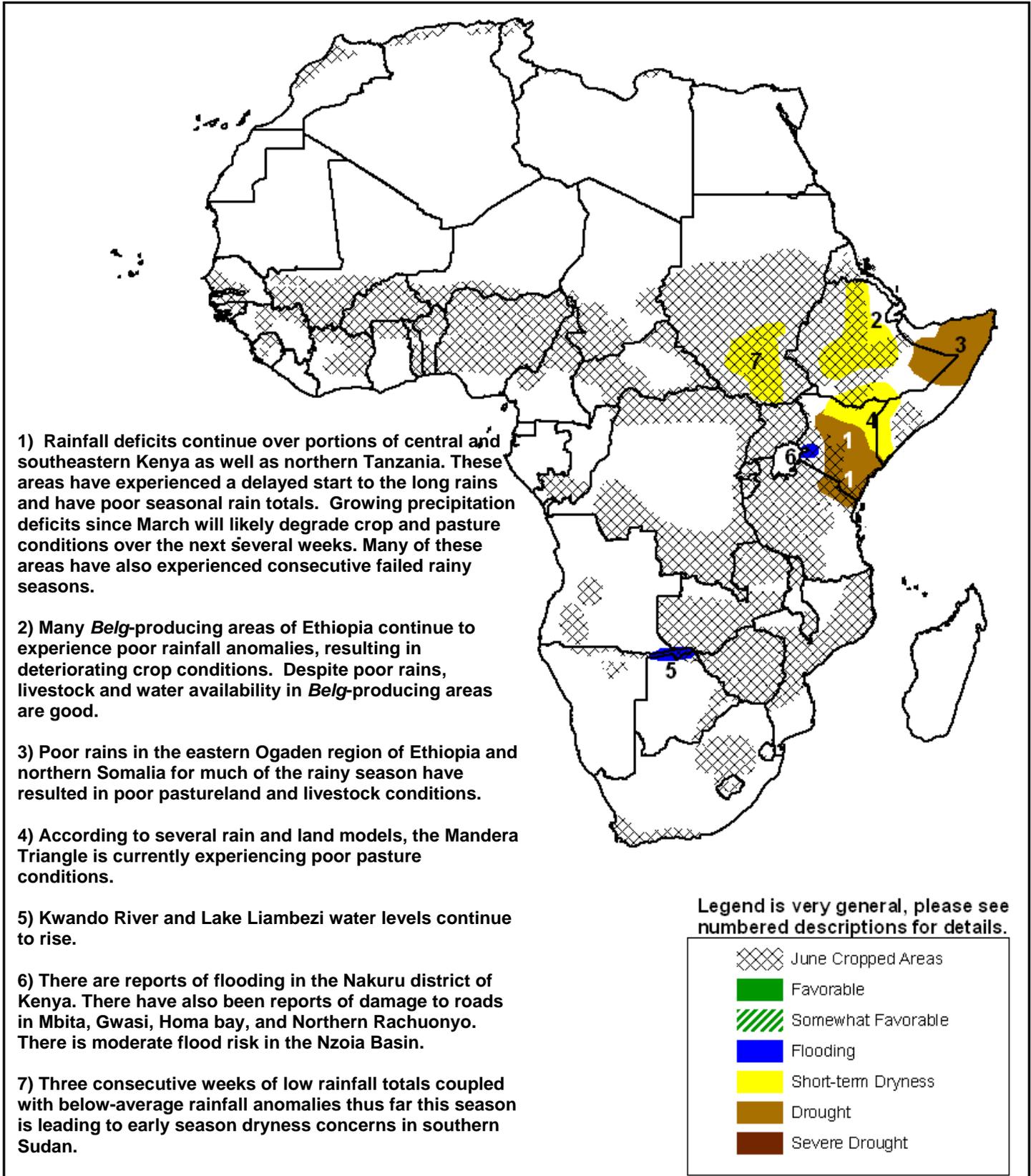


- Three consecutive weeks of low rain totals have led to early-season dryness concerns in southern Sudan.
- The Inter-Tropical Front is located south of its normal position for this time of year.



Slow advancement of Inter-Tropical Front

For the last two analysis periods, the Inter-Tropical Front has been further south than its normal positioning for the specified period of analysis. During the second dekad of May, the ITF was located near 12.3N degrees, which is 1.1 degrees south of the average for this time of year and 1.6 degrees south of the position for this same period in 2008. In the image to the right (Figure 1), it can be seen that the current ITF position is significantly farther south than it was during the first dekad of May, meaning there was a digression to the normal ITF advancement northward.

A possible cause of the delayed northward advancement of the ITF is the atmospheric conditions in the Gulf of Guinea region. Anomalous warm sea surface temperatures in addition to easterly wind anomalies extending from West Africa into the Atlantic Ocean have prevented the normal advancement of rains and have caused negative rainfall anomalies in the Gulf of Guinea countries.

According to the GFS Model (Figure 2), moderate rains are expected across West Africa during the May 28 – June 3 observation period. Totals are expected to range from 5 – 30 mm, with localized areas in excess of 40 mm.

East Africa dryness

For much of the east Africa rainy season, rainfall totals have been below average (See Figure 3). This has had a wide range of impacts on the region. In Ethiopia, *Belg* crop conditions are deteriorating. Parts of Kenya and Tanzania experienced a delayed start to the season and have received poor totals thus far. With precipitation deficits steadily growing since March, crop and pastureland conditions will likely degrade. Ground reports and images from Somalia also indicate very poor pasture and livestock conditions. In southern Sudan, two consecutive weeks of low rainfall totals coupled with below-average rainfall anomalies thus far this season is leading to early season dryness.

The east African rainy season ends in September; however, shorter-cycle crops have already felt the impacts of low rain totals and may continue to if improvement in rains does not occur soon. Many areas in the east have experienced consecutively failed cropping seasons.

