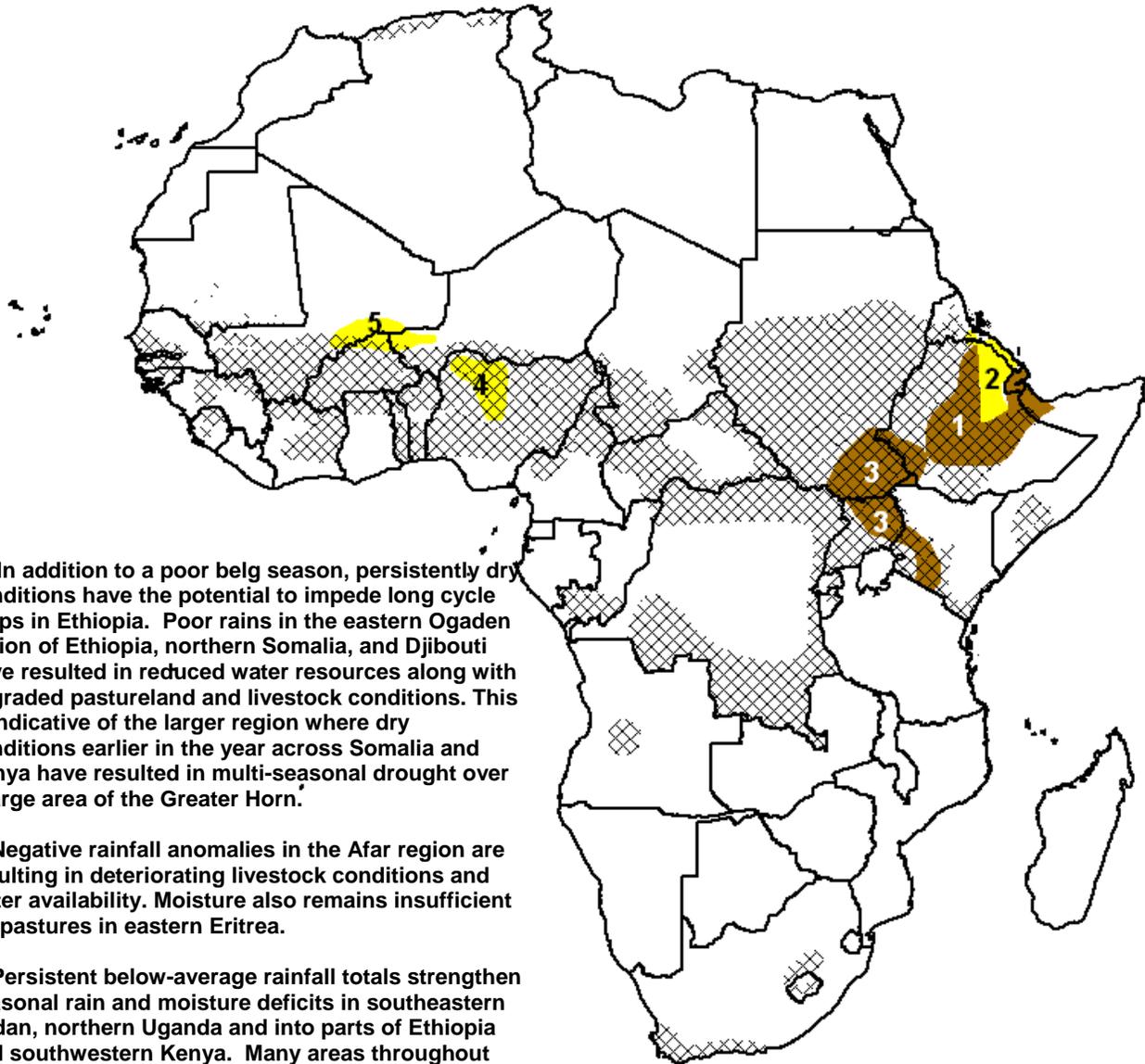


- Replanting of short-cycle crops in West Africa proves to be beneficial to farmers.
- On August 24<sup>th</sup> Mbour, Senegal recorded over 124 mm of rainfall. Flooding caused property damage and injuries.



1) In addition to a poor belg season, persistently dry conditions have the potential to impede long cycle crops in Ethiopia. Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and Djibouti have resulted in reduced water resources along with degraded pastureland and livestock conditions. This is indicative of the larger region where dry conditions earlier in the year across Somalia and Kenya have resulted in multi-seasonal drought over a large area of the Greater Horn.

2) Negative rainfall anomalies in the Afar region are resulting in deteriorating livestock conditions and water availability. Moisture also remains insufficient for pastures in eastern Eritrea.

3) Persistent below-average rainfall totals strengthen seasonal rain and moisture deficits in southeastern Sudan, northern Uganda and into parts of Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya. Many areas throughout central and eastern Kenya, as well as northern Tanzania ended their respective seasons with substantial moisture deficits, resulting in degraded crop and pasture conditions.

4) Increased rainfall over the past month has benefited late-planted short-cycle crops in Niger and Nigeria following the loss of normally planted crops. However, season long rainfall deficits remain in parts of northwestern Nigeria.

5) Short-term rainfall deficits have had local impacts on mixed cropping and pastoral areas. Livestock deaths have been reported in Gao, Mali.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



## Favorable cropping conditions exist in much of West Africa

Since late July rainfall activity in West Africa improved significantly. Early season concerns of poor rainfall totals, stemming from a stop in seasonal rains following an early start, are nearly eradicated after significant deficits once stretching from Niger to Chad crippled crops. Ground reports state that low seasonal rainfall totals still remain in the mixed cropping and pastoral areas of Gao, Mali, the northern tip of Burkina Faso and into nearby portions of Niger. Livestock deaths have been reported in Gao, Mali. Parts of northwestern Nigeria remain moderately below average as well, having rainfall totals falling between 50 and 80 percent of average (**Figure 1**). Elsewhere, in West Africa cropping regions rainfall totals are above normal, most surpassing 120 percent of average. This has proven to be beneficial to farmers.

In early July, many local areas in Niger had been suffering significant seasonal rainfall deficits. Although much of western Niger experienced a normal start of season, this dryness had resulted in deteriorated crop conditions, and acute failure of millet crops in some local areas along the Nigeria / Niger border. After failure of the first sowing, farmers re-sowed shorter-cycle crops in mid-July. A field assessment confirmed that the resurgence of rain has produced moderate conditions for millet in Niger, but concerns remain for pastures which are located north of the current ITF position. To end the season with a better than mediocre harvest, consistent rains are needed through September. More precipitation and ground moisture are needed over the region as a whole to compensate for seasonal rainfall deficits and to revive pastures.

## Inter-tropical Front Analysis as of August Dekad 2, 2009

The ITF for the August 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> analysis period was located near 17.3N degrees, while the normal for this time of year is 18.5N degrees. This position has changed very little in the past three dekads. The ITF tends to advance in the western half of its analysis and remain near stationary in the eastern half of its analysis zone. The seven day rainfall forecast from the GFS model indicates a possible advancement of the ITF over Niger, Chad and Sudan during the third dekad of August. The ITF begins its annual retreat in September.

