The USAID FEWS-NET

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

June 16 – 22, 2005

Weekly Introduction:

Update of El Niño:

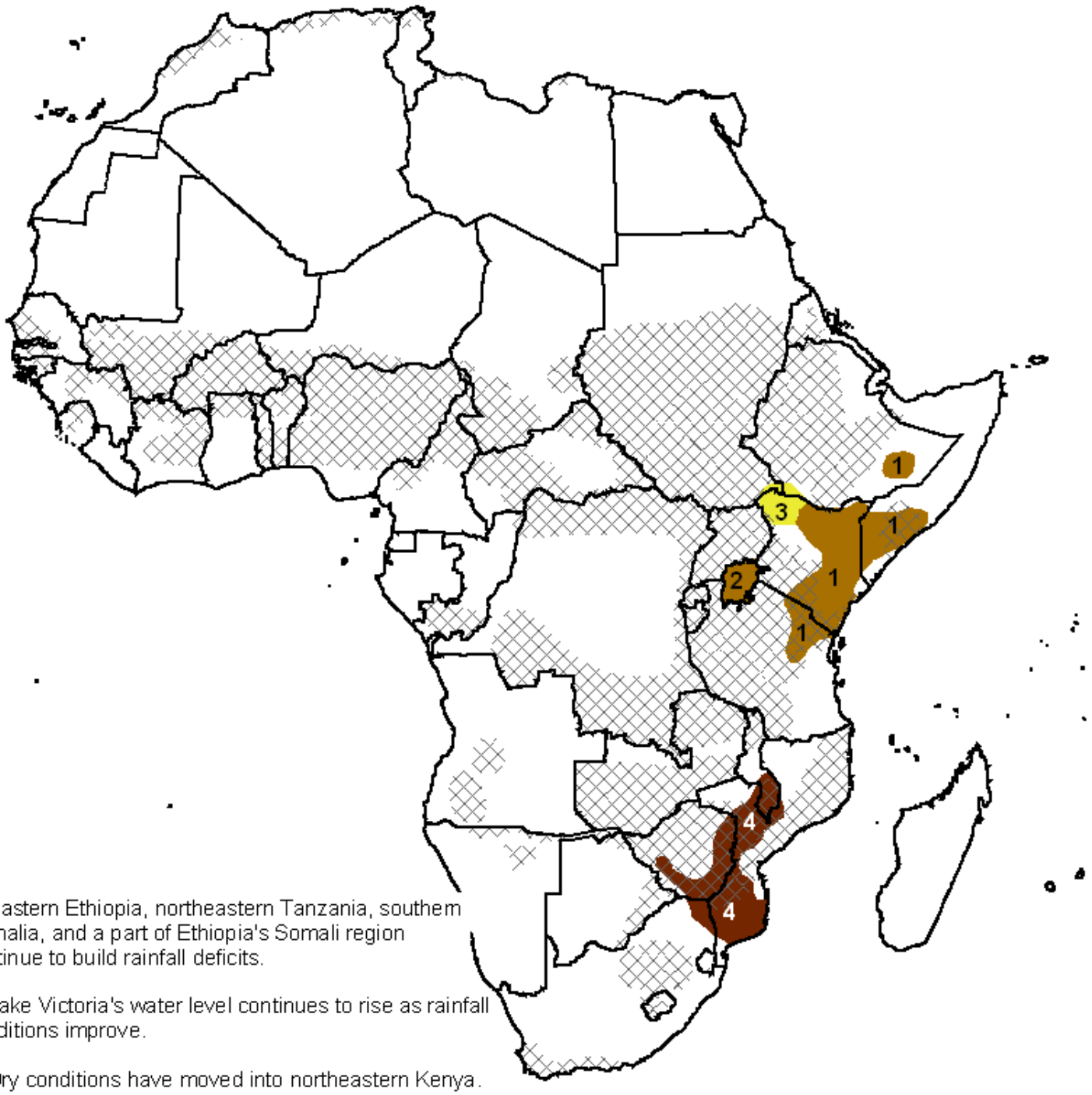
Synopsis: ENSO-neutral conditions are expected during the northern summer and fall (June-November) 2005.

Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies decreased by more than 2°C in the eastern equatorial Pacific during May. By the end of the month, negative equatorial SST anomalies were observed in most areas between 120°W and the South American coast. The decrease in SST anomalies in the eastern equatorial Pacific during May was reflected by a decrease in the SST anomalies in the Niño 3 and Niño 1+2 regions and by a decrease in the upper-ocean heat content in the eastern half of the equatorial Pacific. A majority of the statistical and coupled model forecasts indicate that ENSO-neutral conditions will prevail during the northern summer (June-August) and fall (September-November). The spread in the forecasts indicates increasing uncertainty during the last half of 2005.
This discussion is a consolidated effort of NOAA and its funded institutions.

Weather Hazards Assessment Graphic:

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

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. Eastern Ethiopia, northeastern Tanzania, southern Somalia, and a part of Ethiopia's Somali region continue to build rainfall deficits.

2. Lake Victoria's water level continues to rise as rainfall conditions improve.

3. Dry conditions have moved into northeastern Kenya.

4. A poor 2004-2005 wet season in portions of Mozambique, southern and eastern Zimbabwe, and southern Malawi has reduced water resources and degraded pastures.

Valid: June 16 - 22, 2005

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. Dry conditions in northern and eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, northeastern Tanzania and part of the Somali region of Ethiopia continue to reduce moisture available for crops. The worst conditions are in eastern parts of Kenya where rainfall deficits have exceeded 300 mm, while in other areas deficits range from 50 mm to 250 mm. Many of these locations are adding onto deficits from previous years. The end of May saw improved conditions in northern Kenya as a result of heavy rains. Little to no rain has fallen in June, and these conditions are expected to continue through the coming week.

2. Lake Victoria's lake levels continue to rebound. As of June 2nd lake levels were 0.59 meters below normal. The below normal lake levels have caused a reduced amount of hydroelectric power generation in Uganda. More precipitation is needed to continue to bring water levels back to normal. Rainfall has been light so far during the month of June. Rainfall totals of around 20 mm fell during the past week and lighter totals are expected during the coming week.

3. Rainfall over northwestern Kenya has been lighter than normal for the past few weeks. This is an area that has received below normal rainfall totals for the past few years. Little to no rain has fallen during the last two weeks and similar conditions are expected during the coming period.

4. Southern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, portions of Mozambique and extreme northeastern South Africa experienced a poor 2004 – 2005 wet season. Deficits range between 200 mm and 600 mm or 30% to 60% of normal rainfall across the region. The drought has reduced water resources and degraded pasture. Conditions are the worst in Gaza and Inhamambane provinces in Mozambique and Manicaland and Masvingo provinces in Zimbabwe. The next best chance for significant rain will be in December.

AUTHOR: Eric J Wolvovsky and Linda Phalatse

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Alvin.Miller@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7552