

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

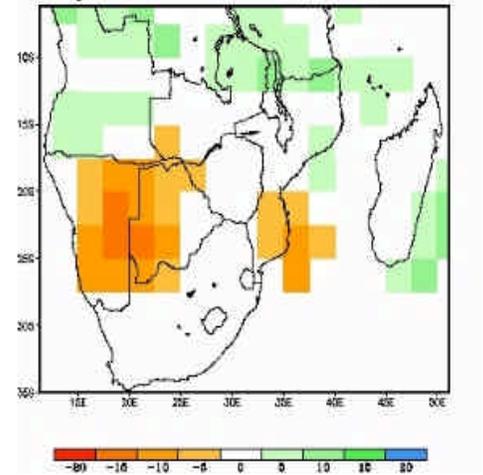
for

December 2 - 8, 2004

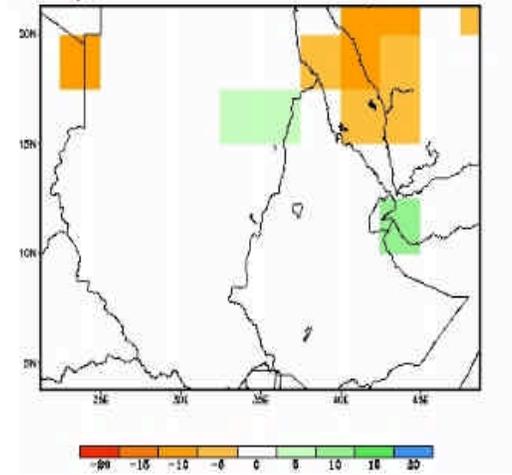
Weekly Introduction:

March - May 2005 Forecasts for Africa:

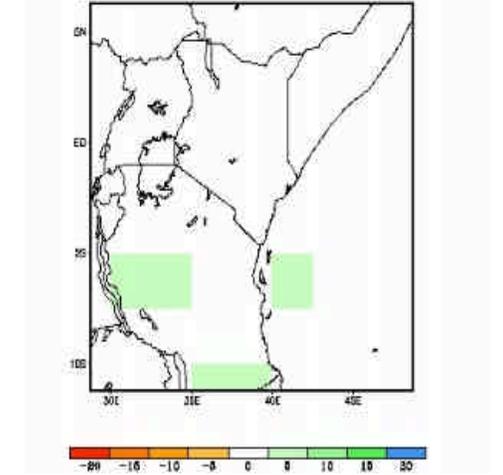
CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Mar-May 2005 S. Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead



CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Mar-May 2005 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, 4 Months Lead



CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Mar-May 2005 East Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead



Southern Africa: The outlook for Mar-May 2005 southern Africa rainfall at four months lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall across Namibia, western Botswana, locally over southwestern Zambia and western Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. There is a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall over portions of southern and northern Angola, northeastern Zambia, southern Tanzania, northern and central Mozambique. Climatology is expected elsewhere.

East Africa: There is a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over portions of west central and southern Tanzania. Climatology is expected elsewhere.

Northern Horn of Africa: Climatology is expected across most of the region, except locally over north central Sudan, eastern Djibouti, and northwestern Somalia, where there is a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall.

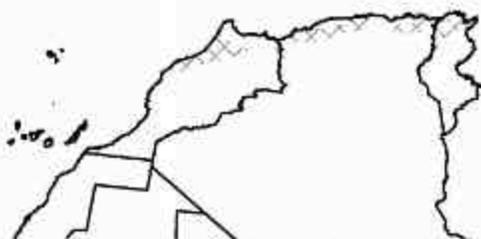
Locust Update:

The report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on the locust situation in western Africa was last updated on November 25. There are new reports of swarms moving west in the Sahel in the past few days. Immature swarms have crossed from Niger, re-infesting northern Burkina Faso, and continuing into central Mali, east of Bamako. Other swarms are moving west along the Mali/Mauritania border, reinvading southeastern and southern Mauritania and northeastern Senegal.

Additional details can be found at the USAID web site for Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) at <http://www.aelga.net> and the AGRHYMET site at <http://www.agrhymet.ne>.

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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)



1) Although rainfall during 2004 has been well above normal, long term drought continues.

2) Dry conditions during the previous season have resulted in drought conditions over parts of Ethiopia and Somalia. The short rains have been slow to start over parts of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

3) Long term drought continues over southeastern Kenya. Recent dryness has exacerbated drought conditions.

4) Erratic Kiremt rains have resulted in poor crop conditions and moisture deficits over eastern Ahmara and eastern Tigray in Ethiopia and adjacent parts of central Eritrea.

5) Hot, dry conditions during August and late September have resulted in pasture degradation, crop losses and reductions in water supplies over parts of Sudan's Darfur and Kurdufan regions.

6) Dry conditions during the Spring have resulted in degraded pastures, reduced water supplies across portions of South Africa's Free State, and may reduce moisture for crop planting.

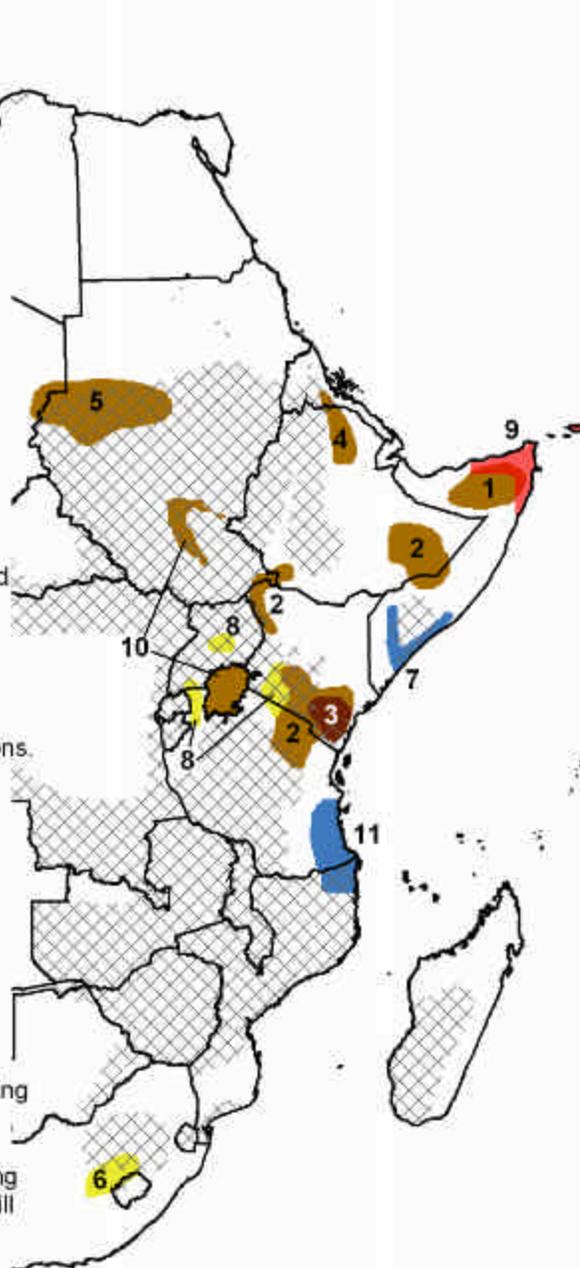
7) Flooding is occurring along the Jubba and Shebelle Rivers.

8) Drier than normal conditions during October and November may be stressing developing second season crops in parts of southwestern Kenya and central Uganda.

9) TC 05 may produced torrential rains, strong winds and flooding across northeastern Somalia during the weekend.

10) Lake Victoria's water level is the lowest in 10 years, reducing river flows on the Nile in southern Sudan. These lower levels will reduce supplemental foods, such as fish.

11) Heavy rains have resulted in flooding across southeastern Tanzania and northeastern Mozambique. Additional rains may result in continued flooding. There are indications of long term drought in the Rufiji Basin due to dry conditions last season.



Valid: December 2 - 8, 2004

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. Poor performance of seasonal rains for several years leading up to and including 2003 has resulted in a devastating multi-year drought across the Sanaag, Sool, Togdheer, Bari and Nugal Provinces of northern Somalia. However, calendar year 2004 saw abundant rains that were well distributed. The abundant rains have benefited pastures, helped to boost water supplies and have eased the overall impacts of the drought. Tropical Cyclone 05 is expected to bring more heavy rains to the region, in particular the northern and eastern parts. This will result in additional improvement. However, there may be some flooding and livestock losses associated with the heavy rains.
2. The long rains this year were much below normal across much of the Somali region of Ethiopia. Further south, the short rains were off to a slow start over southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. Moisture deficits have also been observed across Turkana in northwestern Kenya as well as adjacent parts of Sudan and Ethiopia, despite recent beneficial rains. Conditions were dry last week across Ethiopia's Somalia region, while beneficial rains fell across southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. During the period, dry conditions will return to northwestern Kenya and vicinity while there is a chance for showers across Ethiopia's Somali region. Beneficial seasonal rains are expected across northeastern Tanzania and southeastern Kenya.
3. Multi-year drought has resulted in large long term moisture deficits across interior southeastern Kenya. The long term drought has reduced water supplies and reservoir levels, degraded pastures and resulted in reduced sub-soil moisture availability for the second cropping season. Showers last week helped to ease dryness, while moderate rains are expected during the period.
4. The Kiremt rains have been erratic and lighter than normal across eastern Ahmara region and eastern Tigray region in Ethiopia, as well as adjacent portions of the Afar region and central Eritrea. This has resulted in poor crop conditions and reduced moisture levels in and around these areas.
5. The 2004 rainy season was characterized by erratic seasonal rains, lighter than normal rainfall totals and periodic interruptions of seasonal rains by hot, dry Sahara winds over portions of Sudan's Darfur and Kurdufan regions. This has resulted in degraded pastures, reduced water supplies, dry wells and crop losses across these areas. As the dry season has set in, no improvement is expected across these areas.
6. Dry, warm conditions across South Africa's Free State recently have resulted in reduced water supplies and degraded pastures. Furthermore, the dry conditions have raised concerns about low soil moisture for main season crop planting across the province. Recent showers have resulted in some improvement, with additional beneficial rains expected during the period.
7. Recent heavy rains have resulted in flooding along the Jubba and Shebelle rivers in Somalia and their tributaries. The waters have receded along the tributaries, however flooding remains a concern along the lower main stems of the Jubba and Shebelle.
8. Rainfall during October and November has been about 40 to 65 percent of normal across parts of Uganda, extreme northwestern Tanzania and southwestern. This has resulted in deficits of about 100 mm and may have stressed developing second season crops. Beneficial showers are expected during the period, which should ease the stress on crops in the region.
9. Tropical Cyclone 05 is expected to affect northeastern Somalia with heavy rains and gusty winds. The first effects of the storm will likely be felt late on the 2nd and last through the 5th. The heavy rains may result in flash flooding and livestock losses in areas where herds are already weak and stressed.
10. Lake Victoria water levels this year have reached their lowest point in ten years. As the source of the Nile, Lake Victoria plays an important role in ensuring household food security in southern Sudan by promoting seasonal flooding along the Nile, which is crucial for fish and wild plants (water lily) production and pasture replenishment during the dry season (November to May). This flooding has been well below normal this year. For more information on the food security effects of this anomaly, please visit the southern Sudan country site at www.fews.net/sudan.
11. Heavy rains lashed southeastern Tanzania and northeastern Mozambique, resulting in areas of flooding. Additional rains during the period may result in additional flooding problems. However, the heavy rains will also help to increase stream flows and reservoir storage in and around the Rufiji Basin. There are indications that there are long term drought problems, with very low reservoir levels reported at the Mtera Reservoir by Tanzania's Water Ministry.

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