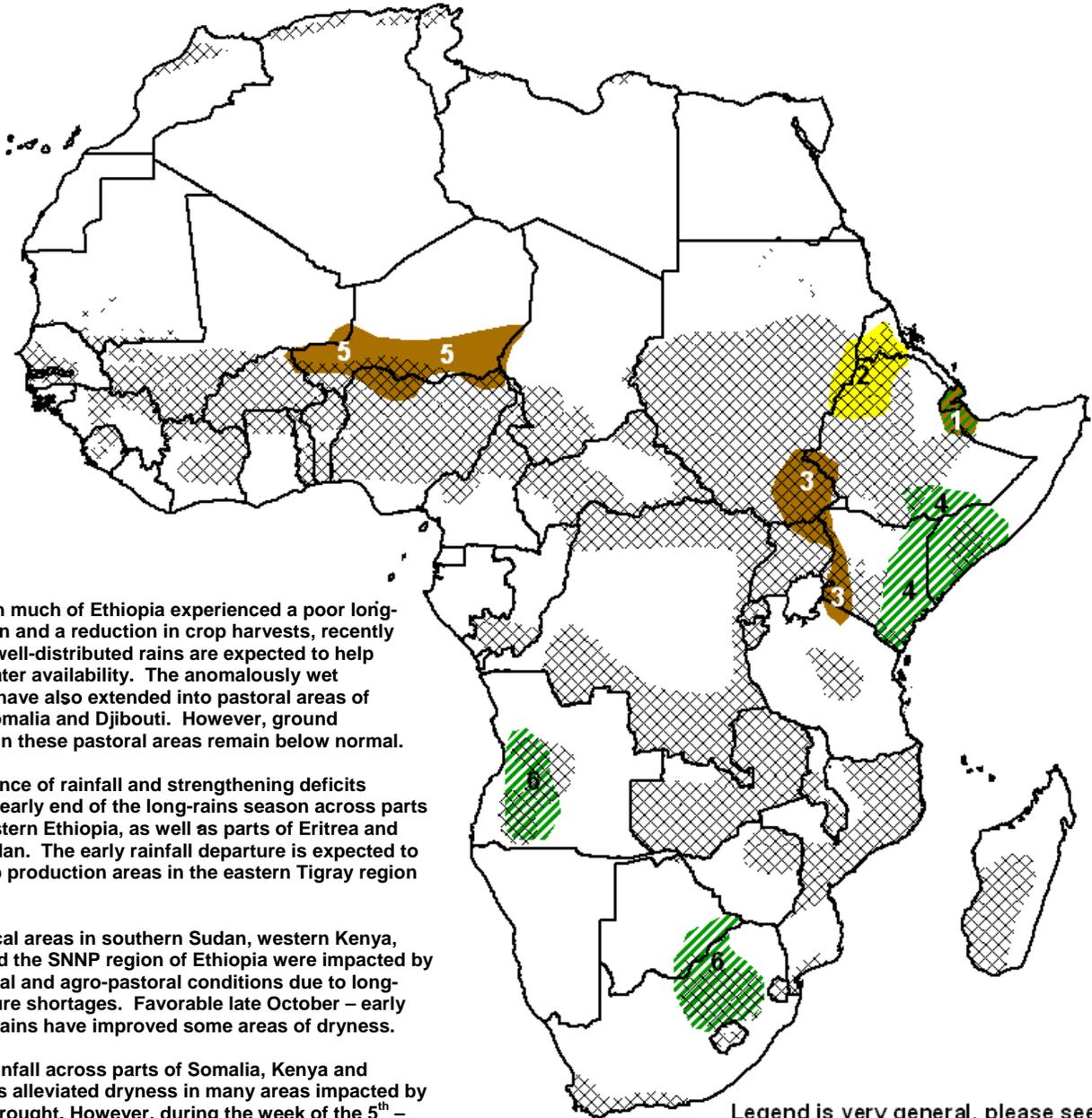


- Heavy rains have tapered off in the east. Light totals are expected during the November 12th – 18th observation period.
- Dryness persists in northwestern Ethiopia.



1) Although much of Ethiopia experienced a poor long-rains season and a reduction in crop harvests, recently heavy and well-distributed rains are expected to help increase water availability. The anomalously wet conditions have also extended into pastoral areas of northern Somalia and Djibouti. However, ground conditions in these pastoral areas remain below normal.

2) The absence of rainfall and strengthening deficits suggest an early end of the long-rains season across parts of northwestern Ethiopia, as well as parts of Eritrea and eastern Sudan. The early rainfall departure is expected to impact crop production areas in the eastern Tigray region of Ethiopia.

3) Many local areas in southern Sudan, western Kenya, Uganda, and the SNNP region of Ethiopia were impacted by poor pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions due to long-term moisture shortages. Favorable late October – early November rains have improved some areas of dryness.

4) Heavy rainfall across parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia has alleviated dryness in many areas impacted by long-term drought. However, during the week of the 5th – 11th, rainfall tapered off in Somalia bringing relief to flood-threatened areas. Land preparation and planting are currently underway for many cropping areas. Localized flooding along the River Tana was reported during the first week of November.

5) Intermittent periods of rain and an early end to the season in September has resulted in poor agricultural and pastoral conditions and a reduction of crop harvests for a number of local areas across southern Niger into Nigeria.

6) Early season wetness has the potential to lead to favorable ground conditions and increased water availability. However, this anomalously positive rainfall does not imply a beneficial season at present.

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



Above average Deyr rains expected and reports of flooding in the East

Multiple analyses and outlook models suggests an above average Deyr rains season in Somalia. Several composite-year analyses all point to positive anomalies of 0.2 mm – 1mm of rainfall per day from southeastern Ethiopia into central and southern Somalia and coastal Kenya. The highest rainfall anomalies are likely to occur in southern Somalia near the Ethiopia border. The International Research Institute (IRI) of Columbia University and NOAA's Africa Desk both agree on a tilt in the odds for above average precipitation in Kenya and the southernmost parts of Ethiopia and Somalia.

During the third dekad of October Deyr rainfall was intense with parts of central and southern Somalia receiving more than 75 mm of rainfall. The upper catchments of the Juba and Shabelle watersheds in Ethiopia were reported to have received significant rainfall totals as well. In Kenya, heavy, isolated rainfall totals surpassing 100 mm were observed near the River Tana delta and along the banks where localized flooding was reported. The director of Meteorology in Kenya is calling for heavy rains to continue in December through February with more flooding episodes likely to occur. During this past week, however, rainfall was a bit more subdued (**Figure 1**). Light-to-moderate totals were reported throughout the east, but never reaching northern parts of Ethiopia and Somalia. In southern parts of Somalia and into Kenya, rains for the November 5th – 11th observation period were 25 mm or more below average. The decrease in rains provided an opportunity for relief from localized flooding and from the threat of more flooding. Heavier rains are not expected to return during the November 12th – 18th period. The GFS Precipitation outlook is calling for very light totals ranging from 1 – 5 mm (**Figure 2**) in the southernmost parts of Ethiopia and Somalia with light-to-moderate rains in Kenya.

Southern Africa El Niño

As of July NOAA's Climate Prediction Center declared an official El Niño. An El Niño is declared when central and eastern Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures exceed 0.5 degrees Celsius. The phenomenon has varying impacts globally. In southern Africa it typically is associated with warmer and drier conditions in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia. At present, southern Africa rainfall anomalies are above average for Angola, Namibia, Botswana, and much of South Africa. These above-average rains have led to favorable early season cropping conditions. However, it has not been reported that cropping activities have begun. The remaining countries in southern Africa are experiencing below average rains; however, those totals are only 25 mm – 50 mm below normal. The southern Africa season does not end until May; therefore there is time for recovery if this year does not shape up to be a typical El Niño for southern Africa.

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