

Africa Weather Hazards Benefits Assessment

for

August 24 - 30, 2006

Weekly Introduction:

**Update of CPC Seasonal Outlooks at One-Month Lead:
 September - November 2006 Forecasts**

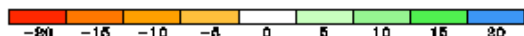
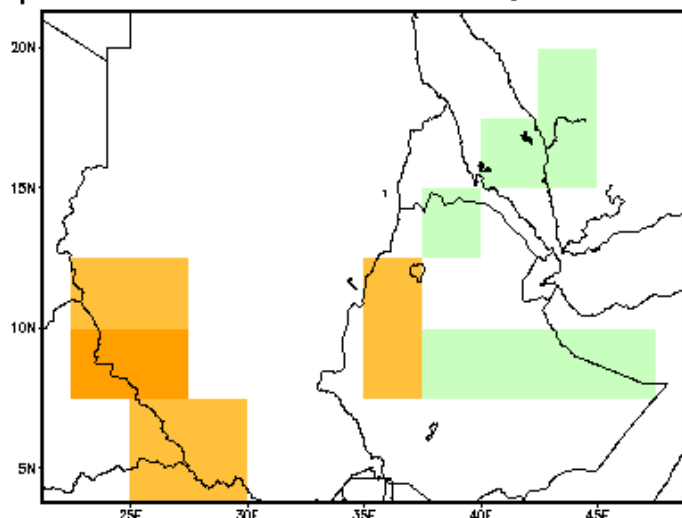
East Africa

Climatology is expected across the domain, except, locally, over eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, and west central Uganda where there is a slight tilt in the odds toward above normal rainfall.

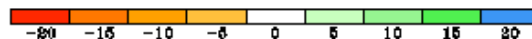
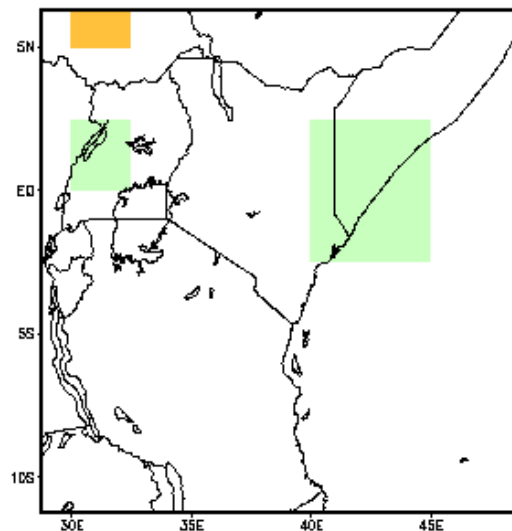
Northern Horn of Africa

There is a tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall along the western border of Sudan from southern Darfur onto Uganda. There is also a slight tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall over portions of western Ethiopia. Areas with slight tilt in the odds favoring enhanced rainfall include local areas in central, eastern, and northern Ethiopia.

**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
 Sep–Nov 2006 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead**



**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
 Sep–Nov 2006 East Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead**



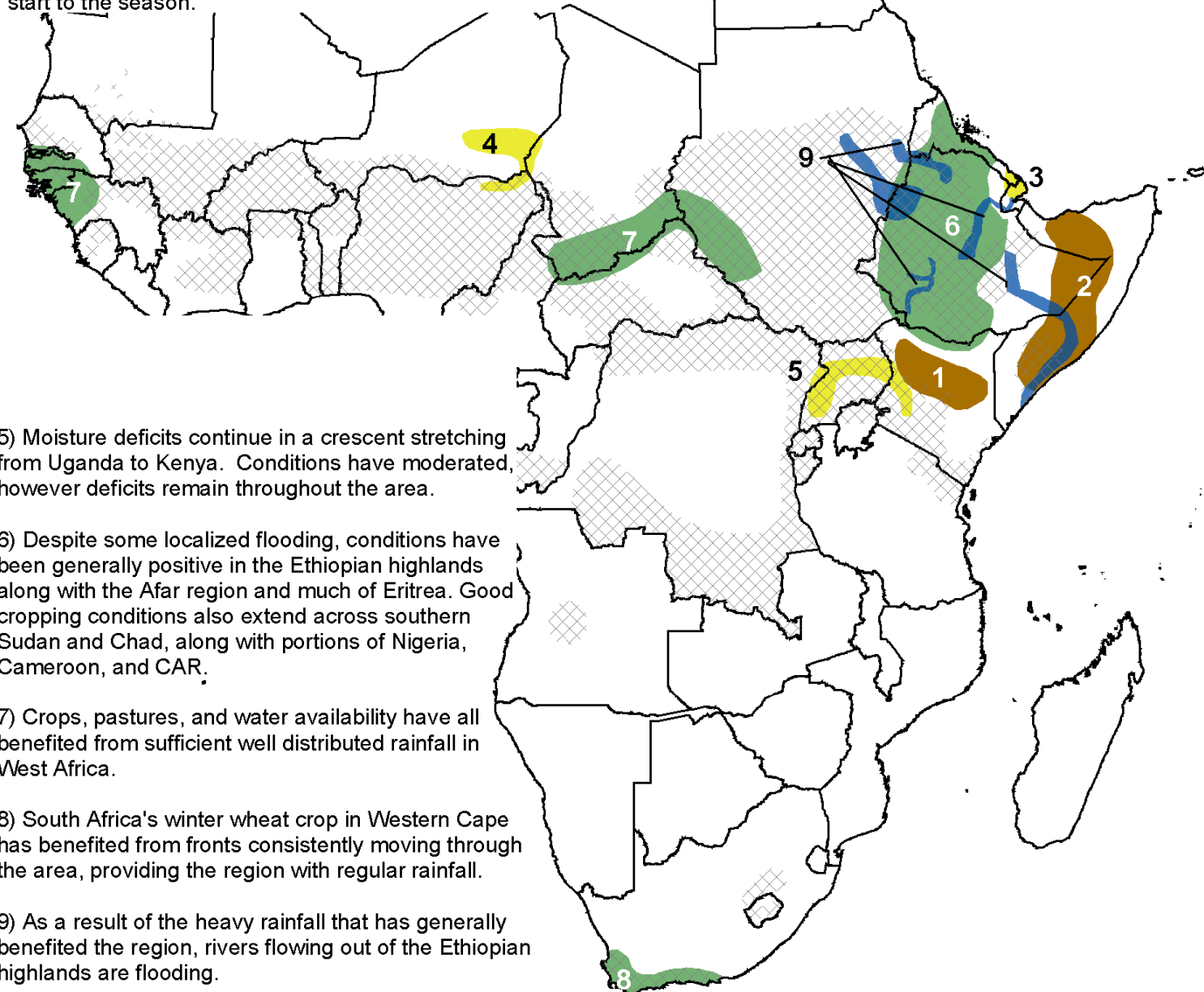
Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1) Several consecutive poor dry seasons have left central Kenya with significant rainfall deficits. Rainfall typically moves into the area in October.

2) Very slow improvement continues over northern Somalia and Ethiopia's Somali region. Seasonably dry conditions continue in the south.

3) Conditions have improved in Djibouti as a result of near normal precipitation in most of the country. Slightly dry conditions continue in the north.

4) Small moisture deficits in eastern Niger have mildly stressed pastures in the area. This attributed to a slow start to the season.



5) Moisture deficits continue in a crescent stretching from Uganda to Kenya. Conditions have moderated, however deficits remain throughout the area.

6) Despite some localized flooding, conditions have been generally positive in the Ethiopian highlands along with the Afar region and much of Eritrea. Good cropping conditions also extend across southern Sudan and Chad, along with portions of Nigeria, Cameroon, and CAR.

7) Crops, pastures, and water availability have all benefited from sufficient well distributed rainfall in West Africa.

8) South Africa's winter wheat crop in Western Cape has benefited from fronts consistently moving through the area, providing the region with regular rainfall.

9) As a result of the heavy rainfall that has generally benefited the region, rivers flowing out of the Ethiopian highlands are flooding.

Valid: August 24 - 30, 2006

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. In Kenya, the failure of the 2005 short rains was followed by less than 50 percent of normal precipitation during the March to May rains. During the March to May rains the majority of the precipitation fell in April when widespread heavy rains caused localized flooding. The poorly distributed rainfall immediately following a failed season has devastated the region by starving crops of moisture, sharply reduced available pasture, and depleted available drinking water throughout the area. Conditions remain seasonably dry. Rain should return to the area in October.
2. Sections of Somalia and the Somali region of Ethiopia are experiencing an ongoing drought. The failure of the 2005 long rains, and the poorly distributed March-May short rains have reduced moisture available for crops, livestock and drinking. Seasonably dry conditions continue in the south, and seasonal light precipitation has improved conditions in Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Significant rainfall, however, does not normally return to the area until October.
3. Slow improvement continues in Djibouti, where conditions this year are significantly better than last years dry conditions. Rainfall is still below normal in the northern and northwestern portions of the country. The moisture deficits, however, are much less significant, and are slowly being reduced.
4. Conditions are slightly drier than normal in southeastern Niger. Recent steady rainfall has reduced earlier deficits that resulted from a slow start to the season. The impacts of the dryness were mild, but may have stress some pastures in the area, as well as crops in a small area in northern Nigeria. Regular heavy rainfall has also eliminated any significant requirements. Further improvements will likely result in the removal of this polygon.
5. Sections of Kenya and Uganda experienced erratic rainfall during the month of June. This was during a critical point in crop development, before crops were mature. Minor precipitation deficits began to accrue during this time, but it wasn't until the middle of July that rainfall became significantly lighter. By the end of July rainfall had increased in intensity, mainly focused in Uganda. As a result of this timing, the impacts were focused only on maize and sorghum that had not yet reached maturity. In Uganda precipitation continues to run about 80 percent of normal, while Kenya is slightly drier at about 70 percent of normal precipitation.
6. Ethiopia's Meher producing regions have experienced a good cropping season, with sufficient pasture and drinking water. Afar, Tigray, Ahmara, Beneshangul Gumuz, SSNPR, Gambella, and western areas of Oromiya have all received above normal precipitation favoring a good harvest. Many areas of Eritrea have also benefited from the plentiful rains in the area. Despite the overall good conditions, there have been isolated events that have caused deaths, as well as damaged crops in the area. Hail, localized flash flooding, urban flooding, as well as rivers overflowing their banks due to excessive rainfall have negatively impacted some locations scattered around Ethiopia. Rainfall is expected to continue throughout the area, potentially causing flooding locally, but generally benefiting crops and pastures in the region.
7. Parts of Senegal, Guinea and Guinea Bissau have experienced a good season. Similar conditions can be found in southern Chad and southwestern Sudan. Continuous rainfall that has been evenly distributed has benefited crops, pastures and the availability of drinking water. Precipitation is expected to continue through the coming period.
8. The crop growing areas of Western Cape in South Africa has seen fronts move through the area throughout the season. This has brought regular rainfall to the area, giving ideal crop conditions to the region. Similar conditions are expected during the coming week.
9. As a result of excessive rainfall that has greatly helped Ethiopia and Eritrea, some localized flooding is a possibility during the coming period. Rivers such as the Blue Nile, the Omo and other rivers whose basins are largely in the Ethiopian highlands are the most at risk. With rainfall unlikely to relent during the coming week rivers throughout the region will continue to rise, potentially bursting their banks in isolated locations. The Shebele river, while it does typically flood, does not usually this early in the season. It appears, however, that the heavy rains in the Ahmar mountains, it is possible that the river may flood during the coming period.

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