

Africa Weather Hazards Benefits Assessment

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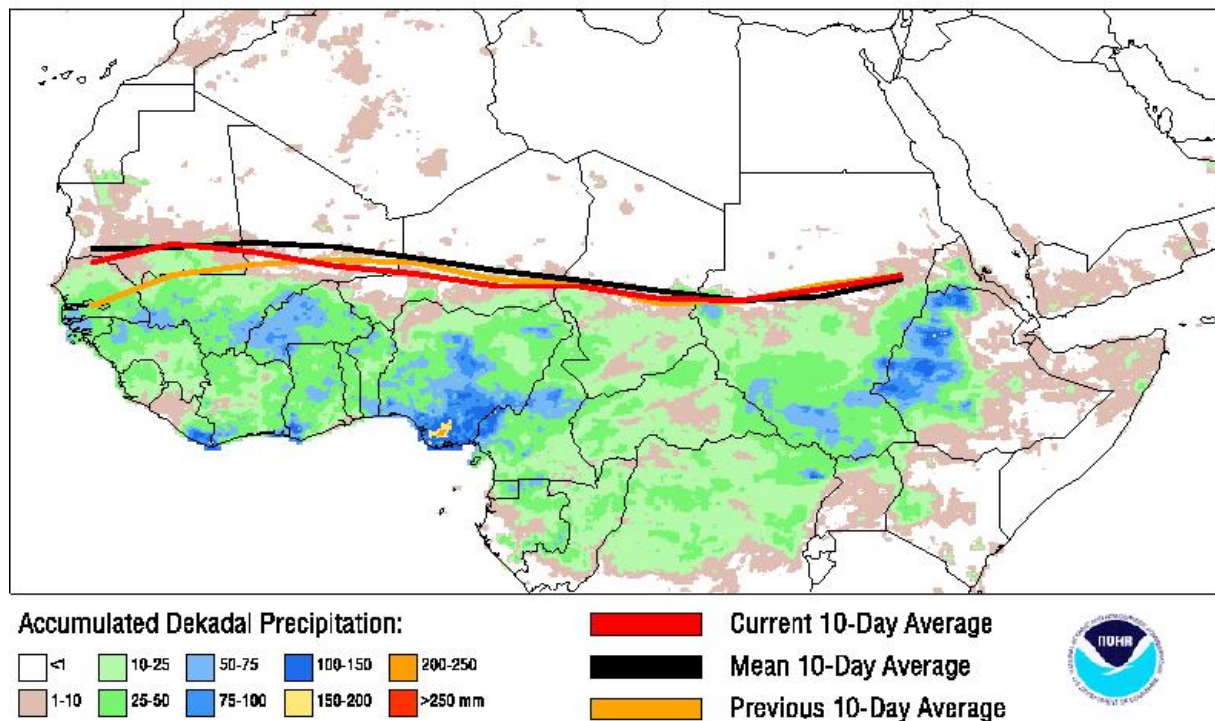
July 6 - 12, 2006

Weekly Introduction:

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

June 2006 Dekad 3



ITCZ Update:

The African section of the ITCZ is near normal overall, but is slightly below normal in Niger and Mali. During the period from June 21 - 30 2006, the ITCZ was located near 15.36 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E. This compares with a position last dekad of around 15.0N, a position last year of around 15.89N, and a 1988-2005 climatological mean of 15.79N. Therefore, the current ITCZ is located ~0.36 degrees north of its position last dekad, but ~0.53 degrees south of last year, and ~0.43 degrees south of normal.

Additional information can be found at the web site:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>.

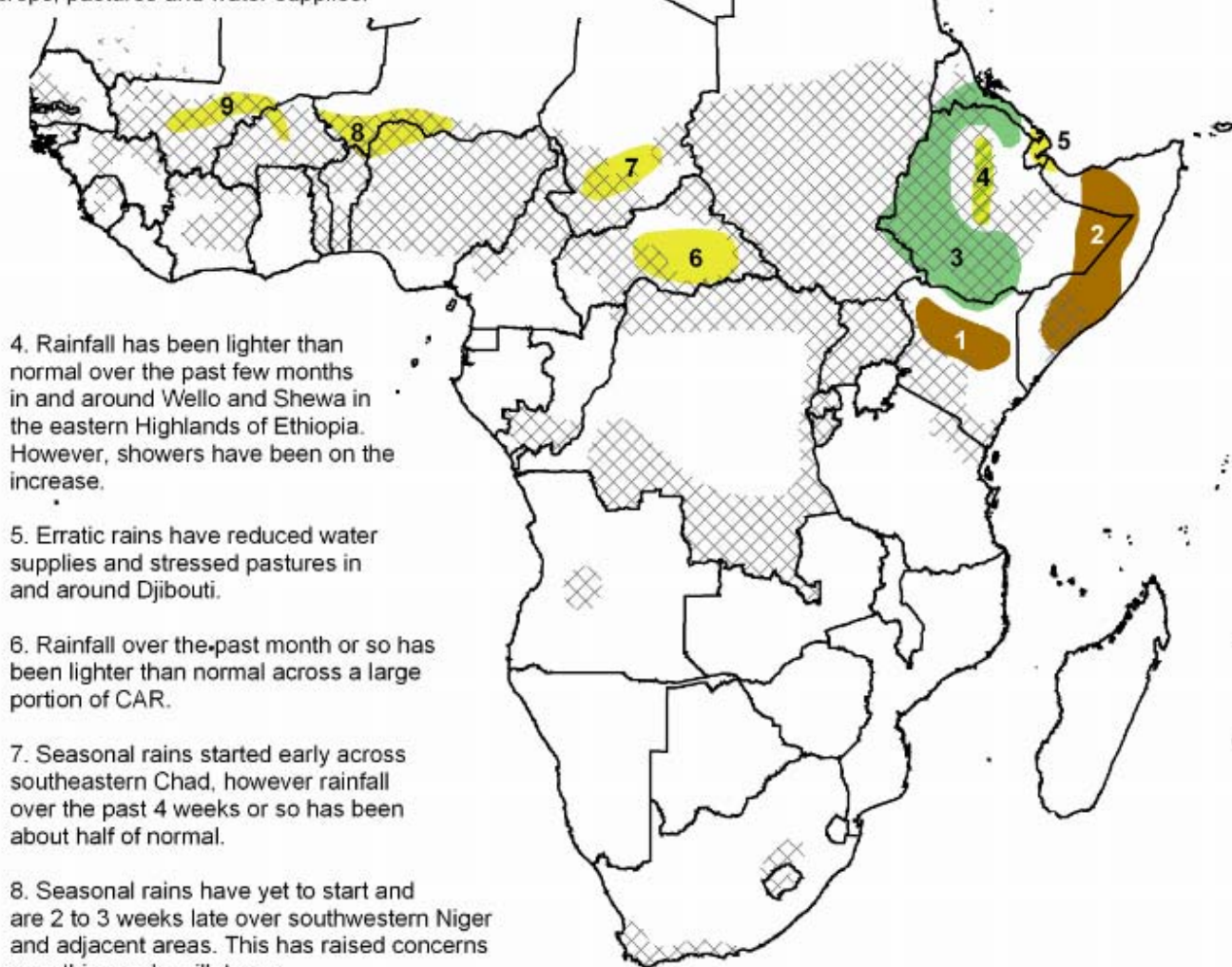
Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1. Multiple poor rainy seasons have resulted in drought across portions of northern and central Kenya. Agriculture, pastures and water supplies have suffered as a result.

2. Below normal rainfall during 2005 and 2006 have resulted in drought development across much of Somalia and adjacent portions of Ethiopia.

3. Rainfall has been abundant over the past several months across western Ethiopia and central Eritrea, favoring crops, pastures and water supplies.

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. Rainfall has been lighter than normal over the past few months in and around Wello and Shewa in the eastern Highlands of Ethiopia. However, showers have been on the increase.

5. Erratic rains have reduced water supplies and stressed pastures in and around Djibouti.

6. Rainfall over the past month or so has been lighter than normal across a large portion of CAR.

7. Seasonal rains started early across southeastern Chad, however rainfall over the past 4 weeks or so has been about half of normal.

8. Seasonal rains have yet to start and are 2 to 3 weeks late over southwestern Niger and adjacent areas. This has raised concerns over this year's millet crop.

9. Seasonal rains started on time over most of southern Mali. However, rainfall during the past 30 days has been about half of normal in some locations.

Valid: July 6 - 12, 2006

Weather Hazards Benefits Text Explanation:

- 1) After the failure of the 2005 short rains across much of Africa's Greater Horn, the 2006 long rains were above average across many areas. However, across much of northern Kenya, the March through May rains were lighter than average. Rainfall amounts were only 50 to 75 percent of normal. These shortfalls, combined with the very poor 2005 rains, have resulted in the development of severe drought. Rainfall deficits of 250 to 500+ mm since January 1, 2005 have resulted in a reduction of water supplies, crop failures and degradation of pastures across the region. The next chance for significant rains will not be until October with the arrival of the 2006 short rains.
- 2) The 2005 short rains all but completely failed across much of Somalia. The 2006 long rains were also lighter than normal in many areas. From March 1 through May 31, rainfall amounts were 40 to 70 percent of normal, resulting in deficits of 50 to 150 mm. This has resulted in the development of severe drought which has stress pastures and reduced water supplies in the region. Despite some recent beneficial showers, severe drought persists across the region and will persist for the next several months at least. The next chance for significant rains will not be until October with the arrival of the 2006 short rains.
- 3) Recent rains have been fairly abundant across western Ethiopia and central Eritrea. Since February 1, rainfall totals are 100 to 200+ percent of normal, resulting in moisture surpluses of 50 to over 200 mm. In the western Highlands of Ethiopia, these rains have increased moisture for the Meher crops. Over the northern portions of the Afar region and eastern Eritrea, these rains have favored pastures and increased water supplies. Abundant rains have also benefited pastures over the pasture lands of SNNPR and southern-most Oromiya. Additional rains are expected across the Highlands, with showers expected over much of the Afar region during the period.
- 4) Rainfall has been lighter than normal over Wello and Shewa in the eastern highlands of Ethiopia. Deficits of 30 to 60 mm have developed since February 1. However, rainfall has recently been on the increase over the area. With additional showers expected during the period, deficits are expected to ease and moisture conditions are expected to improve. The increased moisture should benefit crops, pastures and water supplies in the area.
- 5) Rainfall has been light and spotty across much of Djibouti and adjacent portions of Somalia and Ethiopia. Since January 1, rainfall totals are less than 50 percent of normal. This has resulted in rainfall deficits of 40 to 80 mm. Dry conditions have degraded pastures and reduced water supplies in the area. Although showers are possible south and west of the area, hot and dry conditions are expected during the period.
- 6) Rainfall over the past several weeks has been light and spotty across a large portion of CAR. Since June 1, rainfall has been about half of normal, resulting in deficits of 50 to 100+ mm. This dryness may stress local agriculture. Although scattered thundershowers are possible across the area, dryness is expected to continue through the period.
- 7) Seasonal rains started several weeks early over southern Chad this season. However, recent rains have been lighter than normal over portions of southwestern Chad. Rainfall totals since the beginning of June are 50 to 70 percent of normal, resulting in deficits of 50 to 100 mm. These deficits may begin to stress developing crops in the area. Scattered showers are expected during the period, which should result in some improvement.
- 8) Seasonal rains are 2 to 3 weeks late over southwestern Niger and northwestern Nigeria, and have yet to start. In a few locations, the rains are up to a month late. The slow start to the season has raised concerns over this year's crop, especially millet. However, there are indications that seasonal rains may be about to start. Therefore, improvement is possible across the region during the period.
- 9) Seasonal rains started early over southwestern Mali. However, over the Segou and Mopti regions of Mali and adjacent parts of Burkina Faso, recent rains have been light and scattered. Rainfall totals since June 1 are only 40 to 70 percent of normal, resulting in rainfall deficits of up to 100 mm. Conditions are expected to be favorable for rainfall during the period. Therefore, some improvement is possible.

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Questions or comments about this product may be directed to **Chet.Schmitt@noaa.gov** or **1-301-763-8000 x7519**

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