

## **Africa Weather Hazards Assessment**

for

**June 1 - 7, 2006**

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

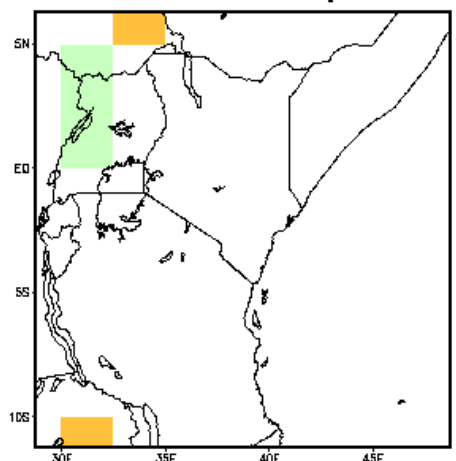
### **Update of CPC Seasonal Rainfall Outlooks at Four Months Lead:**

### **September - November 2006 Forecasts:**

#### **East Africa Region:**

Normal conditions are expected over most of the region, except over the western portion of Uganda, where there is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall

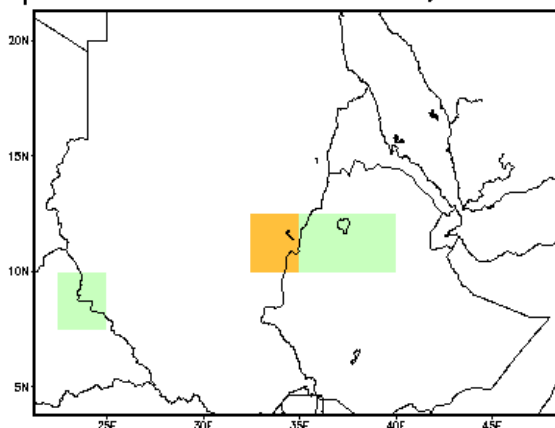
CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
 Sep-Nov 2006 East Africa Rainfall, Four Months Lead



#### **Northern Horn of Africa:**

Normal conditions are expected, except locally over portions of northwestern Ethiopia, where there is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall. There is also a low tilt in the odds favoring below average rainfall locally over eastern Sudan.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
 Sep-Nov 2006 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, 4 Months Lead



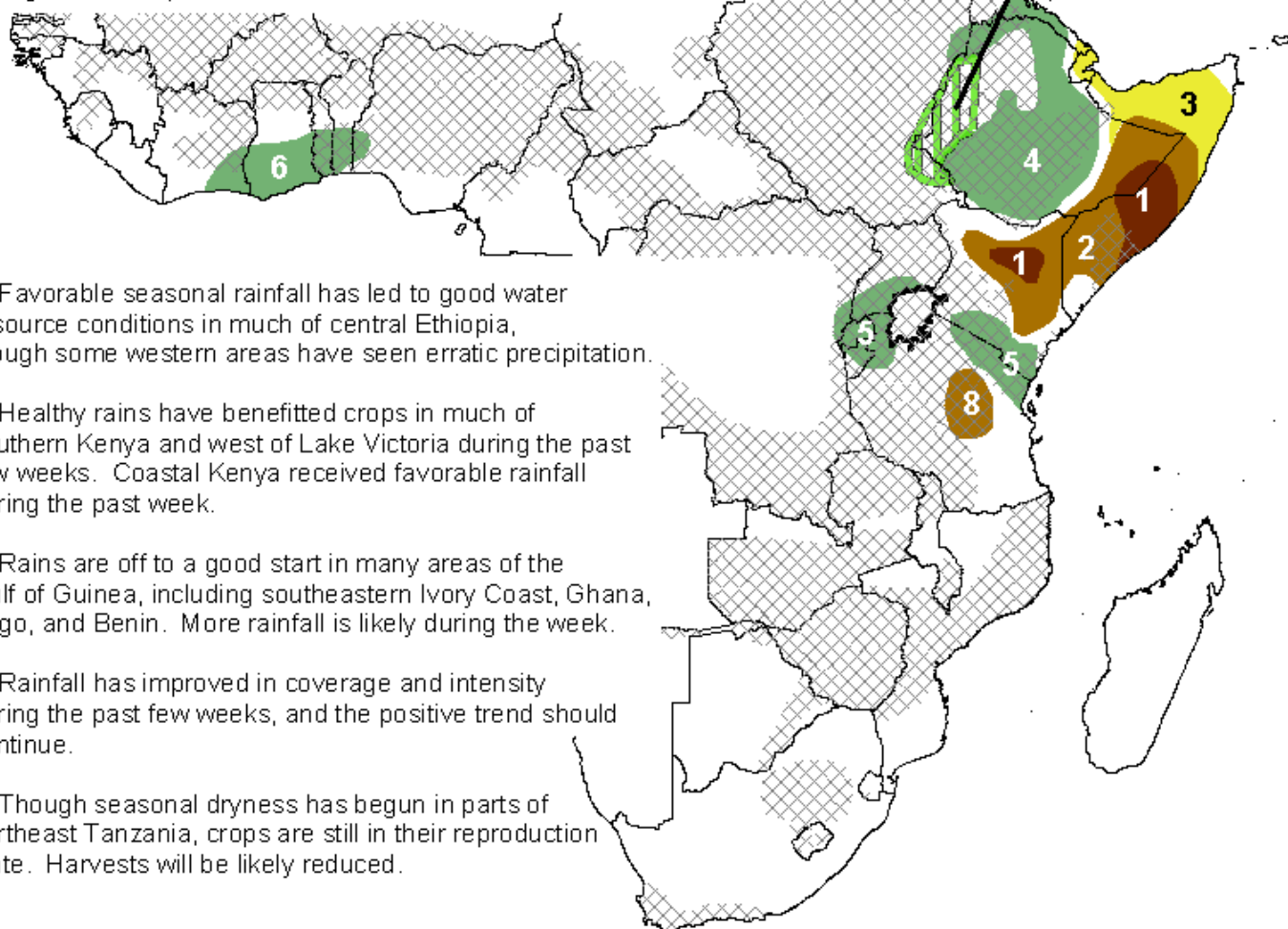
# Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

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) Drought continues in central Kenya and portions of central Somalia. Monsoonal rains have likely ended in the region, though a heavy thunderstorm was observed in central Somalia during the past week.

2) Though conditions have improved in parts of Somalia and Kenya during the past season, long term dryness remains primarily due to a very poor June-September 2005 season.

3) Continued lack of rainfall during the past few weeks has led to short term dryness in northern Somalia, and Djibouti. Some relief occurred during the past week though little is expected in the next week.



4) Favorable seasonal rainfall has led to good water resource conditions in much of central Ethiopia, though some western areas have seen erratic precipitation.

5) Healthy rains have benefitted crops in much of southern Kenya and west of Lake Victoria during the past few weeks. Coastal Kenya received favorable rainfall during the past week.

6) Rains are off to a good start in many areas of the Gulf of Guinea, including southeastern Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. More rainfall is likely during the week.

7) Rainfall has improved in coverage and intensity during the past few weeks, and the positive trend should continue.

8) Though seasonal dryness has begun in parts of northeast Tanzania, crops are still in their reproduction state. Harvests will be likely reduced.

**Valid: June 1 - 7, 2006**

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

1. Long term drought continues in much of central Kenya due to a failed rainy season in 2005 and erratic rainfall thereafter. Little rainfall is expected in the region during the next week, as seasonal dryness begins to set in. In southern and central Somalia, similar conditions exist, though recent rainfall has been more widespread and has affected the area to a more positive degree during the past weeks. In fact, heavy rains in central Somalia during the previous dekad resulted in localized areas of flooding. In both areas, large areas of failed crops and very poor pasture conditions have negatively affected livelihoods in the region. Drinking water levels remain locally severe, though recent rains have led to improvement during the past month.
2. Poor rains during the 2005 short rainy season resulted in drought development across Kenya, Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania. In some areas, this was in addition to previous poor rainy seasons. The poor short rainy season resulted in crop losses, degradation of pastures and low water supplies. Much of the negatively affected region had received beneficial rains during the previous weeks, and this has led to much improved conditions in many areas, though seasonal dryness has begun to set in. Lasting dry-season implications, including poor pasture conditions and reduced water availability, are likely in many areas.
3. Rains have been erratic and late to start in much of northern Somalia, including Sanaag and Sool regions, into Djibouti. This has led to areas of short term dryness in the region, and little precipitation is expected during the next week. Poor pasture conditions are the primary implication from this lack of rainfall.
4. Positive agricultural and hydrological conditions exist throughout much of Ethiopia and Eritrea due to a good start to the 2006 rainy season. Since the beginning of February, accumulated rainfall is running from 120-400 percent of normal, with only a couple pockets of slight dryness within the highlighted area. Seasonal rains have shifted into western areas of the Ethiopian highlands and therefore the majority of rainfall during the next week is expected in these locations. Some areas of western Ethiopia continue to see negative rainfall anomalies and drier than normal conditions.
5. Moderate seasonal rains have fallen during the past months in areas of southeastern Kenya, northeastern Tanzania, and in regions west and southwest of Lake Victoria. Seasonal precipitation totals are mainly greater than 90% of normal in the region, and additional rainfall is expected during the next week. Drinking water levels are normal, and crop and pasture conditions are favorable for the most part. Rains are currently shifting away from these zones, except for coastal Kenya, and therefore favorable conditions will continue into the drier season.
6. Seasonal rains along parts of the Gulf of Guinea have been favorable during recent dekads, leading to favorable moisture conditions throughout the highlighted region. Additional rainfall is expected during the next week.
7. Portions of west-central Ethiopia have received moderate rainfall during the past few weeks, and this has helped to alleviate much of the short term dryness that was observed due to earlier erratic and lighter than normal precipitation. Conditions should continue to improve during the near future, with seasonal rainfall expected.
8. Areas of extended dryness are evident locally in central Tanzania due to a late start to the past rainy season and a normally-timed ending. Crops may not have been provided with adequate moisture for their life cycle and therefore some losses and reduced harvests are likely. Rains should not resume until next season.

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