

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

September 1 – 7, 2005

Weekly Introduction:

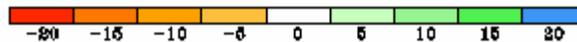
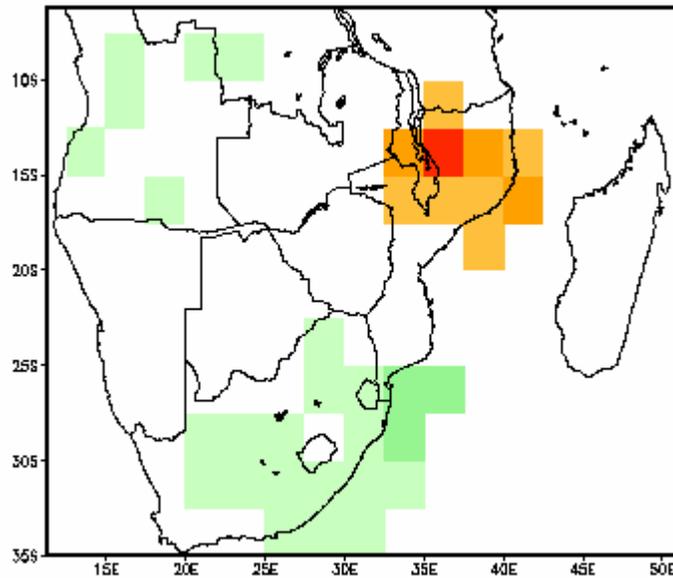
Update of Seasonal Outlooks at Four-Months Lead:

December 2005 - February 2006 Forecasts

Southern Africa

There is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall over portions of eastern and central South Africa, and locally over northern and southern Angola. There is a low to moderate tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall across northern Mozambique, and the southern half of Malawi.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
 Dec-Feb 2005-06 S. Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead



Locust Update:

The FAO

(<http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>) on August 24 has indicated that the locust situation continues to be serious in western **Sudan** where hopper bands and groups of immature adults are present in Darfur. Although survey and control operations are in progress, many areas cannot be accessed. In addition, although ecological conditions are unusually favorable for breeding within a large portion of the northern Sahel, no hoppers have been found so far. Surveying will continue.

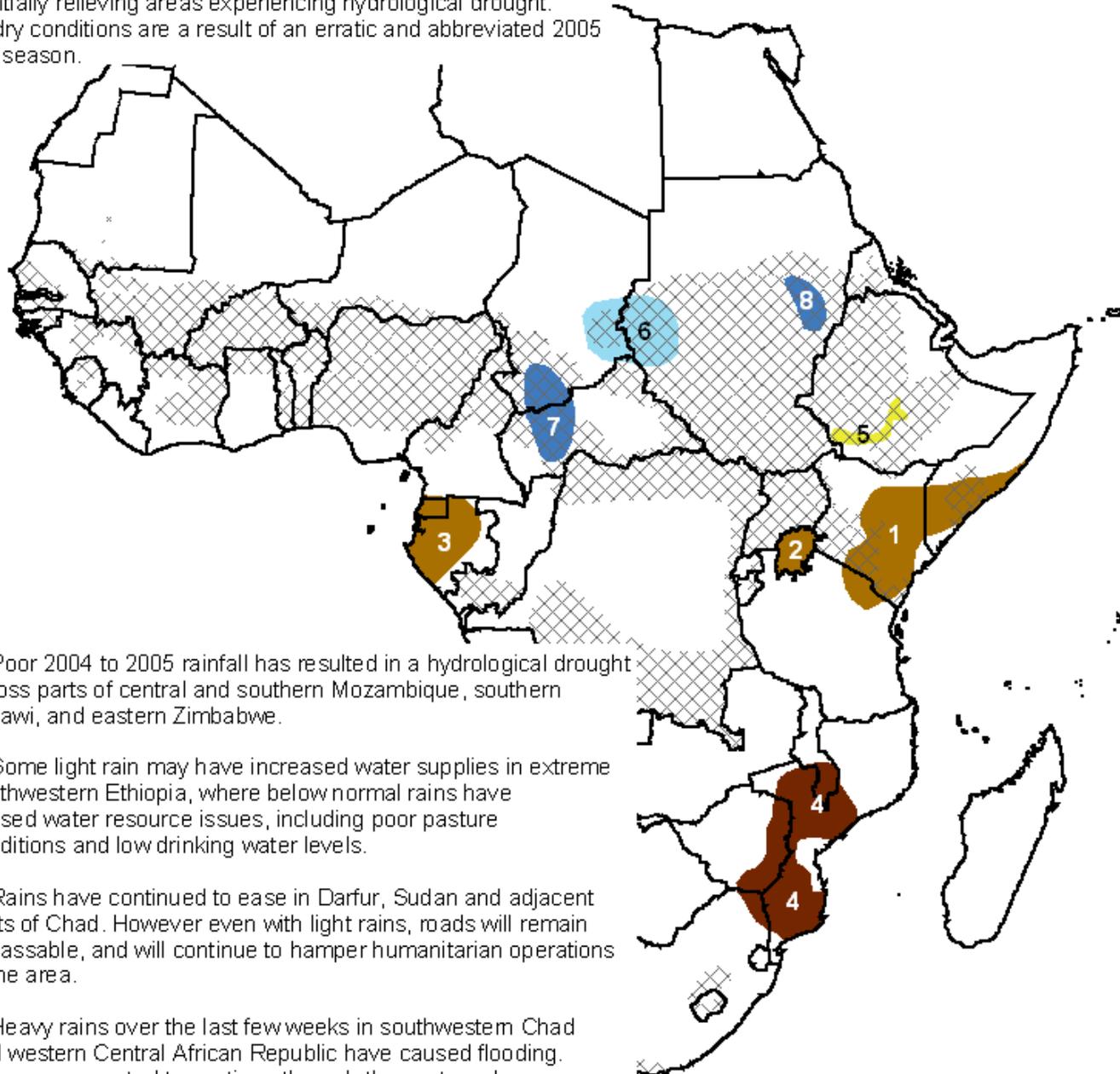
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1. Eastern Kenya, southern Somalia received very little rain during the 2005 long season rains. Dry conditions have persisted.

2. Below normal rainfall for over a year has allowed Lake Victoria's water level to drop 0.85 meters below normal.

3. Some showers have returned to the northern portions of Gabon, potentially relieving areas experiencing hydrological drought. The dry conditions are a result of an erratic and abbreviated 2005 rainy season.

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)



4. Poor 2004 to 2005 rainfall has resulted in a hydrological drought across parts of central and southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, and eastern Zimbabwe.

5. Some light rain may have increased water supplies in extreme southwestern Ethiopia, where below normal rains have caused water resource issues, including poor pasture conditions and low drinking water levels.

6. Rains have continued to ease in Darfur, Sudan and adjacent parts of Chad. However even with light rains, roads will remain impassable, and will continue to hamper humanitarian operations in the area.

7. Heavy rains over the last few weeks in southwestern Chad and western Central African Republic have caused flooding. Rains are expected to continue through the next week.

8. Rainfall over portions of eastern Sudan along the Blue Nile, continues to be problematic. This is causing localized flooding along the already swollen river.

Valid: September 1 - 7, 2005

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. The last few weeks have seen little improvement in the rainfall deficits facing southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya. Across the region, erratic rainfall during the March through May 2005 wet season has led to scattered areas of drought, and a wide area of dry conditions. The poor rainfall reduced water available for crops during the previous growing season, and has degraded pastures and lowered drinking water levels in the region. Conditions are expected to remain generally dry in the area until October when the short rains return. Some light showers are possible, during the coming period, along the Kenya coast, but they will do little to relieve the dry conditions.
2. With two weeks of light rain over Lake Victoria, lake levels have risen to being 85 cm below normal. Rainfall totals of up to 40 mm of rain fell on the lake over this period of improvement. This welcome relief still leaves the lake very close to 10 year lows. More precipitation is possible over the next week as additional light rains are expected. Larger scale improvement, however, will have to wait until October when heavier rains return.
3. Rains ended as much as a month and a half early across portions of Gabon causing a hydrological drought in the region. In the north, during the past week, as much as 75 mm of rain fell, providing drinking water and starting to provide relief for pastures. Continued improvement is expected during the next week across the north, where the short rainy season has begun. The south however, has remained dry and is expected to receive less rain than the north. Rainfall should continue to pick up across the region as the ITCZ starts to move south.
4. As much as 10 mm of rain fell in southern Mozambique during the previous period, doing little to relieve the dry conditions that have negatively impacted much of Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and extreme northeastern South Africa. Some more light showers are possible in southern Mozambique during the coming week, but significant improvement from the poor 2004-2005 season will not arrive until October.
5. Short-term dryness in southwestern Ethiopia is the result of erratic rainfall so far this season. This has largely impacted agriculture with some degradation to pastures. The ITCZ does appear to have begun its southward movement, which would spread needed rains over the region.
6. While road conditions remain poor in Darfur, Sudan and adjacent parts of Chad, improvement over the next few weeks is anticipated as the ITCZ has reached its zenith and is beginning to retrograde to the south. For a second week rainfall was heavier in affected parts of Chad than in Darfur. Totals have exceeded 40mm in Darfur during the previous week, and have exceeded 75 mm in eastern Chad. Rainfall is expected to continue into the next week, with totals starting to slacken in the northern areas.
7. A month of excessive rainfall over western parts of the Central African Republic and southwestern parts of Chad has caused substantial flooding. The rains have displaced as many as 20,000 people in CAR and have caused localized flooding in Chad. Parts of both Chad and CAR have seen over 200 mm of rain during the last two weeks. Precipitation during the past week, over the general region, has topped 75 mm and has only aggravated the situation. Slightly weaker rains are expected during the coming week, but will not provide a substantial opportunity for the area to dry out.
8. Heavy rains along the Blue Nile have caused localized flooding in the Khartoum, Sennar, Singa states in eastern Sudan. Up to and exceeding 40 mm of rain in the region have combined with runoff from upstream, where heavy rains are also falling. Additional heavy precipitation is likely during the current period.

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