

## **Africa Weather Hazards Assessment**

for

**February 23 – March 1, 2006**

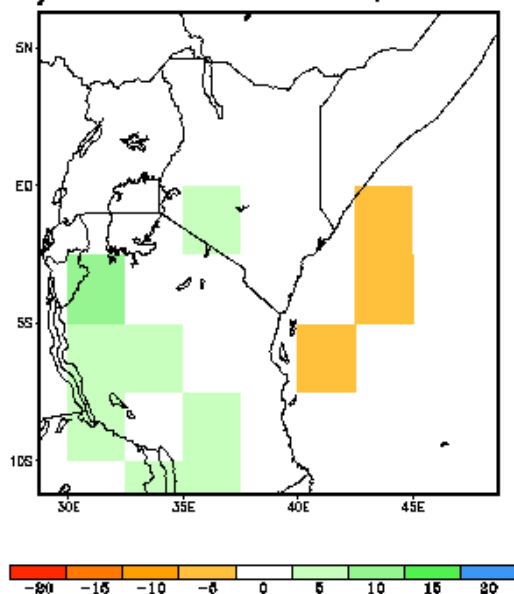
### ***Weekly Introduction:***

### **Update of Seasonal Outlooks at One-Month Lead:**

#### **March – May 2006 East Africa:**

The outlook for Mar-May 2006 East Africa rainfall at one month lead shows a slight tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over portions of southern and western Tanzania, and locally over southern Kenya.

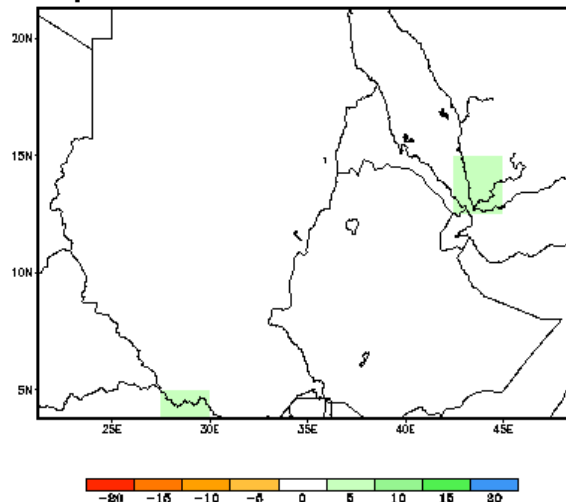
CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
Mar-May 2006 East Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead



#### **March – May 2006 Northern Horn of Africa:**

Climatologically normal conditions are expected throughout the region at this time.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
Mar-May 2006 N. Horn of 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) Phenomenal drought continues to affect much of southern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and southern Somalia.

2) A failure to near failure of seasonal rains has led to drought across much of Kenya, eastern Uganda, and northeastern Tanzania.

3) Erratic and lighter than normal 2005 rainfall has led to areas of poor pastures and water shortages in and around Djibouti.

4) Localized heavy rains have continued in areas of southwestern Zambia, northwestern Botswana, and northeastern Angola. Rainfall is forecast to be continued strong during the next week.

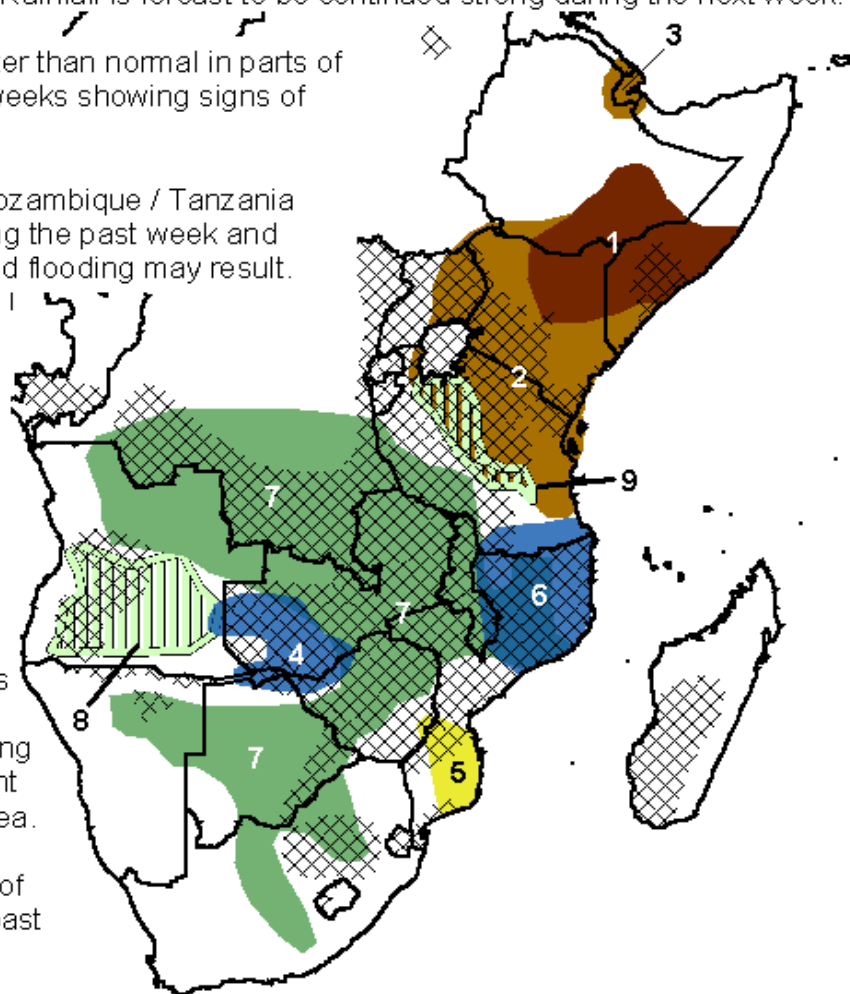
5) Rainfall continues to be erratic and lighter than normal in parts of southern Mozambique, with the past 5-6 weeks showing signs of short term dryness.

6) A frontal system has stalled over the Mozambique / Tanzania border region, leading to heavy rains during the past week and most likely during the next week. Localized flooding may result.

7) Generally, seasonal rainfall in most regions of southern Africa has been at beneficial levels for agriculture, water supplies, and pastures. The ITCZ is currently located along a line from northern Mozambique thru Zambia to northern Angola, and therefore rainfall should be heaviest in this region during the next week.

8) Widespread moderate rainfall with totals generally between 25-60 mm were observed in areas of southern Angola during the last week. This has led to improvement from short term dryness throughout the area.

9) Rainfall dramatically increased in parts of western and central Tanzania during the past week, bringing relief to the region.



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

1. A few showers were observed during the past week on the fringe of drought areas in south central Ethiopia, though little rainfall is expected during the next week. Several poor consecutive rainy seasons have resulted in the development of severe drought across much of eastern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. The poor performance of this year's March-May season and the failure of the October- December season have resulted in rainfall totals for the year 2005 that are only 20 to 50 percent of the long term mean, and annual rainfall deficits of 250 to 500 mm. This severe drought has resulted in crop failures, pasture degradation, water shortages and has threatened the overall food security situation in the region.
2. Drier than normal conditions since October has resulted in drought across western Kenya, much of Tanzania and the Lake Victoria Basin. In the bimodal areas of southern Kenya, northwestern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania, the short rains have failed for the 2005 season. While drought continues in much of northern and eastern Tanzania, beneficial rains have fallen during the past two weeks in southern and central portions of the country (See #9). Additional relief is expected in the south during the next week. In the southern and eastern parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, rainfall since October 1 has totaled only 200 to 300 mm. This is only 45 to 70 percent of normal, and has caused crop and pasture stress. On Lake Victoria, passenger ships failed to find docking stations in some areas due to the shallow water levels in recent weeks. Although the dry conditions in and around the basin have contributed to the low water levels, other factors such as downstream dam releases, are playing a substantial role.
3. Seasonal rains across Djibouti and the surrounding area have been erratic and lighter than normal. This has resulted in pasture degradation and possible water shortages. Rainfall totals for 2005 are around half of the long term mean. Scattered showers occurred over the past few weeks across southern Djibouti, however little in the way of improvement was observed. The next chance for relief will be when the March-May rains set in.
4. Heavy rains continued in parts of southern Zambia, and adjacent regions of Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana during the past week, as saturated grounds are leading to localized flooding. Additional heavy rains are likely during the next week, primarily due to the position of the southern branch of the ITCZ.
5. Dryness has continued during the past week in portions of southern Mozambique, where an extended dry spell of up to 6 weeks has taken hold. This lack of rainfall, associated with a high pressure area centered over the region has led to erratic rainfall in adjacent regions as well, including northeastern zones of the Maize Triangle and parts of northeastern Swaziland. On a good note, rains are expected to the west of the highlighted area, though unfortunately dryness should continue in the immediate area.
6. Heavy rains, with weekly accumulations exceeding 100 mm were observed during the past week in northern areas of Mozambique as well as parts of southern Tanzania. Thunderstorms will likely remain active over the region during the next period, and significant rainfall is again expected in the region. Localized river flooding may result.
7. Noting the current progress of seasonal rains in southern Africa, this area represents regions that have generally received the most beneficial rainfall during the past 2-3 months. Agricultural and pastoral conditions within this area are very healthy for the most part, and short term weather trends are optimistic. Latest market prices for primary food staples are encouraging, and at the moment there are very few areas of weather-related food shortages in this region. In the Maize triangle, though the season began favorably, recent erratic rainfall has led to only adequate conditions in the northeastern areas (associated with # 5).
8. Beneficial rainfall fell during the past week throughout much of southern and central Angola, as short term dryness concerns have been reduced. Current weather patterns indicate a continued chance for moisture during the next week, especially in southern areas of the country.
9. A swath of the season's most favorable rainfall was observed during the past few days in areas of central Tanzania that have been severely dry for the past months. While weekly rains exceeding 75 mm fell just to the west of Hazard area # 2 in Tanzania, moderate accumulations of around 30 mm were observed within western fringes of the area experiencing seasonal dryness. Rains will lessen during the next week, though some regions may see some shower activity.

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