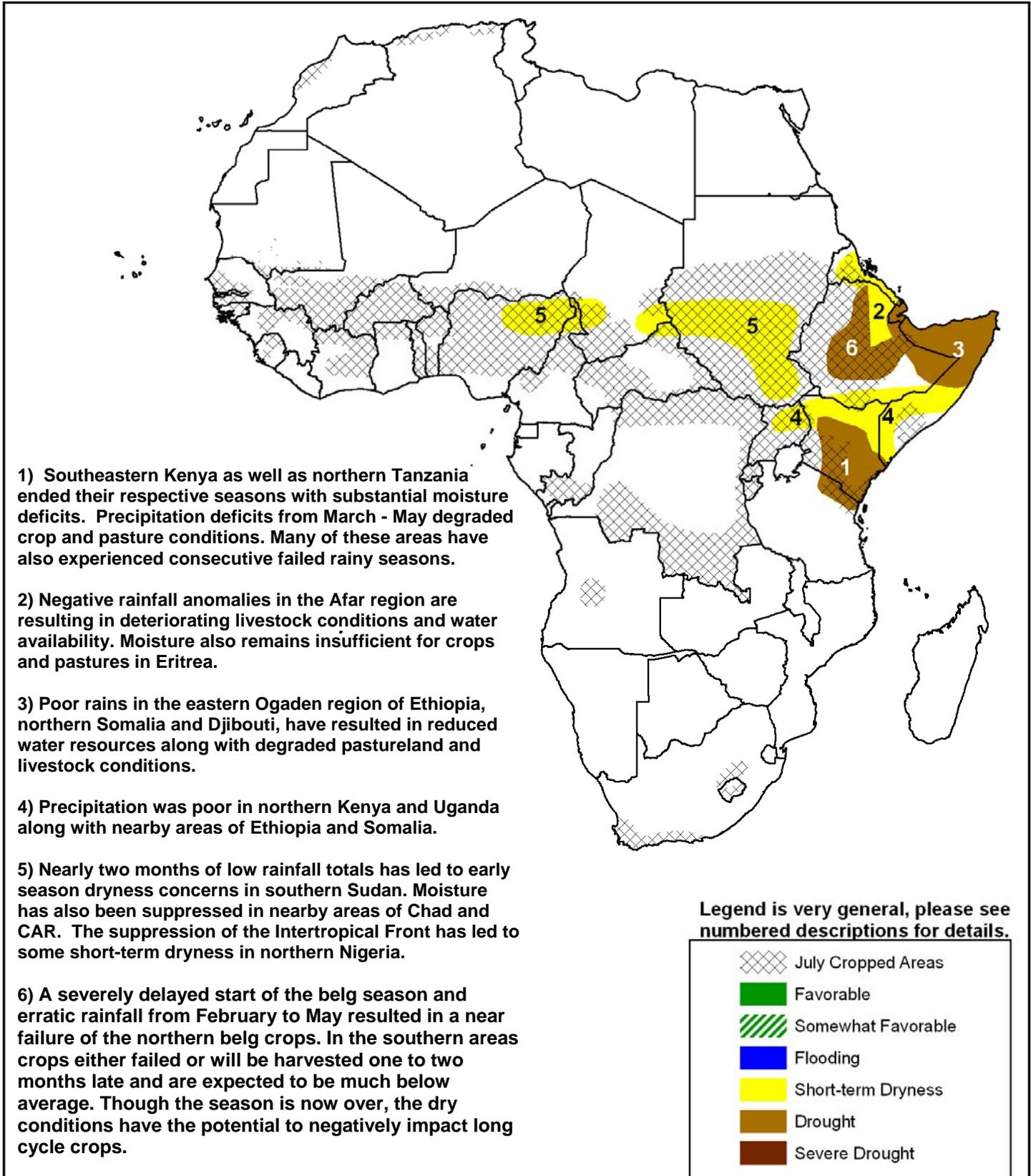


- The Meher rains arrived late in Ethiopia, which may impact long-term crops.
- Early season rainfall deficits continue in northern Nigeria, Sudan and Eritrea.



Moisture is abundant across most of west Africa; northern Nigeria remains the main exception

During the last two weeks precipitation has greatly improved over most of west Africa. Precipitation was particularly heavy along the southern coast and the Guinea Highlands. The only large area that continues to face season long deficits is northern Nigeria. (Figure 1)

Localized small rainfall deficits had begun to accrue in small areas of Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Niger. None of these deficits exceeded 25 mm and did not represent a delayed start to the season. Precipitation during the last two weeks has ensured that those deficits did not become larger, and most of these areas are now showing a small surplus on the season.

Northern Nigeria, and to a lesser extent, near by areas of Cameroon and southern Chad have not benefited from the heavy rainfall during the past two weeks. Deficits in Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria continue to grow. Deficits range from 25 to 100 mm in Chad and Cameroon to greater than 100 mm in northern Nigeria. (Figure 2)

It does remain early in the season across the areas facing moisture deficits and several weeks of steady rainfall could make up the difference.

East Africa continues to be dry in Ethiopia, Sudan

Ethiopia has had nearly a solid month of improved precipitation, with rainfall nearly everyday. However, the precipitation was delayed in arriving for the Meher season. Still, rainfall has now reached the full extent of the area that typically receives rainfall this time of year. Thus far, the Meher season has not improved on the very poor performance of the Belg season. Precipitation during the Belg season was generally suppressed. This led into a delayed start to the Meher season when pasture conditions and water availability continued their downward trend. This has only recently been reversed with steady precipitation. Unfortunately local long-term forecasts suggest that the Meher rains may end early. That combined with the delayed start to the season could complicate the growing season.

Sudan, like Ethiopia, has had a poor start to its rainy season. Although rainfall along the CAR border has improved rapidly over the last month, much of the rest of the country has deficits that are quickly growing. A large area of the south has received less than half of its average rainfall since May 1st, with deficits now exceeding 150 mm in some locations. The lack of rainfall is negatively impacting crops, pasture and water availability across much of the country. (Figure 3)

