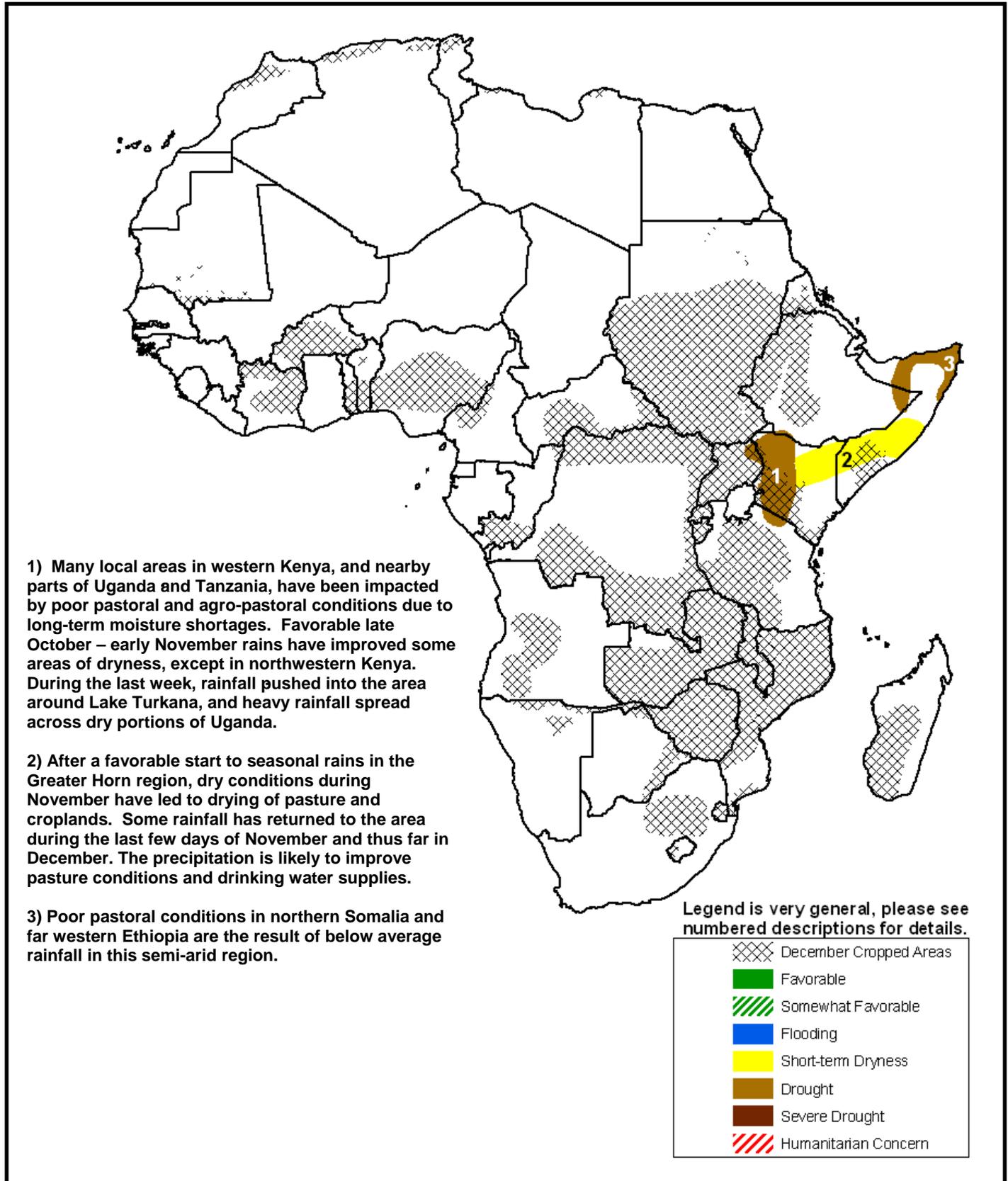


- Tropical Cyclone Cleo has recurved and is no longer considered a threat to Madagascar.
- Precipitation continues to fall across Kenya and southern Somalia, reversing the dry trend from November.



Rains continue to bring some relief to the east, some areas replanted

More than three weeks of improved rains are unlikely to completely reverse the damage caused by a dry November. Precipitation in October was abundant across southern Somalia and most of Kenya. However, a 2 – 3 week dry period across the region wilted crops, reduced water available for drinking and pastures (Figure 1). Although the impacts are far from uniform, many areas experienced harsh conditions during November.

During the last few days of November moisture returned to the area and the rainfall has persisted into mid-December. This relief is providing an increased amount of drinking water and is helping to revive pasture lands. In response to the improved conditions fields are being replanted in Makueni, Machakos, Taita Taveta, Kitui and Mwingi.

The increase in rainfall has not been beneficial everywhere. In the highland areas of Ethiopia, where the current rains are unseasonable, the precipitation could damage crops that are ready for harvest or have already been harvested.

The forecast for the coming week remains optimistic, although not as wet as the past several weeks.

Southern season progressing nearly normally

With the arrival of rainfall in central Mozambique during the last two weeks, most parts of southern Africa are progressing near normally. Parts of Tanzania, and northern Mozambique are still slightly behind, however moisture has been on the increase since the beginning of December. Also remaining slightly dry are the semi-arid portions of southwestern Angola.

Regionally, however, rainfall has been well distributed and arrived at or near the normal start to the season. Rainfall has only occasionally been excessive causing some minor flooding in low lying areas, scattered across the region. This has allowed for crops, pastures and drinking water supplies to begin the season with a positive outlook.

Tropical Cyclone Cleo recurses, no longer a threat

Tropical Cyclone Cleo formed just to the southeast of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. It tracked off to the west and briefly attained substantial strength. (Figure 3)

Cleo, turned south well to the east of Madagascar, and at most the impacts on the island were limited to some rough surf along the east coast.

A very weak Cyclone Cleo impacted Mauritius December 14th and 15th.

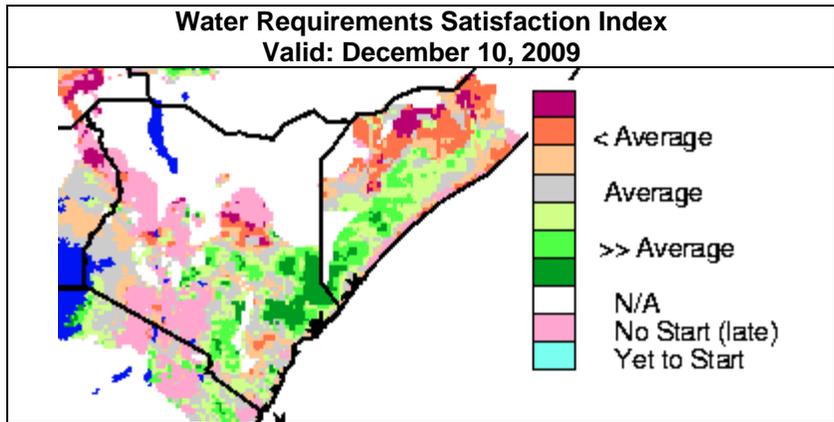


Figure 1: USGS

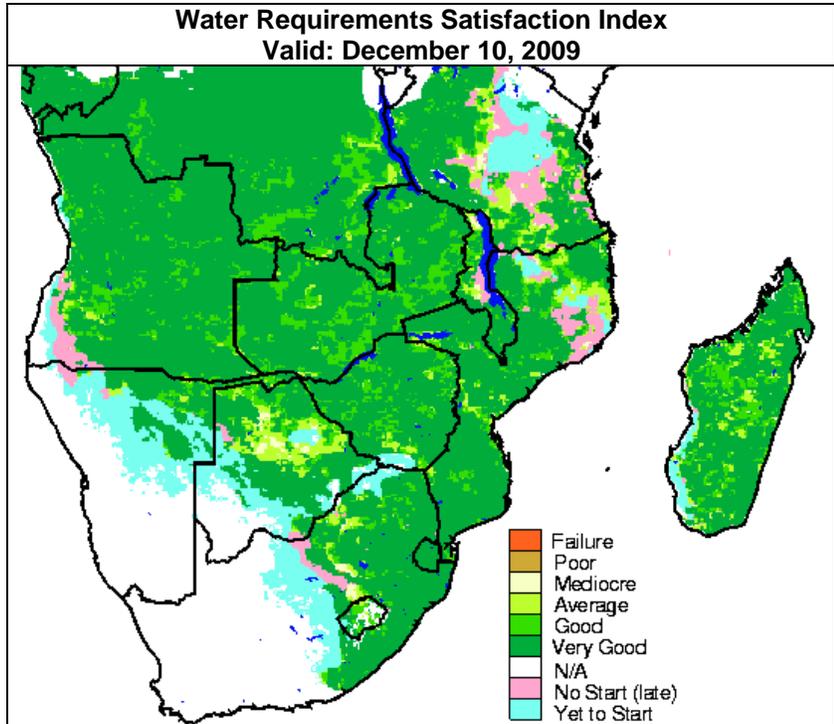


Figure 2: USGS

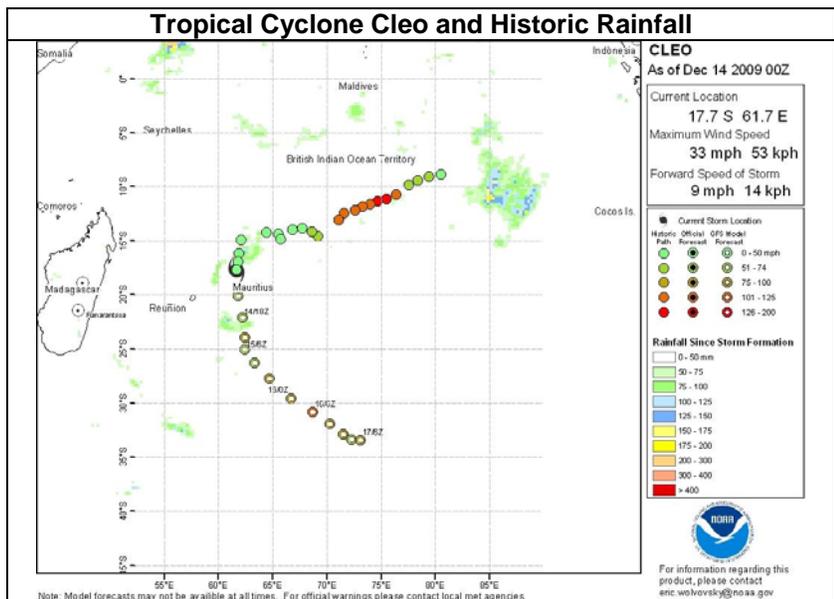


Figure 3: NOAA CPC

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