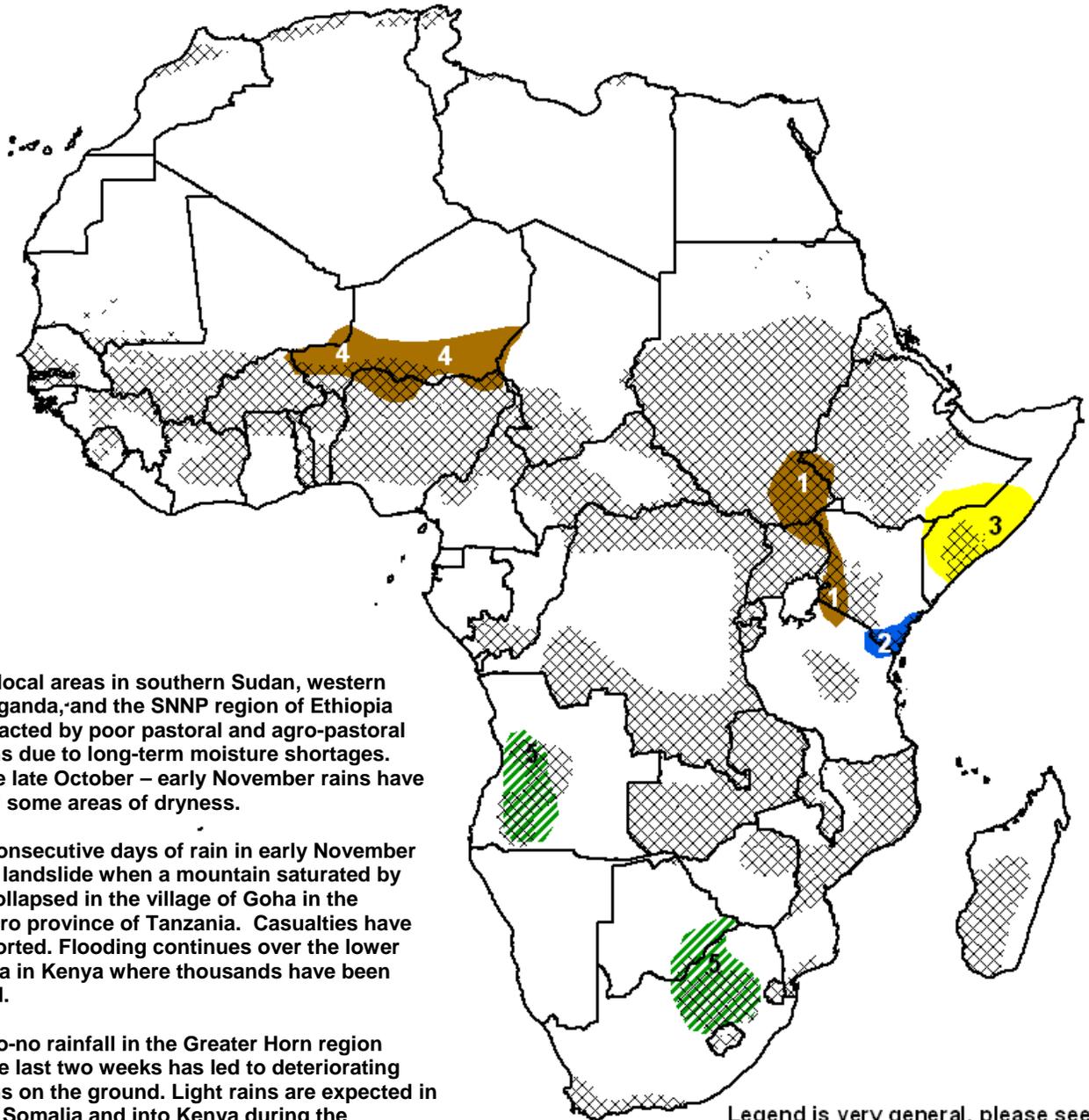


- Rains continue to taper off in the Greater Horn region.
- Heavy rains and flooding in Tanzania cause a landslide near the Kilimanjaro region.



1) 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.

2) Four consecutive days of rain in early November caused a landslide when a mountain saturated by rainfall collapsed in the village of Goha in the Kilimanjaro province of Tanzania. Casualties have been reported. Flooding continues over the lower Tana delta in Kenya where thousands have been displaced.

3) Little-to-no rainfall in the Greater Horn region during the last two weeks has led to deteriorating conditions on the ground. Light rains are expected in southern Somalia and into Kenya during the November 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> observation period.

4) 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.

5) 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.



## Long lull in East African rains

Since the start of November southeastern Ethiopia, much of Somalia, and northeastern Kenya have been experiencing a short dry spell. In the past month, most areas in this region, at most, have had less than 11 rain days (**Figure 1**) and some are surpassing two weeks with no rains at all (**Figure 2**). It is expected that rains will return to the region before the season ends in December. Many outlook models are expecting an above average end to the rainy season there. In the meantime, anomalous westerly winds out of India have suppressed rains and are the cause of this present dryness. The Global Forecast System 7-Day Rainfall Outlook is calling for light precipitation totals between 1- 5 mm, as high as 10 mm in localized areas.

## Early end to regular rainy seasons in parts of Africa

This year the respective rainy seasons came to an earlier than normal in parts of Africa. The 2009 West African rainy season was characterized by irregular rainfall totals and inconsistent temporal and spatial distribution. Rainfall in Niger and northern Nigeria ended in late September/early October. As a result, confirmed damages to crop have been reported. In the north-central parts of Nigeria significant rice and maize crop failures were reported, and maize yield reductions are expected in the extreme south of Gombe. In Ethiopia, after having an abundance of rainfall in the western parts of the country, rains pulled out a little early. No significant damages have been reported, but the season will end slightly below average.

## 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, 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.

Valid: October 15 – November 16, 2009

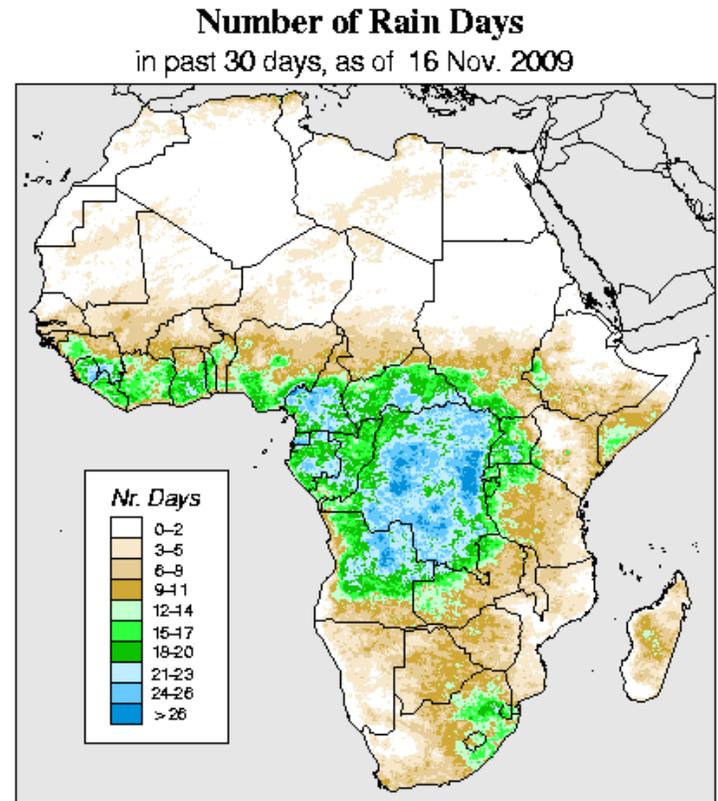


Figure 1: USGS

Valid: October 15 – November 16, 2009

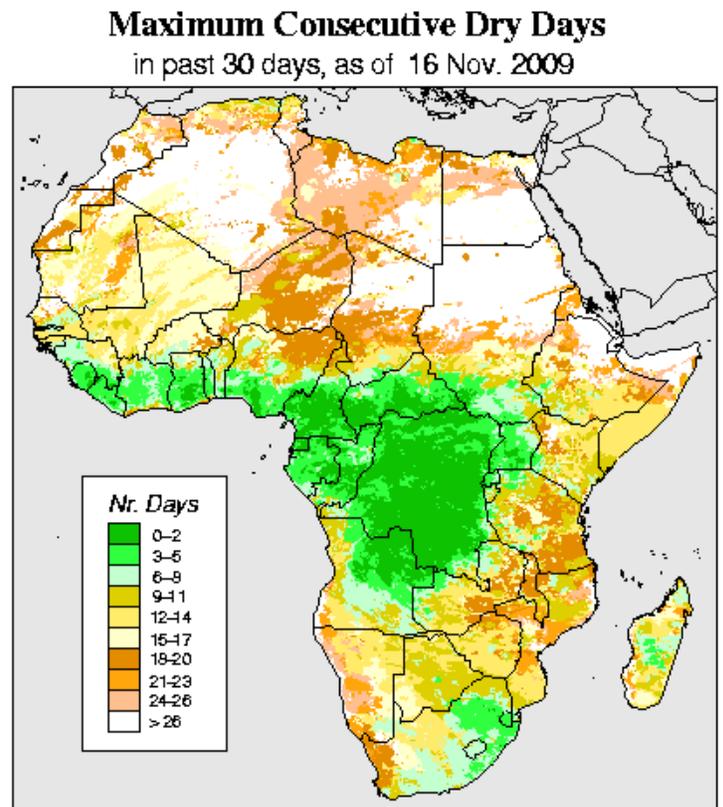


Figure 2: USGS