

# Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

**May 25 - 31, 2006**

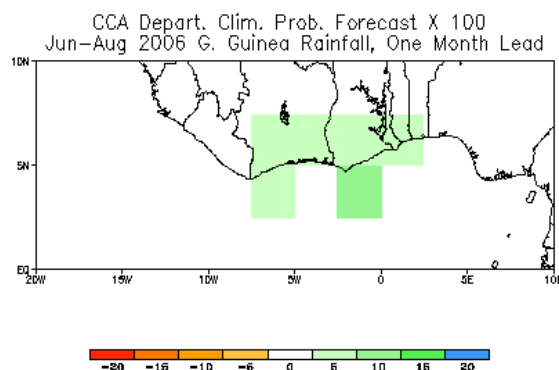
## *Weekly Introduction:*

### Update of CPC Seasonal Outlooks at One Month Lead:

#### June-August 2006 Forecasts:

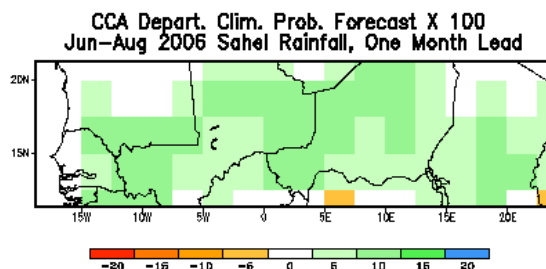
##### **Gulf of Guinea Region:**

There is slight tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall along the Guinean coast from Cote d'Ivoire to Benin.



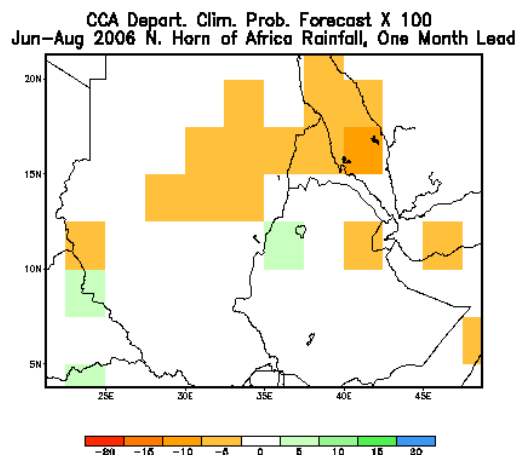
##### **Sahel:**

There is a low to moderate tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall across most of the Sahel. Normal conditions are expected locally over portions of southern Mali, and southern and northern Burkina Faso.



##### **Northern Horn of Africa:**

The forecast calls for a slight tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall across east central Sudan, northern Eritrea, and locally over western Djibouti and northern Ethiopia. There is slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall locally over northwestern Ethiopia.



# Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1) Drought continues in central Kenya and portions of central Somalia. Little relief occurred during the past week.

2) Dryness is observed in much of Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and Somalia due to recent lack of rainfall. Dryness is forecast for the next week.

3) Continued lack of rainfall during the past few weeks has led to short term dryness in northern Somalia.

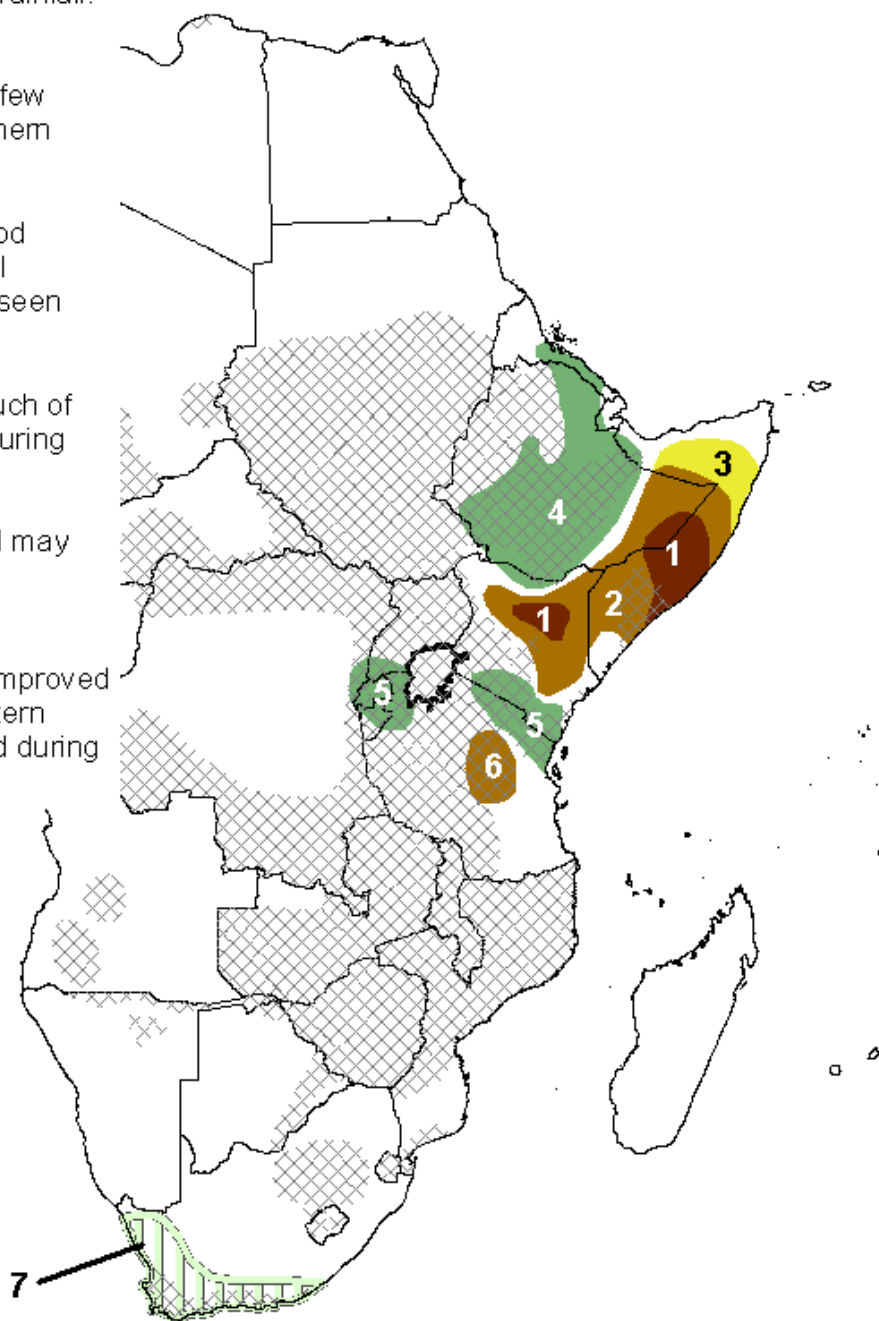
4) Favorable seasonal rainfall has led to good water resource conditions in much of central Ethiopia, though some western areas have seen erratic precipitation.

5) Healthy rains have benefitted crops in much of southern Kenya and west of Lake Victoria during the past few weeks.

6) Late starting and thereafter erratic rainfall may have caused crop reductions in portions of northeastern Tanzania.

7) Rainfall during the past seven days has improved moisture conditions in many regions of western South Africa. Dryness is generally expected during the next week however.

*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)*



**Valid: May 25 - 31, 2006**

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

1. Long term drought continues in much of central Kenya due to a failed rainy season in 2005 and erratic rainfall thereafter. Though much of this area has improved during the past few weeks, the precipitation continues to fall just outside of the area experiencing the most difficult conditions. Little rainfall is expected in the region during the next week. In southern and central Somalia, similar conditions exist, though recent rainfall has been more widespread and has affected the area to a more positive degree during the past weeks. Little rainfall is expected in the region during the next week. In both areas, large areas of failed crops and very poor pasture conditions have negatively affected livelihoods in the region. Drinking water levels remain locally severe, though recent rains have led to improvement during the past month.
2. Poor rains during the 2005 short rainy season resulted in drought development across Kenya, Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania. In some areas, this was in addition to previous poor rainy seasons. The poor short rainy season resulted in crop losses, degradation of pastures and low water supplies. Much of the negatively affected region had received beneficial rains during the past weeks, and this has led to much improved conditions in many areas, though little precipitation has fallen during the past few days. However, portions of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia continue to be dry, as rains have not yet begun in earnest. Lasting dry-season implications are likely, including poor pasture conditions and reduced water availability.
3. Rains have been erratic and late to start in parts of northern Somalia, including Sanaag and Sool regions. This has led to areas of short term dryness in the region, though some precipitation is expected during the next week. Poor pasture conditions are the primary implication from this lack of rainfall.
4. Positive agricultural and hydrological conditions exist throughout much of Ethiopia due to a great start to the 2006 rainy season. Since the beginning of February, accumulated rainfall is running from 120-400 percent of normal, with only a couple pockets of slight dryness within the highlighted area. Rainfall during the past week has been moderate in many higher elevations, and additional rains are expected during the forecast week, especially in the west. Some areas of western Ethiopia continue to see negative rainfall anomalies and drier than normal conditions.
5. Moderate seasonal rains have fallen during the past months in areas of southeastern Kenya, northeastern Tanzania, and in regions west and southwest of Lake Victoria. Seasonal precipitation totals are mainly greater than 90% of normal in the region, and additional rainfall is expected during the next week. Drinking water levels are normal, and crop and pasture conditions are favorable for the most part.
6. Areas of extended dryness are evident locally in central Tanzania due to a late start to the current rainy season and a normal end. Crops may not have been provided with adequate moisture for their life cycle and therefore some losses and reduced harvests are likely. Rains should not resume until next season.
7. Recent rainfall with weekly accumulations exceeding 50 mm in many locations has fallen in portions of southwestern South Africa, leading to favorable moisture conditions and replenished water supplies in the area. Much of this region has observed poor performing rains for parts of the recent two rainy seasons, and water shortages have been reported. The latest rainfall activity is a favorable sign for the current seasonal progression.

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