemala, the western two-thirds of El Salvador, and the southern Caribbean, while little to light rainfall was registered throughout the interior of the region. Weekly rainfall totals were mostly below-average. Since the beginning of August, rainfall deficits have ranged between 100-200 mm over eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua. Moreover, since late May to present, below-average rainfall has affected northern Central America, with cumulative rainfall accounting for only between 25-50% of the average over the Gulf of Fonseca and localized areas of southern Honduras and north-central Nicaragua. Vegetation is stressed over many local areas of eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua. Agricultural losses and damaged crops have already been reported over many local areas due to droughts.

Next week, forecasts suggested limited and likely below-average rainfall over southeastern Honduras and central Nicaragua. This could strengthen rainfall deficits further. In contrast, torrential rain is expected to continue over southern Guatemala and parts of western El Salvador.

Areas of Hispaniola report dought conditions
Last week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was received over the Centre and L’Artibonite departments of central Haiti, western and northeastern Dominican Republic, while little rainfall was recorded elsewhere. Compared to climatology, this past week’s rainfall was below-average and contributed to maintaining thirty-day rainfall deficits over southwestern and northwestern Haiti and the eastern two-thirds of the Dominican Republic. In contrast, thirty-day rainfall surpluses persisted across central Haiti and neighboring western Dominican Republic. Over the long term, an analysis of seasonal rainfall performance has shown that large (> 100 mm) seasonal deficits prevailed over Hispaniola during the past ninety days. Areas such as northeastern and southwestern Dominican Republic accumulated less than 50% of their average rainfall.

Next week, a slight increase in rainfall is expected over Hispaniola. Heavy rainfall is forecast over Haiti, west-central and eastern Dominican Republic. However, little to light rainfall amounts are expected elsewhere.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS
Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.