

**Africa Weather Hazards Assessment**

for

**September 22 – 28, 2005**

**Weekly Introduction:**

**Update of Seasonal Outlooks at One-Month Lead:  
 October-December 2005 Forecasts**

**East Africa**

The outlook for Oct-Dec 2005 East Africa rainfall at one month lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall across southern Somalia, and the central areas of Kenya and Uganda.

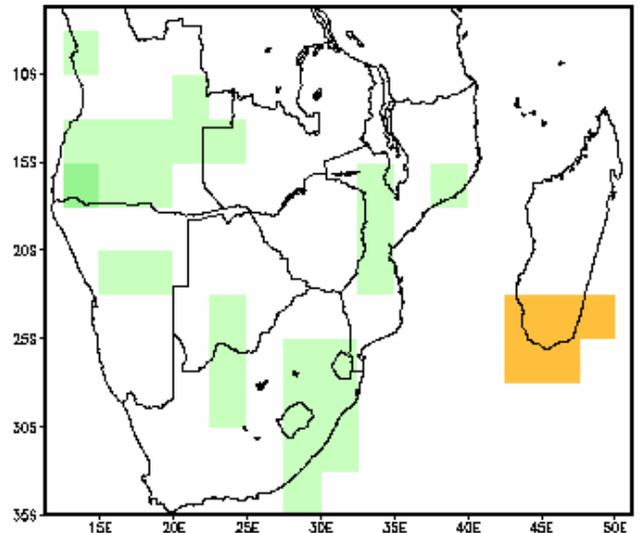
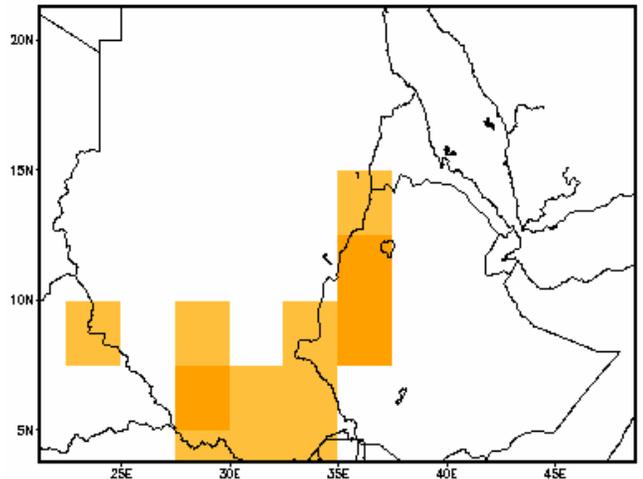
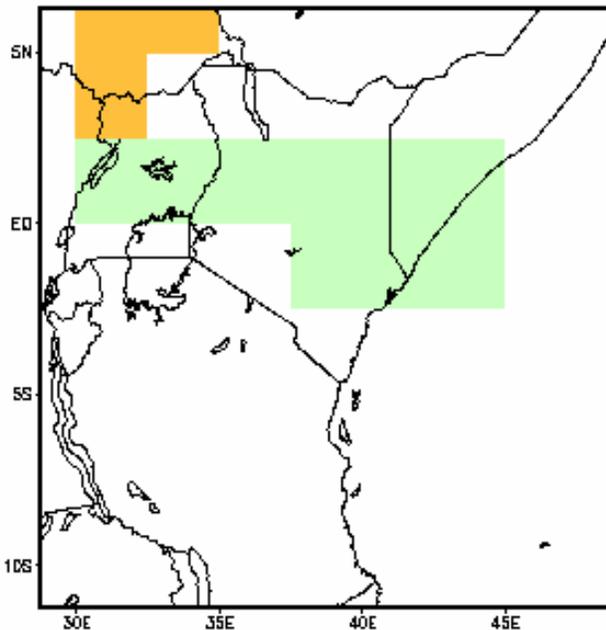
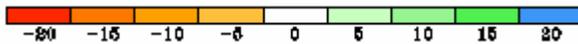
**Northern Horn of Africa**

There is a tilt in the odds favoring below average rainfall over southern Sudan and western Ethiopia.

**Southern Africa**

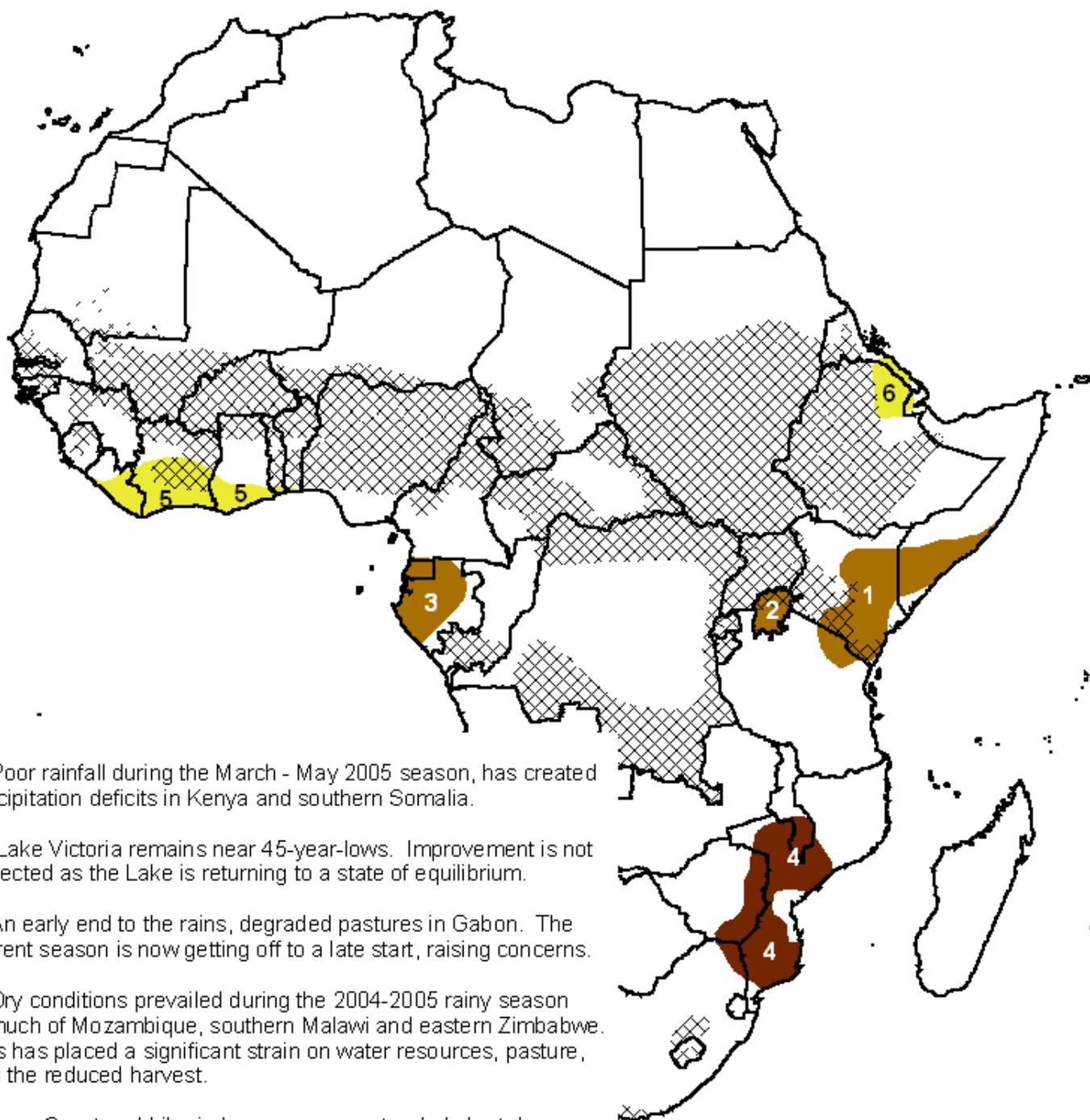
The outlook for southern Africa rainfall shows a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over portions of South Africa, locally over central Namibia, southern Angola, locally over western Zambia, and central Mozambique. There is a tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall over southern Madagascar.

**CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
 Oct-Dec 2005 S. Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead**



# Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

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. Poor rainfall during the March - May 2005 season, has created precipitation deficits in Kenya and southern Somalia.

2. Lake Victoria remains near 45-year-lows. Improvement is not expected as the Lake is returning to a state of equilibrium.

3. An early end to the rains, degraded pastures in Gabon. The current season is now getting off to a late start, raising concerns.

4. Dry conditions prevailed during the 2004-2005 rainy season in much of Mozambique, southern Malawi and eastern Zimbabwe. This has placed a significant strain on water resources, pasture, and the reduced harvest.

5. Ivory Coast and Liberia have seen an extended short dry season this year.

6. In portions of Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea and Djibouti the rains have performed poorly for the past few dekads.

**Valid: September 22 - 28, 2005**

## ***Weather Hazards Text Explanation:***

1. Deficits from the March – May 2005 rainy season in Kenya and southern Somalia have left much of the area dry, with some localized drought conditions. These conditions have strained water resources and pastures. The dry season is currently coming to a close as some light rains have begun falling in northern Somalia and parts of Kenya near Lake Victoria have seen significant rainfall. Rain normally begins falling within the area of concern during the month of October.
2. Lake Victoria remains approximately 1 meter below normal. This is believed to be associated with the water usage at the Owen Falls Dam as well as the rate of precipitation over the lake. As the current levels do not appear to be having an impact on agriculture or fishing downstream, this polygon will be discontinued after this period. We do anticipate, however, that hydroelectric power generation will continue to be negatively impacted.
3. Heavier rainfall has moved into Gabon. However, last season's rainfall deficits of over 200 mm is still the cause of reduced pasture in the region. Several weeks of light rains caused some concerns that an early end to the last wet season was being followed by a late start to the current season. Dry conditions are expected to be eased over the next week as heavy precipitation continues throughout the area.
4. In much of Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi and extreme northeastern South Africa. The 2004-2005 wet season provided much of the area with only about half normal rainfall, with some locations receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation. This has placed a significant strain on water resources, the degraded pasture and the reduced harvest that came out of the last growing season. Relief will not arrive until late October or early November.
5. Short-term dryness in Liberia, central and southern portions of Ivory Coast and southern Ghana are raising concerns, chiefly about the Cocoa crop in the region. While there are conflicting reports of current conditions it is likely that below normal precipitation has caused some short term dryness in the area. Light precipitation over the area during the past week likely extended deficits. Rainfall totals range from 20 to 30 mm in Liberia to less than 5 mm across Ghana and Ivory Coast. The coming period will likely see similar conditions.
6. Portions of northeastern Ethiopia and adjacent parts of Eritrea and Djibouti have seen slightly below normal rainfall during the past several weeks. Rainfall has been good over the area during most of the season and deficits could be recovered quickly if the rains increase in intensity.

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