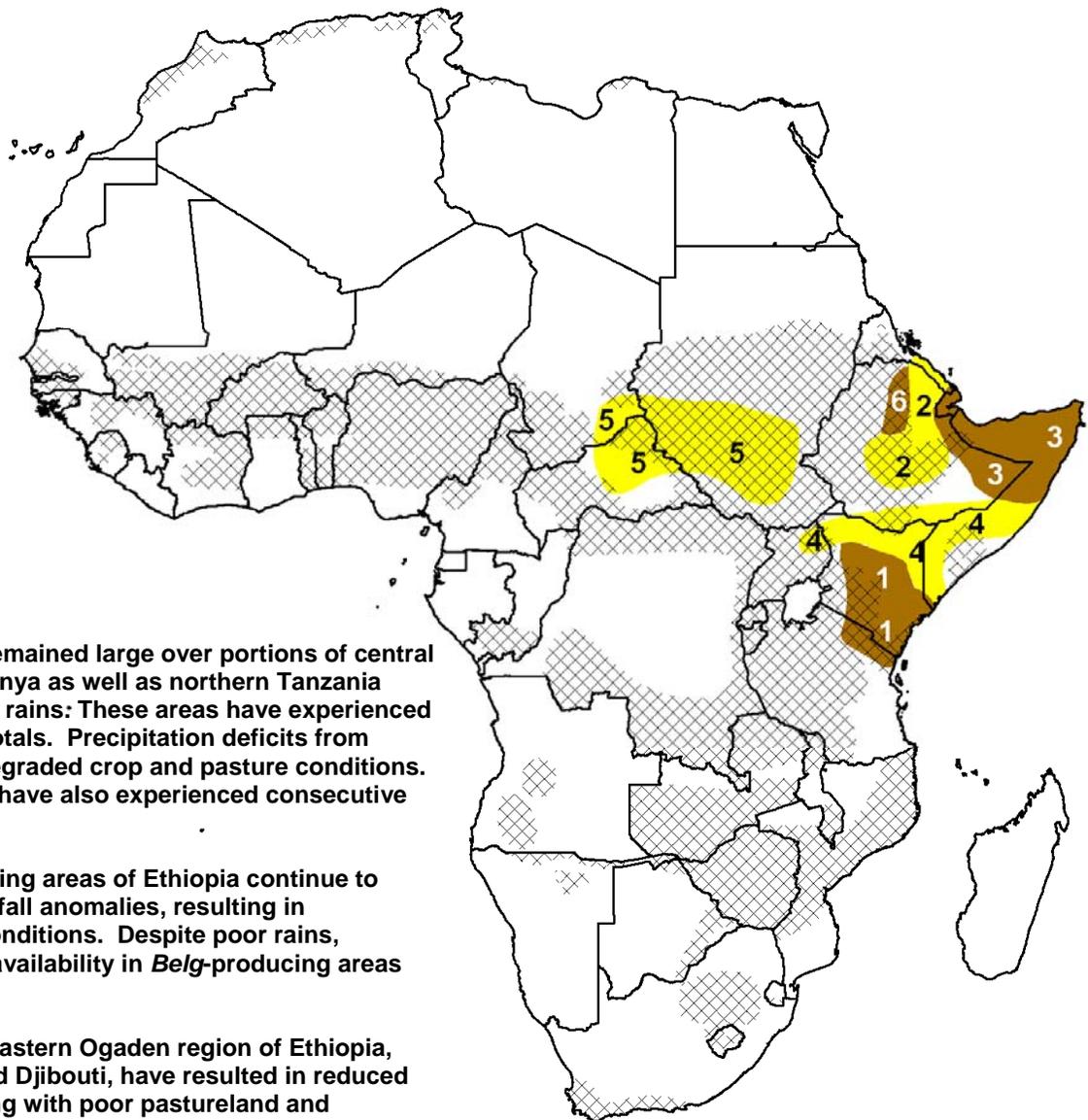


- Precipitation continues to be suppressed across much of the Belg-producing areas in Ethiopia.
- Moisture has been suppressed in portions of Kenya and Somalia, reducing water availability.
- Early season rainfall deficits have continued to grow in areas of Sudan, CAR, and to a lesser extent areas further west.



1) Rainfall deficits remained large over portions of central and southeastern Kenya as well as northern Tanzania throughout the short rains: These areas have experienced poor seasonal rain totals. Precipitation deficits from March - May likely degraded crop and pasture conditions. Many of these areas have also experienced consecutive failed rainy seasons.

2) Many *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia continue to experience poor rainfall anomalies, resulting in deteriorating crop conditions. Despite poor rains, livestock and water availability in *Belg*-producing areas are good.

3) Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia and Djibouti, have resulted in reduced water resources along with poor pastureland and livestock conditions.

4) Precipitation continues to be suppressed in the Mander Triangle and nearby areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia as well as northeastern Uganda.

5) More than a month of low rainfall totals is leading to early season dryness concerns in southern Sudan. During the last few weeks similar conditions have spread into the Central African Republic and Chad.

6) Northern *Belg*-producing areas experienced drier conditions than areas further south. Water availability is poor and pastures have been degraded.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Dryness starting to appear in more locations from Sudan to Nigeria

Rainfall began being suppressed during May in Sudan. That dryness spread, in late May, to the Central African Republic and Chad. Moisture deficits are now beginning to appear in northern Cameroon, northern Nigeria and southern Niger. (Figure 1)

Although it is early in the season, several outlooks, based on sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, show the odds favoring suppressed rainfall across much of the Sahel this season.

The outlooks have for several months, shown a much larger region experiencing dryness than has been observed thus far. For the most part areas to the west of Niger have received normal to above normal precipitation thus far in the season. Similar to the more eastern areas, this is still very early in the season and there is potential for conditions to change. However, the current trend is potentially having an impact on crops. (Figure 2)

Early reports from the Niger Met Office have indicated some early season dryness. Moisture deficits in other areas have been indicated by satellite based products.

Growing seasons come to a close in much of East Africa

With the growing season coming to a close, most of East Africa has experienced mild to moderate dryness. The following areas closed out their growing seasons with mild moisture deficits: most of the Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia, most of Eritrea, much of southern Somalia, far northern and far eastern Kenya, and northeastern Uganda. Those areas experiencing moderate dryness include: the northern Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia, Djibouti, northern and central Somalia, eastern Somalia region of Ethiopia, and central and southern Kenya. (Figure 3)

The below-average, and in some areas much below-average, precipitation has had a negative impact on crops. Early reports from Chemonics in Uganda indicate a potential reduction in harvests in Barabili, Bobi, Paranga, Gulu, Ongoko, Unyama, Barogal and Minakulu. Similar reports are likely from other countries in the region.

One area that has maintained a reasonable season is southwestern Ethiopia. Precipitation in this area was well distributed and above-average. Heavy rainfall along the coast of Kenya has triggered localized flooding. This is not expected to bring drought relief to the area.

Rainfall typically returns to the affected parts of Kenya, and Somalia in October. Western Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti typically continue to experience rain through October.

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