

## **Africa Weather Hazards Assessment**

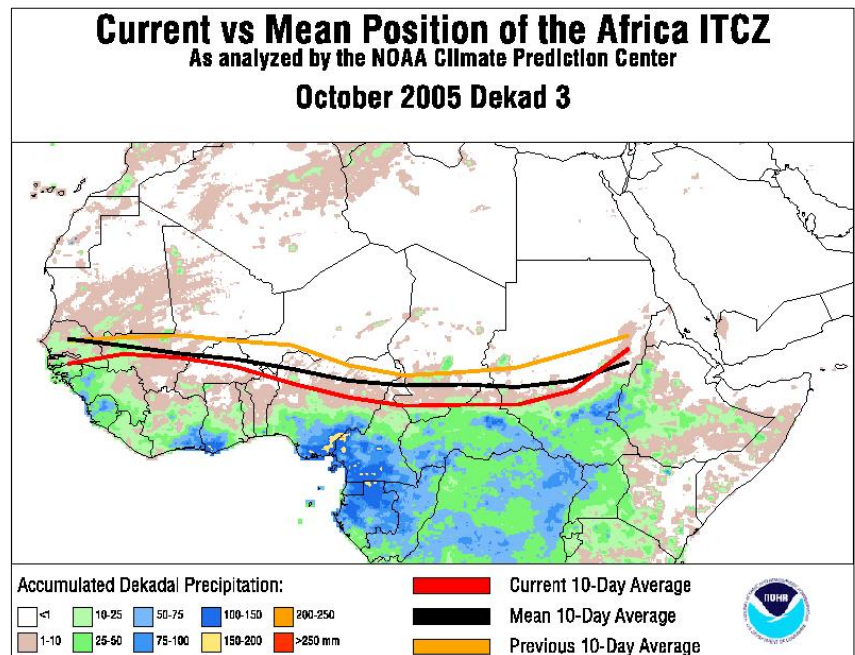
for

**November 10 - 16, 2005**

### ***Weekly Introduction:***

#### **Final Update of the African Intertropical Convergence Zone:**

This ITCZ analysis represents the final dekadal product of the season, though a seasonal summary will be available in mid-November. During the period from October 21-31, 2005, the African ITCZ was located near 11.8 degrees north latitude, when averaged from 15W-35E and over the entire 11-day period. This compares to a long term mean position of 12.4 degrees north, and a position during the same period last year of 11.8N. The ITCZ surged southward during the past two weeks, with the position jumping nearly two and a half degrees to the south during the last 11 days. Most of the precipitation has moved south of the Sahel, except for western zones such as Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, where abnormally heavy rains continue sporadically. In the western area, from 10W-10E, the latest position of the ITCZ was near 12.0N, compared to a long term mean of 12.9N and a position during the last dekad of 14.4N. In the east, from 20E-35E, the latest position of the ITCZ was around 10.7 degrees north, compared to a climatological mean of 11.4N and a position during the previous period of 11.6N. The updated information is available at: (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/feWS/ITCZ/itcz.html>).

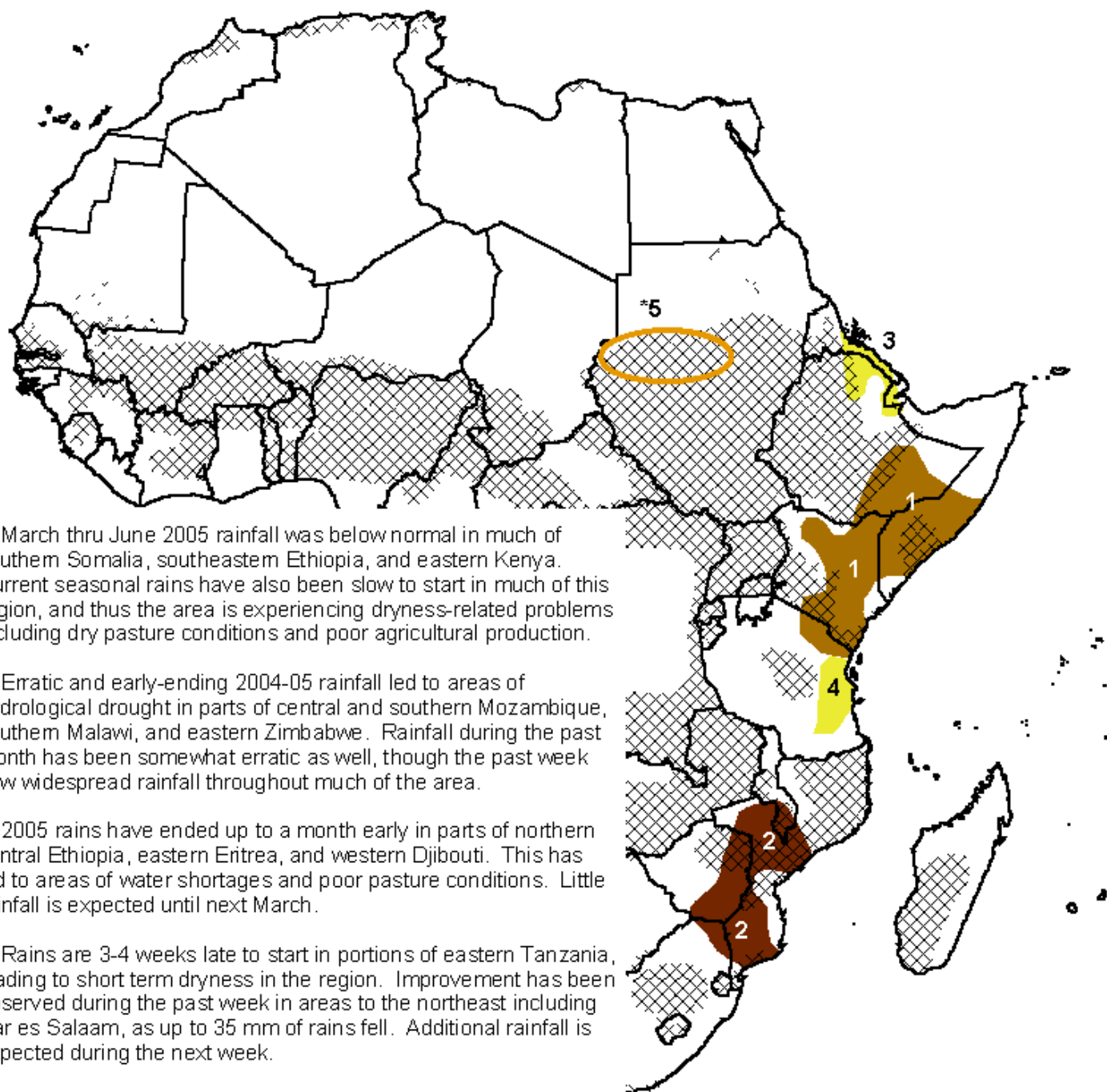


#### **Locust Update:**

The FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>) on November 3 indicated that small-scale breeding continues in a few places in western **Mauritania**, northern **Mali** and **Niger**, and southeast **Algeria**. Limited control operations were carried out in **Algeria** and **Niger**. They anticipate that locusts are expected to increase in northwest and northern **Mauritania** and in adjacent areas of **Western Sahara** where good rains fell in early October.

# Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

NOTE: Black hatched regions depict combined wheat, maize, sorghum, and millet crop zones which are active (sowing to harvest) during the current month. (from FAO)



1. March thru June 2005 rainfall was below normal in much of southern Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and eastern Kenya. Current seasonal rains have also been slow to start in much of this region, and thus the area is experiencing dryness-related problems including dry pasture conditions and poor agricultural production.

2. Erratic and early-ending 2004-05 rainfall led to areas of hydrological drought in parts of central and southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, and eastern Zimbabwe. Rainfall during the past month has been somewhat erratic as well, though the past week saw widespread rainfall throughout much of the area.

3. 2005 rains have ended up to a month early in parts of northern central Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, and western Djibouti. This has led to areas of water shortages and poor pasture conditions. Little rainfall is expected until next March.

4. Rains are 3-4 weeks late to start in portions of eastern Tanzania, leading to short term dryness in the region. Improvement has been observed during the past week in areas to the northeast including Dar es Salaam, as up to 35 mm of rains fell. Additional rainfall is expected during the next week.

\*5. Though late season rains in parts of central and western Sudan were erratic and early-ending, no severe dry season repercussions should occur. Rains have ended in the region and will not begin until next season.

**Valid: November 10 - 16, 2005**

## ***Weather Hazards Text Explanation:***

1. Gu rains in southern Somalia, as well as March – June rains in adjacent parts of Ethiopia and Kenya, were erratic and early to end during the previous season. This led to widespread areas of hydrological and agricultural problems including poor crop production, dry pasture conditions, and low drinking water levels. As a result, groups of people and their livestock have been relocating to areas of permanent water sources. To further complicate the situation, current seasonal rainfall in much of the affected region in the Horn is delayed by as much as five weeks and is erratic in nature. Latest meteorological forecasts do not indicate a good chance for moderate rainfall during the next week, though some light precipitation is expected.
2. 2004-05 seasonal rainfall totals were between 25-75 percent of normal in parts of southern Malawi, central and southern Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe and extreme northeastern South Africa. This led to widespread hydrological drought extending into the dry season. Current season rains have been slightly slow to start in the area, though rainfall has increased dramatically during the past week with the passage of a frontal system. These rains have generally removed most areas of short term dryness and have helped to decrease some of the extreme hot temperatures that were observed during the previous week. Another cold front should pass through the area during the early part of next week, bringing additional moisture to the region.
3. Seasonal rains in parts of north central Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, and Djibouti have been generally lighter than normal, leading to areas of short term dryness in the area. Pasture conditions in and around the Afar region do not show signs of extreme dryness, though some localized problems may exist. Agriculture to the west, near Weldiya in north central Ethiopia, has been stressed by the erratic late season rainfall, though crop production should be only slightly less than normal. Seasonal rainfall has likely ended in the region and therefore no additional increase of water supplies is expected until next year.
4. Abnormal dryness continues in much of eastern Tanzania due to seasonal rainfall delays of 3-4 weeks in the area. October rainfall totals were generally near zero for 2005, though long term monthly averages are closer to 25-40 mm. Precipitation is showing signs of increasing though, and up to 30 mm of rainfall was observed in northeastern portions of the country during the past week. Precipitation forecasts show overall dryness for much of the next week, though moisture may increase toward the end of the period.
- \*5. Seasonal rainfall in portions of Darfur and Kurdofoan in Sudan began slightly late, was followed by a generally wet season with excessive rains in some areas, and ended around a month earlier than normal. Due to the overall quantity of accumulated seasonal rainfall, well levels and general water availability should be sufficient to support the population during the dry season. The fact that rains ended up to five weeks early supports a hindered agricultural production, due to inadequate moisture availability during reproductive stages. The 2005 monsoonal season is now complete, and no additional precipitation is expected until the ITCZ accompanies rainfall into the region next year. On a good note, overland transportation routes are becoming more passable with the lack of rains, and thus humanitarian transports should have an easier time moving around the area.

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