

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

November 24 - 30, 2005

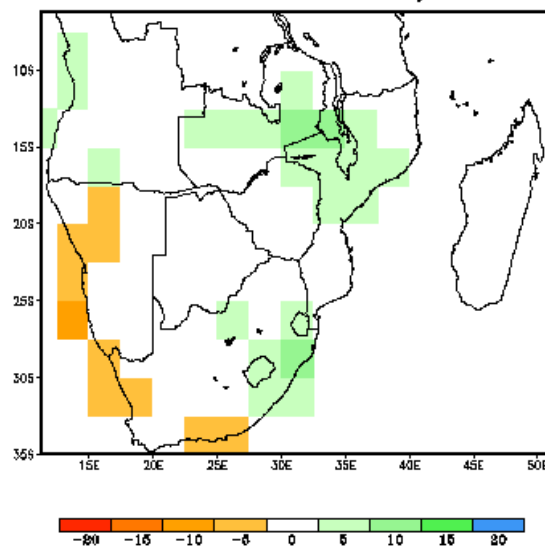
Weekly Introduction:

Update of Seasonal Outlooks at One Month Lead:

December 2005 – February 2006 Forecasts for Southern Africa:

The outlook for Dec-Feb 2005-2006 southern Africa rainfall at one month lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring slightly below average rainfall locally over northern Namibia and along the coast as well as along portions of the western and southern coasts of South Africa. There is a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall across central Zambia, the southern half of Malawi, portions of northern Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, the Kwazulu/Natal province of South Africa, and locally over southern Angola and along the coast.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
 Dec-Feb 2005-2006 S. Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead

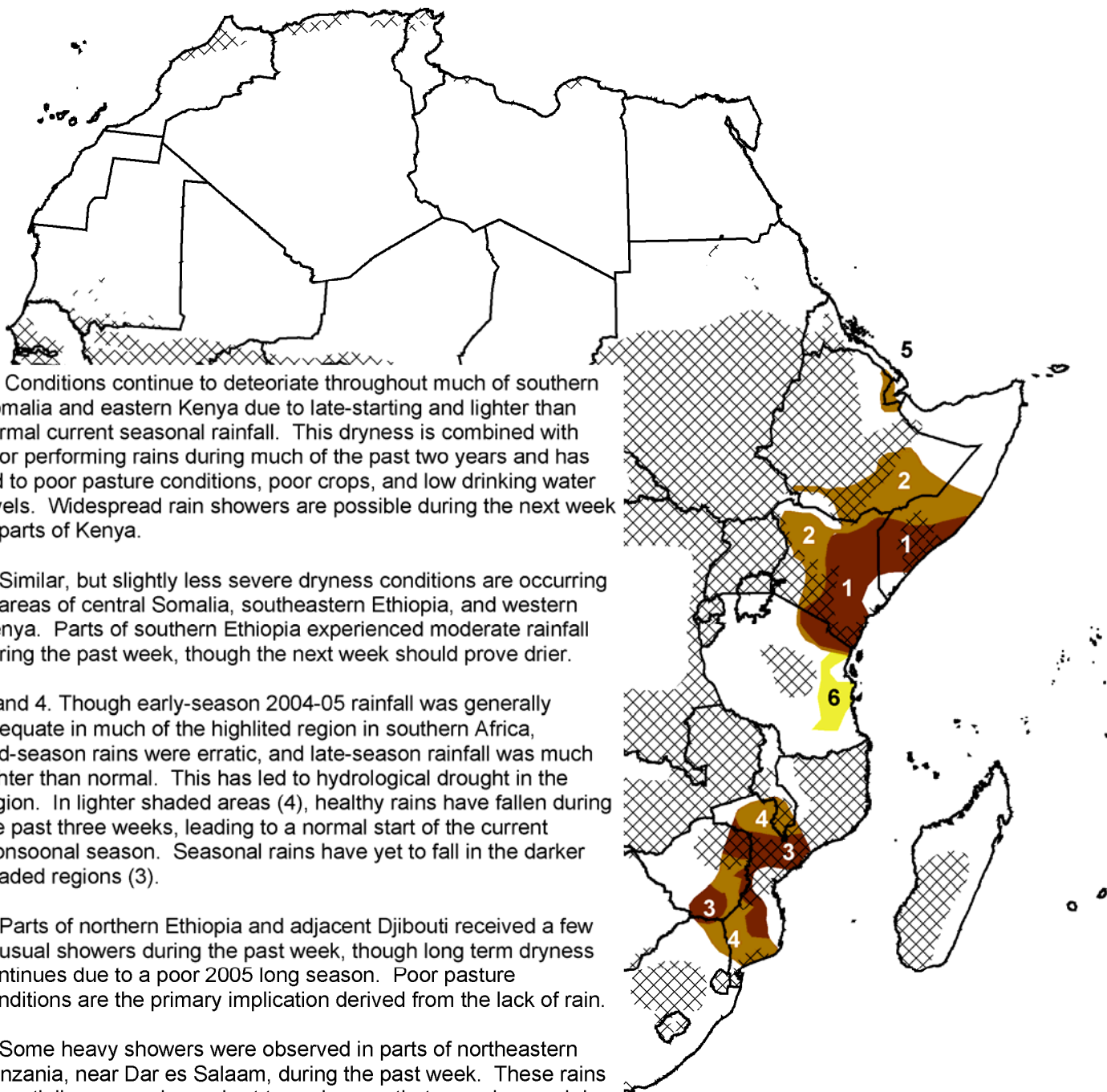


Update of Locust Situation:

The FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>) on November 16 reported that in West Africa, the situation remains calm. Small-scale breeding by scattered adults continues in western **Mauritania** and parts of southeast **Algeria**.

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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. Conditions continue to deteriorate throughout much of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya due to late-starting and lighter than normal current seasonal rainfall. This dryness is combined with poor performing rains during much of the past two years and has led to poor pasture conditions, poor crops, and low drinking water levels. Widespread rain showers are possible during the next week in parts of Kenya.

2. Similar, but slightly less severe dryness conditions are occurring in areas of central Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and western Kenya. Parts of southern Ethiopia experienced moderate rainfall during the past week, though the next week should prove drier.

3 and 4. Though early-season 2004-05 rainfall was generally adequate in much of the highlighted region in southern Africa, mid-season rains were erratic, and late-season rainfall was much lighter than normal. This has led to hydrological drought in the region. In lighter shaded areas (4), healthy rains have fallen during the past three weeks, leading to a normal start of the current monsoonal season. Seasonal rains have yet to fall in the darker shaded regions (3).

5. Parts of northern Ethiopia and adjacent Djibouti received a few unusual showers during the past week, though long term dryness continues due to a poor 2005 long season. Poor pasture conditions are the primary implication derived from the lack of rain.

6. Some heavy showers were observed in parts of northeastern Tanzania, near Dar es Salaam, during the past week. These rains essentially removed any short term dryness that was observed due to late starting 2005-06 long season rainfall. Areas to the south, however, continue to remain dry, with rains 2-6 weeks late to begin in some locations.

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1 Gu rains in southern Somalia, as well as March – June rains in adjacent Kenya were erratic and early to end during the previous season. This led to widespread areas of hydrological and agricultural drought 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. Current seasonal rains throughout much of the area have been erratic, lighter than normal, and very late to start. This will likely lead to water shortages, severely dry pasture conditions, and areas of failed crops between now and the beginning of 2006 rains. Current meteorological forecasts are indicating a good chance for substantial precipitation during the next week, especially in central and eastern Kenya. If these rains do not materialize during the next week, severe seasonal repercussions will result.

2. Associated with area #1, regions of southern and southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and much of Kenya are plagued by a similar current-season lack of rainfall. Though much of this area did not experience the severe 2 year drought that was observed to the southeast, the past March – June rains were much lighter than normal. Current seasonal dryness is negatively affecting pastures and agriculture in the region, though last week saw increased moisture to parts of southern Ethiopia. Dryness was observed throughout the remainder of the hazard area, and little rainfall is forecast during the next week.

3. Long term drought due to erratic and early ending 2004-05 seasonal rains occurred throughout the hazard regions labeled (3) and (4). 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. In hazard region (3), current seasonal rains have been slow to start and pockets of short term dryness coexist with areas of longer term drought. On a good note, rains are currently falling in much of this region, and a cold front will likely pass thru the area during the later half of the week, bringing widespread rainfall to the area.

4. Long term drought due to erratic and early ending 2004-05 seasonal rains occurred throughout the hazard regions labeled (3) and (4). 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. In hazard region (4), the current rainy season is off to a near normal start, with rains falling during the past three weeks and moisture continuing to increase. Rains are being observed at this time over much of the region and seven day precipitation forecasts continue to be optimistic.

5. Seasonal rains in parts of north central Ethiopia and Djibouti were much less than normal, leading to areas localized pastoral dryness in the area. The situation is particularly worrisome, since moderate dryness at the current time will evolve into severe pastoral and water resource issues during later portions of the dry season. Pasture conditions in and around the Afar region do not show signs of extreme dryness, though some localized problems exist eastward into much of Djibouti. Seasonal rainfall has likely ended in the region, however, light showers were observed in the region during the past week. Dryness should dominate the next week, with no rain expected throughout the region.

5. Abnormal dryness continues in much of eastern Tanzania due to seasonal rainfall delays of 2-6 weeks in the area. October rainfall totals were generally near zero for 2005, though long term monthly averages are closer to 25-40 mm. The last week saw an area of heavy thunderstorms push thru the northern portion of the hazard region, with 7-day totals exceeding 50 mm in some locations. Areas in the north that did not receive this unusually heavy rainfall are likely suffering from moderate short term dryness and delayed crop plantings. While dryness was observed elsewhere, latest meteorological forecast models indicate a chance for widespread light showers during the next week.

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