

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

August 19 - 25, 2004

Weekly Introduction:

UUCCA Guidance for September – November at One Month Lead

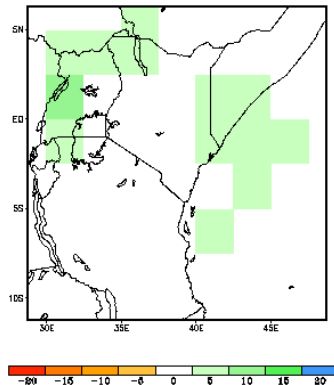
East Africa

The outlook for East Africa rainfall at one month lead shows a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over the broad region from Rwanda northward to southern Sudan and extending eastward from northern Uganda and southern Sudan to northwest Kenya and southwest Ethiopia. Climatology is expected elsewhere.

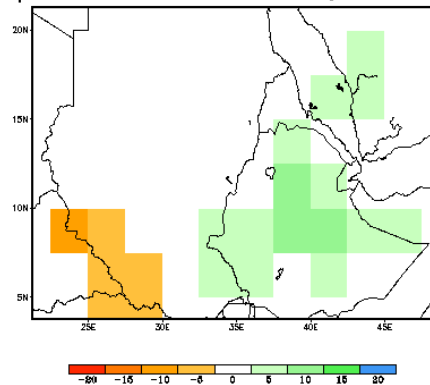
Northern Horn of Africa

There is a tilt in the odds favoring above average rainfall over most of central and northern Ethiopia. There is a tilt in the odds favoring below average rainfall locally over southwestern Sudan and the eastern portion of the Central African Republic. Climatology is expected elsewhere.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Sep–Nov 2004 East Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead



CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Sep–Nov 2004 N. Horn of Africa Rainfall, One Month Lead

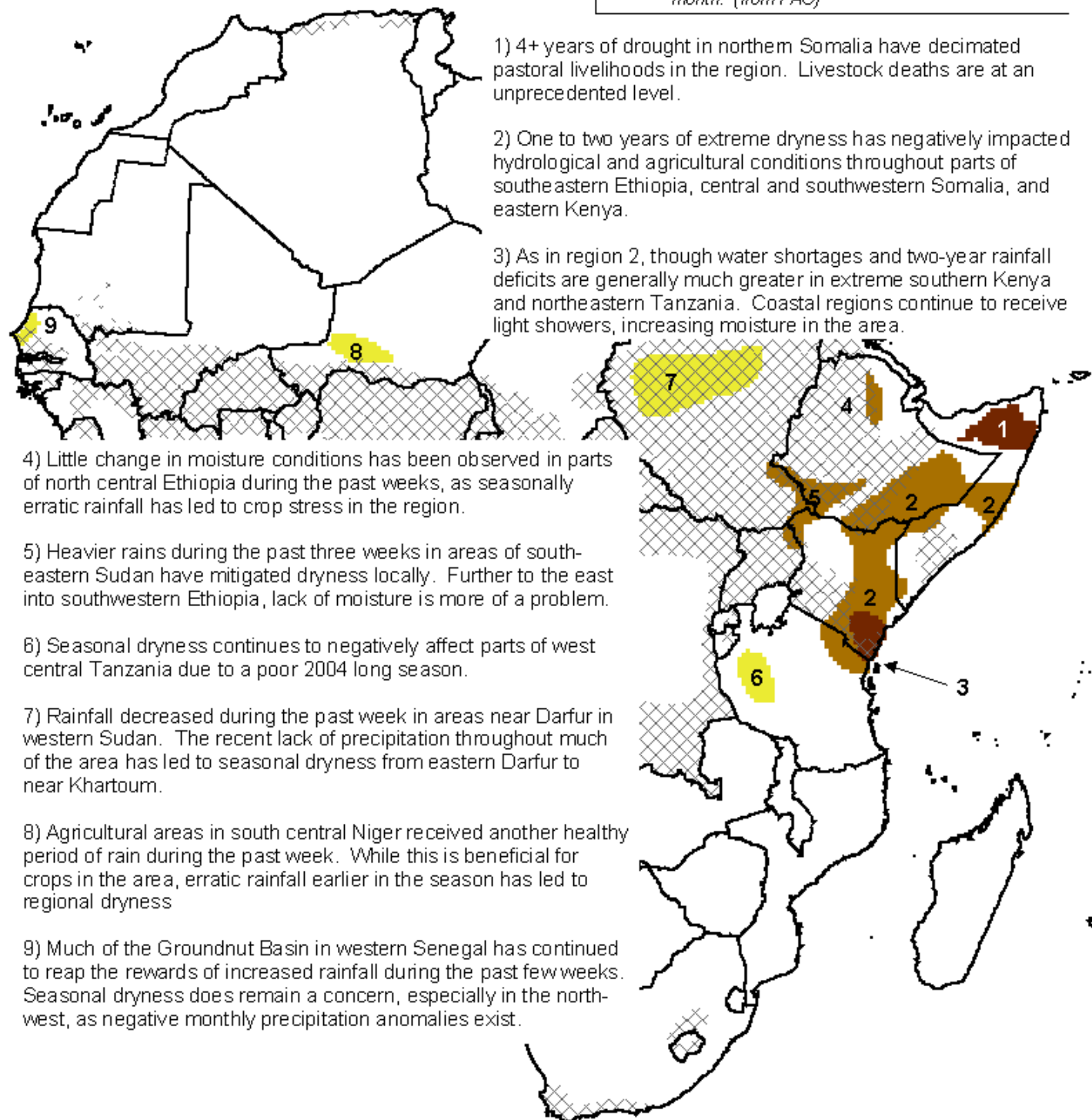


Locust Update

The report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on the locust situation in western Africa was last updated on August 5. (This will be updated as available.) Additional details can be found at the USAID web site for Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) at <http://www.aelga.net>.

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NOTE: Black hatched regions depict combined wheat, maize, sorghum, and millet crop zones which are active (sowing to harvest) during the current month. (from FAO)



1) 4+ years of drought in northern Somalia have decimated pastoral livelihoods in the region. Livestock deaths are at an unprecedented level.

2) One to two years of extreme dryness has negatively impacted hydrological and agricultural conditions throughout parts of southeastern Ethiopia, central and southwestern Somalia, and eastern Kenya.

3) As in region 2, though water shortages and two-year rainfall deficits are generally much greater in extreme southern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania. Coastal regions continue to receive light showers, increasing moisture in the area.

4) Little change in moisture conditions has been observed in parts of north central Ethiopia during the past weeks, as seasonally erratic rainfall has led to crop stress in the region.

5) Heavier rains during the past three weeks in areas of south-eastern Sudan have mitigated dryness locally. Further to the east into southwestern Ethiopia, lack of moisture is more of a problem.

6) Seasonal dryness continues to negatively affect parts of west central Tanzania due to a poor 2004 long season.

7) Rainfall decreased during the past week in areas near Darfur in western Sudan. The recent lack of precipitation throughout much of the area has led to seasonal dryness from eastern Darfur to near Khartoum.

8) Agricultural areas in south central Niger received another healthy period of rain during the past week. While this is beneficial for crops in the area, erratic rainfall earlier in the season has led to regional dryness.

9) Much of the Groundnut Basin in western Senegal has continued to reap the rewards of increased rainfall during the past few weeks. Seasonal dryness does remain a concern, especially in the north-west, as negative monthly precipitation anomalies exist.

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1) 2004 precipitation was near normal in parts of northern Somalia, including the western areas of Sanaag, Sool and Togdheer Provinces, and thus dryness did not substantially increase in these areas. Further to the east, however, in southeastern Sanaag, northeastern Sool, southern Bari, and northern Nugal Provinces, a near failure of the Gu rains only exacerbated the dire situation. Entire herds of livestock have been lost and people's livelihoods are severely threatened. Substantial rainfall is not forecast in the near future.

2) 2003-04 seasonal rainfall was much less than normal throughout areas of central and southwestern Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, and eastern Kenya, as yearly precipitation ran from 50-75% of normal in the regions with locally more intense dryness. Currently in the dry season, these areas are not expected to receive beneficial rainfall until October, as hydrological reserves will continue to decrease throughout the next 2+ months. Negative impacts include poor pastoral conditions, meager irrigation, and low drinking water levels.

3) Associated with area #2, much of southern Kenya and extreme northeastern Tanzania are feeling the effects of very poor performing rainfall during the past four seasons. Yearly precipitation deficits in the area exceed 300 mm locally as only half of normal seasonal precipitation was observed. Coastal rains have brought a little relief to areas such as Mombassa and Malindi, though more severe dryness exists further inland. Substantial rains are not expected until October.

4) Agricultural stress and other dryness-related problems may be occurring in parts of north central Ethiopia near the town of Weldiya along the western Afar Regional State due to early long-season erratic precipitation. Though recent monsoonal showers have pushed into the region, areas of local dryness continue to negatively affect livelihoods. Forecast rainfall is expected to be lighter than normal during the next week.

5) Up to and exceeding 75 mm of rainfall was observed during the past week in parts of southeastern Sudan experiencing seasonal dryness. Coupled with additional precipitation falling two weeks ago, dryness has been mitigated in much of this area. This is not the case further to the east especially into SW Ethiopia and to the south in bordering northern Uganda and Kenya. Little rainfall is expected during the next week.

6) Pastoral and agricultural conditions are stressed in parts of west central Tanzania, as 2003-04 monsoonal precipitation was slightly more than half of normal for the season. Mid-October should bring rains back into the region.

7) Due largely to a southward-biased Intertropical Front (ITCZ) during the past three dekads, much of central and west-central Sudan is experiencing drier than normal conditions. While conditions in Western Darfur have benefited from increased precipitation, eastern parts of Northern and Southern Darfur, and much of Northern Kordofan is accruing substantial moisture deficits. This dryness that extends to Khartoum is negatively affecting locally irrigated agriculture and may begin affecting drinking water reserves if the trend continues. Forecasts indicate only light rainfall during the next period.

8) Increased precipitation along agricultural areas in south central Niger has led to improved hydrological conditions in the region. Conversely, areas to the north, especially in central Tahoua Department, are tallying substantial rainfall deficits due to an erratic monsoonal pattern. Likely impacts include degraded pasture conditions and lower than normal reservoir levels.

9) The western Groundnut Basin in Senegal has seen a continued increase in seasonal precipitation during the past two weeks, and this is helping to erase local rainfall deficits stemming from early erratic showers. Up to 50 mm of rainfall may be expected locally during the next week, with lighter amounts more common throughout the region.

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