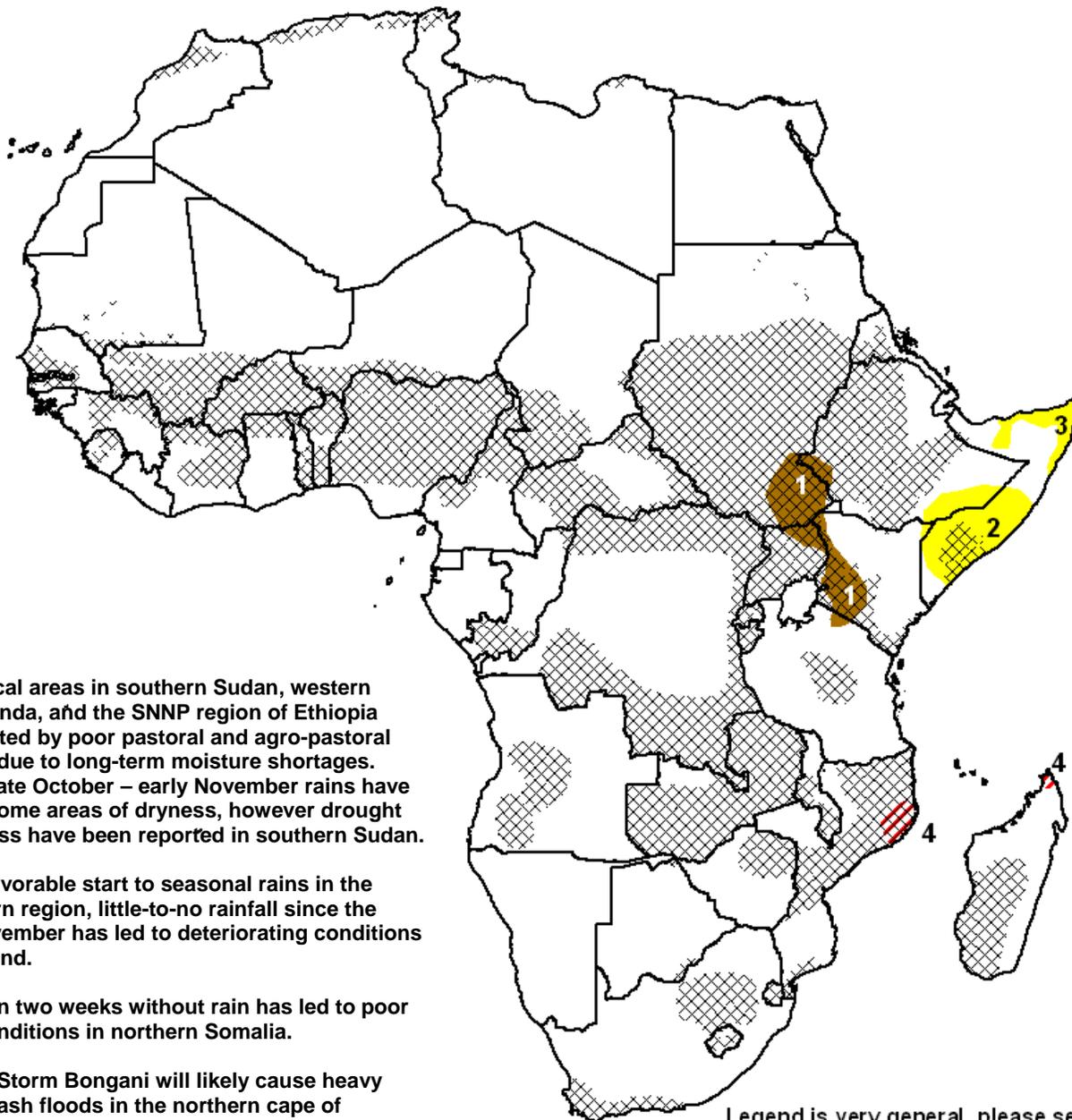


- Central Mozambique is currently experiencing a delayed start of season. Rains are 1 – 2 dekads late.
- Intermittent periods of rain and an early end to the season has resulted in poor conditions and a reduction of crop harvests for a number of local areas across southern Niger into Nigeria.



1) Many local areas in southern Sudan, western Kenya, Uganda, and the SNNP region of Ethiopia were impacted by poor pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions due to long-term moisture shortages. Favorable late October – early November rains have improved some areas of dryness, however drought and crop loss have been reported in southern Sudan.

2) After a favorable start to seasonal rains in the Greater Horn region, little-to-no rainfall since the start of November has led to deteriorating conditions on the ground.

3) More than two weeks without rain has led to poor pastoral conditions in northern Somalia.

4) Tropical Storm Bongani will likely cause heavy rains and flash floods in the northern cape of Madagascar. The system is expected to strengthen to a Category 1 storm in the Mozambique Channel before making landfall near Inharrime.

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



Long lull in East African rains

During the observation period of November 19th – 25th east African rains were approximately 25 – 50 mm below average with some localized areas having greater anomalies. Since the start of November southeastern Ethiopia, much of Somalia, and northeastern Kenya have been experiencing a dry spell. In the past month, most areas in this region have had less than 11 rain days and some have gone more than three weeks with no rains at all. It is expected that rains will return to the region before the season ends in December. Many outlook models are expecting an above average end to the rainy season there. In the meantime, anomalous winds have suppressed rains and are the cause of this present dryness. The Global Forecast System 7-Day Rainfall Outlook (**Figure 1**) is calling for light-to-moderate precipitation totals throughout the region. Southern Kenya may receive rainfall totals surpassing 40 mm.

Rainfall deficits improve in southern Africa

During the first half of November Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique were all experiencing rainfall deficits while other parts of southern Africa had anomalously wet conditions. However, during the second dekad of November rainfall began to improve in many of those countries now placing rainfall totals near normal and leading to favorable ground conditions. Despite the improvements, central Mozambique is currently experiencing a delayed start of season with rains 1 dekad late and up to 2 dekads (**Figure 2**) late locally.

Early end to regular rainy seasons in parts of Africa

During 2009 the respective rainy seasons came to an end earlier than normal in parts of Africa. The 2009 West African rainy season was characterized by irregular rainfall totals and inconsistent temporal and spatial distribution. Rainfall in Niger and northern Nigeria ended in late September/early October. As a result, confirmed damages to crop have been reported. In the north-central parts of Nigeria significant rice and maize crop failures were reported, and maize yield reductions are expected in the extreme south of Gombe. In Ethiopia, after having an abundance of rainfall in the western parts of the country, rains pulled out a little early. No significant damages have been reported, but the season will end slightly below average.

