

## Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

**June 22 - 28, 2006**

### Weekly Introduction:

#### Update of CPC Seasonal Outlooks at One-Month Lead: July-September 2006 Forecasts

##### Sahel

The outlook for Jul-Sep 2006 Sahel rainfall at one month lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall across the Sahel from western Mali and southern Mauritania eastward into Niger. There is also a tilt in the odds to favor above normal rainfall over eastern Chad.

##### Gulf of Guinea

Climatology is expected across the region.

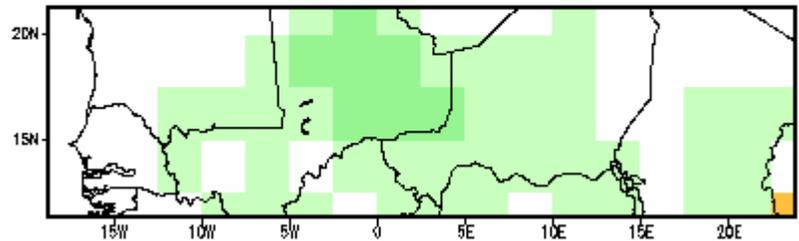
##### Northern Horn of Africa

There is a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over western and southern Sudan, and western and southwestern Ethiopia. There is a tilt in the odds favoring below average rainfall locally over central Sudan and portions of northern Eritrea.

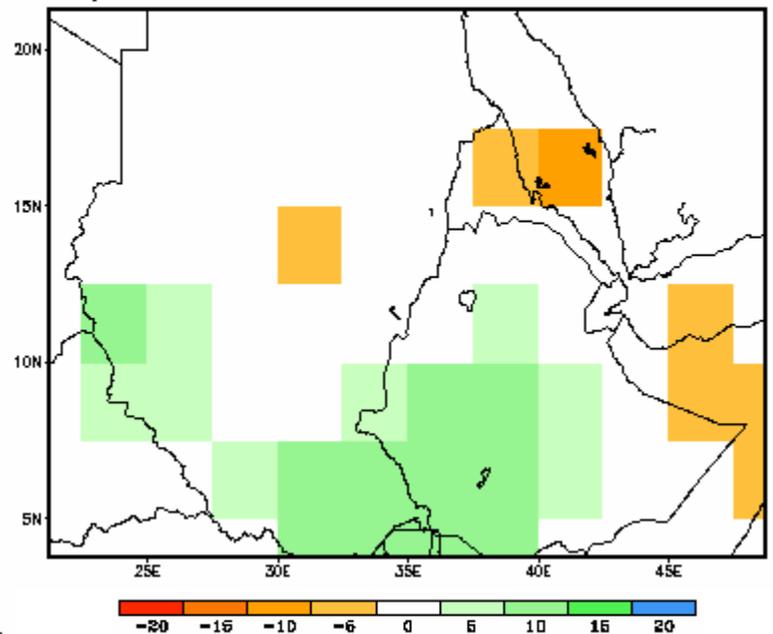
##### New Location for Shapefiles:

Hazard area shapefiles will no longer be distributed through e-mail. Instead, they will be placed on the CPC anonymous FTP server. The location for the Africa Hazards will be:  
[ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/fews/weather\\_hazards/africa/](ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/fews/weather_hazards/africa/)

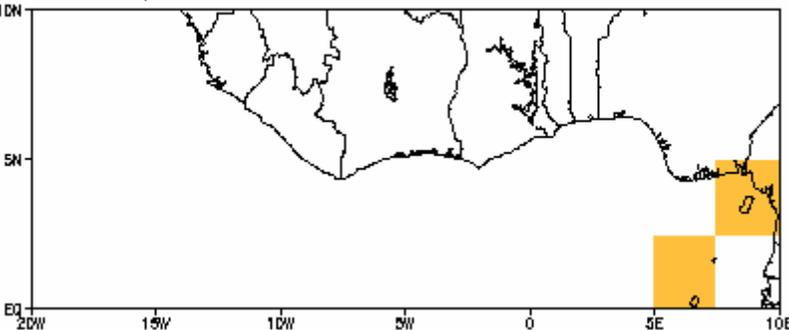
CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
Jul-Sep 2006 Sahel Rainfall, One Month Lead



CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
Jul-Sep 2006 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead



CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100  
Jul-Sep 2006 G. Guinea Rainfall, One Month Lead



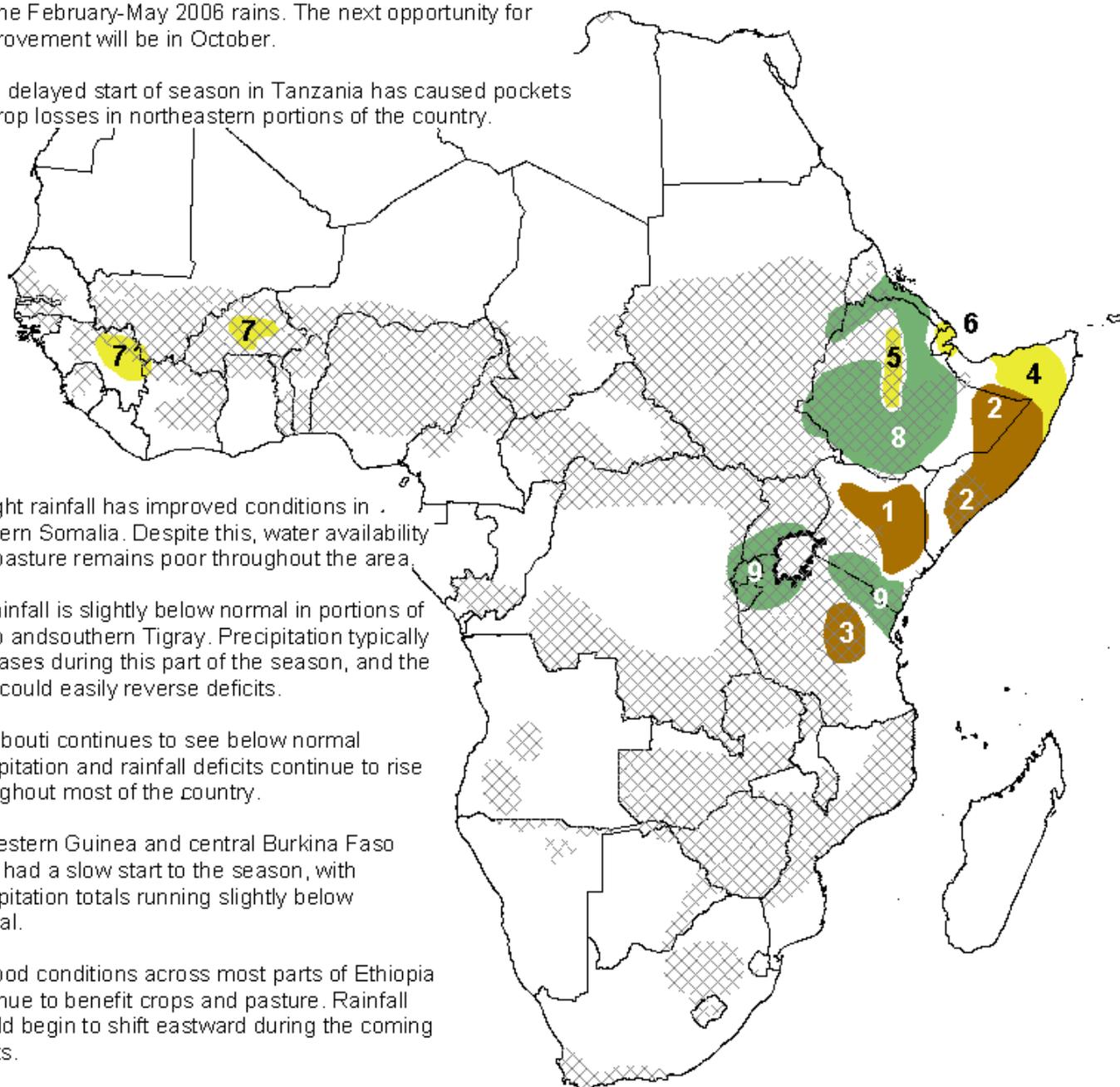
# Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1) Several consecutive poor wet seasons have devastated agriculture, pasture, and drinking water availability in a large portion of Kenya. The next opportunity for improvement will be in October.

*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)*

2) In central Somalia and eastern Ethiopia, a poor June-September 2005 season was only marginally improved by the February-May 2006 rains. The next opportunity for improvement will be in October.

3) A delayed start of season in Tanzania has caused pockets of crop losses in northeastern portions of the country.



4) Light rainfall has improved conditions in northern Somalia. Despite this, water availability and pasture remains poor throughout the area.

5) Rainfall is slightly below normal in portions of Wello and southern Tigray. Precipitation typically increases during this part of the season, and the area could easily reverse deficits.

6) Djibouti continues to see below normal precipitation and rainfall deficits continue to rise throughout most of the country.

7) Western Guinea and central Burkina Faso have had a slow start to the season, with precipitation totals running slightly below normal.

8) Good conditions across most parts of Ethiopia continue to benefit crops and pasture. Rainfall should begin to shift eastward during the coming weeks.

9) West of Lake Victoria and along the Kenya-Tanzania border, above normal precipitation has helped the area recover from last seasons dismal rainfall.

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

1. Conditions in central Kenya are extremely poor as a result of the failure of the 2005 short rainy season, and the horrible October 2005 – May 2006 rains that followed. Many areas received little to no rain during the 2005 short rains and less than half of normal rainfall during the October to May rains. With the onset of the dry season any hope of increasing water resources or improving pasture land significantly has been lost. Additionally, crop yields throughout the area have been reduced. Seasonably dry conditions are expected during the coming period. The next hope for significant relief will be in October when the rains return to the area.
2. Central Somalia and eastern Ethiopia continue to cope with a poor March – May rainy season. Most of the area received about half its normal rainfall, but the majority of that rain fell in April. This meant that April saw near normal rainfall, but March and May, in many areas, saw about 10 percent of normal precipitation. The dry conditions and erratic rainfall has reduced water available for drinking, pastures and crops. Near the Juba and Shebeli Rivers, moisture deficits are less severe; however crop pests have taken advantage of the erratic rains. Unseasonable rainfall has continued into the previous period across central Somalia. This has brought welcomed relief to the area. These unusual rains may continue into the coming week in isolated locations.
3. A delayed start of the rains in northeastern Tanzania also delayed the growing season. When the rains ended on time in the area many crops were left immature and unable to complete their growth. This has led to reduced yields in the area. Conditions here are not uniform and some areas were able to catch up, and experienced a normal harvest.
4. Rainfall was lighter than normal in Sanaag and Sool in Somalia during their brief wet season. Although the dry season should have set in, light rains have persisted in the area. These rains have improved soil moisture and have reduced deficits that have been incurred since March. During the past week as much as 20 mm fell in some locations. Additional relief is possible during the coming week.
5. Short term dryness in the northern Ethiopian highlands. Some rainfall has brought relief to North Shewa and East Shewa, but South Tigray, North Wollo and South Wollo saw dry conditions continue through the week. The small deficits could have an impact on agriculture if they continue to rise. Heavier rainfall normally moves into this area by late June. The dry conditions observed last week are expected to continue into the coming period.
6. A poor start to the rainy season in the vicinity of Djibouti follows a poor 2005 wet season where the rains ended early. Light rains fell on the area during the past week and may continue into the coming week. These rains have helped to ease conditions.
7. A slow start of season in central Burkina Faso and western Guinea is the result of an ITCZ that rapidly moved north, bypassing the area. Small deficits are present in the area. Both regions saw less precipitation during the last week, when compared to surrounding areas. The coming week will likely bring more uniform rainfall to the area. The rainfall deficits are relatively small and could be made up by good rains through the rest of the season.
8. Abundant rainfall over most areas of Ethiopia and Eritrea have allowed ample of moisture for drinking, pastures and crops. Many areas are running between 120 and 400 percent of normal rainfall. The Afar region of Ethiopia has the benefit of unseasonable rains which fell during April. Rainfall during the past week remains concentrated over the western and southern highlands, as is normal this time of year. In the coming weeks we should see rainfall shift into the northern highlands and the Afar region. If the rains do not shift eastward again, the good conditions in Afar would be lost.
9. Drinking water, agriculture and pasture have all reaped the benefits of a good season in the areas west of Lake Victoria. Additionally, along the Kenya-Tanzania border these good conditions have significantly improved local conditions after the poor 2005 short rainy season.

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