

Africa Weather Hazards Benefits Assessment

for

June 29, 2006 – July 5, 2006

Weekly Introduction:

Update of CPC Seasonal Outlooks at Four-Months Lead: October-December 2006 Forecasts

East Africa

The outlook for Oct-Dec 2006 East Africa rainfall at four months lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall over northern and western Uganda, and locally over northwestern and eastern Kenya.

Northern Horn of Africa

For the Northern Horn of Africa the outlook indicates a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall locally over southern Sudan and western Ethiopia.

Southern Africa

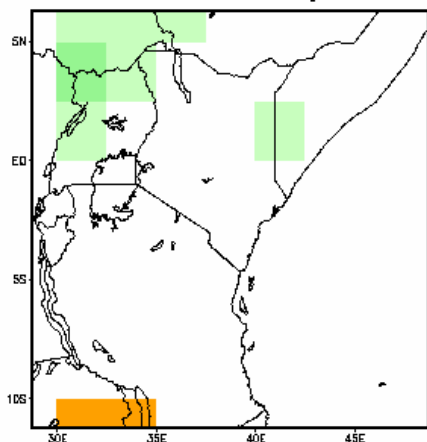
There is a tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall over northern Zambia and locally over southeastern Madagascar. There is a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall over northern Mozambique, along the coast, and locally in the southern areas of the country.

New Location for Shapefiles:

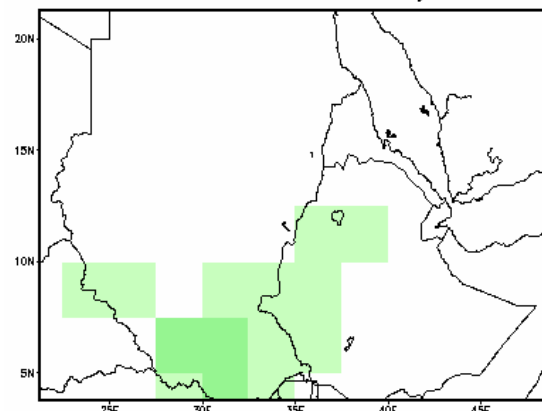
Hazard area shapefiles will no longer be distributed through e-mail. Instead, they will be placed on the CPC anonymous FTP server. The location for the Africa Hazards will be:

ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/fews/weather_hazards/africa/.

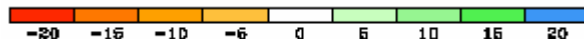
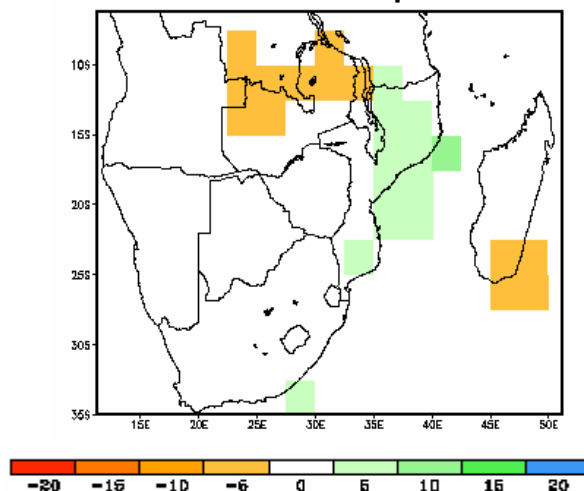
**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Oct-Dec 2006 East Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead**



**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Oct-Dec 2006 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, 4 Months Lead**



**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Oct-Dec 2006 S. Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead**



Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1) Agriculture, pasture, and drinking water availability in a large portion of Kenya has suffered as a result of multiple poor wet seasons. The next chance for improvement will be in October.

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)

2) June-September 2005 season was only slightly improved by the February-May 2006 rains in central Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. In some areas unseasonable rainfall has resulted in unexpected improvement.

3) The delayed start of season in northeast Tanzania has resulted in a reduction of crop yields.

4) Some areas in Tigray, North Wello and South Wello have seen their deficits slightly improved over the last week. Further improvement is possible during the coming period.

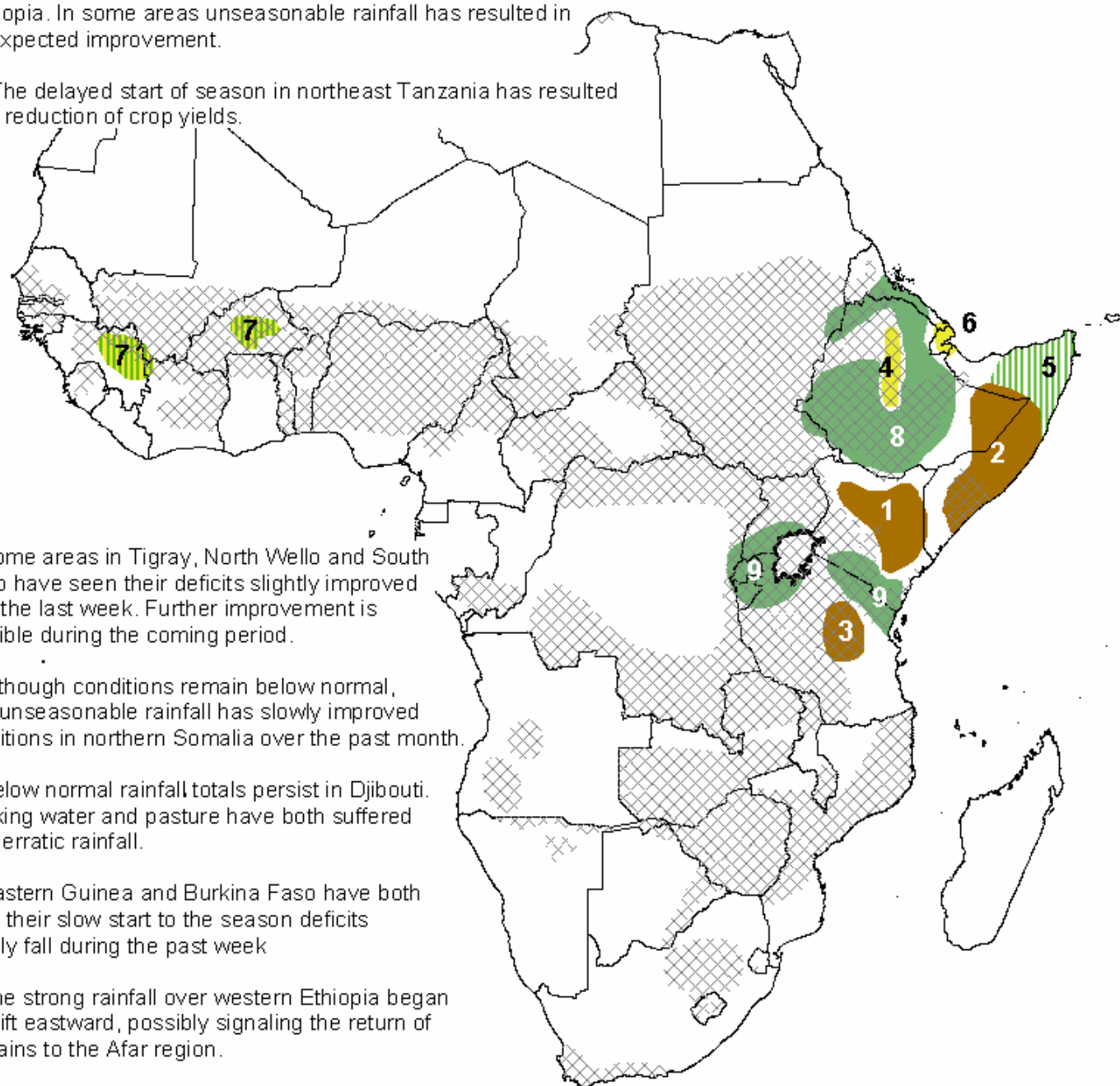
5) Although conditions remain below normal, light unseasonable rainfall has slowly improved conditions in northern Somalia over the past month.

6) Below normal rainfall totals persist in Djibouti. Drinking water and pasture have both suffered from erratic rainfall.

7) Eastern Guinea and Burkina Faso have both seen their slow start to the season deficits rapidly fall during the past week

8) The strong rainfall over western Ethiopia began to shift eastward, possibly signaling the return of the rains to the Afar region.

9) Along the Tanzania-Kenya border, as well as to the west of Lake Victoria steady rainfall during the long rains has improved conditions significantly after the dismal short rains.



Valid: June 29 - July 5, 2006

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. Conditions in central Kenya are terrible as a result of the failure of the 2005 short rainy season, and the horrible October 2005 – May 2006 rains that followed. Almost no rainfall during the 2005 short rains and there was less than 50 percent of normal precipitation during the March to May rains. The one exception is the month of April when widespread heavy rains caused localized flooding. The dry season has now set in offering no hope of increasing water resources or improving pasture land until October. Seasonably dry conditions are expected during the coming period.
2. Poor March – May rains occurred in central Somalia and eastern Ethiopia following, in some areas, a poor long rainy season in 2005. From March to May most of the area received about half its normal rainfall, but most of that rain fell in April. The strong rains during April produced normal conditions, but March and May each saw as little as 10 percent of normal precipitation. Water available for drinking, pastures and crops have all suffered as a result of these light and erratic rains. Conditions are less severe in the south, near the Juba and Shebeli Rivers, however conditions are not ideal and crop pests have taken advantage of the erratic rains. Unseasonable rainfall has continued to bring relief to parts of the affected area. These unusual rains may continue into the coming week in isolated locations.
3. A delayed start to the season has reduced crop yields in northeastern Tanzania. The slow start of the season left some crops in the area immature when the rains ended on time. These impacts are not universal, some areas managed to catch up once the rains fell steadily.
4. Unseasonable rains have continued to favor northern Somalia, after their brief wet season saw below normal rainfall. Conditions are not better than normal, but they have improved significantly over the last month. These rains may continue into the coming period.
5. Short term dryness in the northern Ethiopian highlands continued to see some relief during the past week. Rainfall has reduced the small deficits in North Shewa and East Shewa, but South Tigray, North Wello and South Wello saw dry conditions during the previous period. The small deficits could have an impact on agriculture if they continue to rise, however the rains do appear to be returning to the area on time.
6. Light rains have eased the dry conditions in Djibouti, however moisture deficits remain. Additional rain will need to fall to provide substantial relief to the area that has seen half of normal precipitation during the current season. Light showers, similar to last period are possible during the coming week.
7. The slow start to the season in central Burkina Faso and eastern Guinea has been followed by strong rains fall during the last week. This has reduced the rainfall deficits that have slowly been growing since the wet season started in the area. Tropical waves have been passing through the area regularly, but have been doing so at night, when their capacity for producing rainfall is at its weakest. Continued improvement is likely in Guinea, but less rainfall is expected in Burkina Faso during the coming week.
8. The 2006 Belg season saw normal to above normal rainfall throughout most of Ethiopia. These good conditions extend into the Afar region and into Eritrea, both of which saw unusual rainfall during the month of April. 120 to 400 percent of normal precipitation is common throughout the region. This excess moisture has allowed for an ample amount of water for drinking, pastures and crops. Rainfall during the past week remains concentrated over the western and southern highlands, as is normal this time of year. There have been signs, however, that the rains are moving to the east towards eastern Tigray and Wello. If this is the case, then the rains are returning to the area on time.
9. West of Lake Victoria and along the Tanzania-Kenya border conditions are vastly better than they were during the 2005 short rainy season. The above average crop conditions have allowed for improved pastures, crops and drinking water throughout the area.

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