

Africa Weather Hazards Benefits Assessment

for

March 30, 2006 – April 5, 2006

Weekly Introduction:

Update of CPC Seasonal Outlooks at Four-Months Lead: July-September 2006 Forecasts

Sahel

There is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal precipitation locally over the southern areas of Mali and Niger. Low to moderate tilts in the odds favoring below normal rainfall are confined to the of central and northern Mali and Chad.

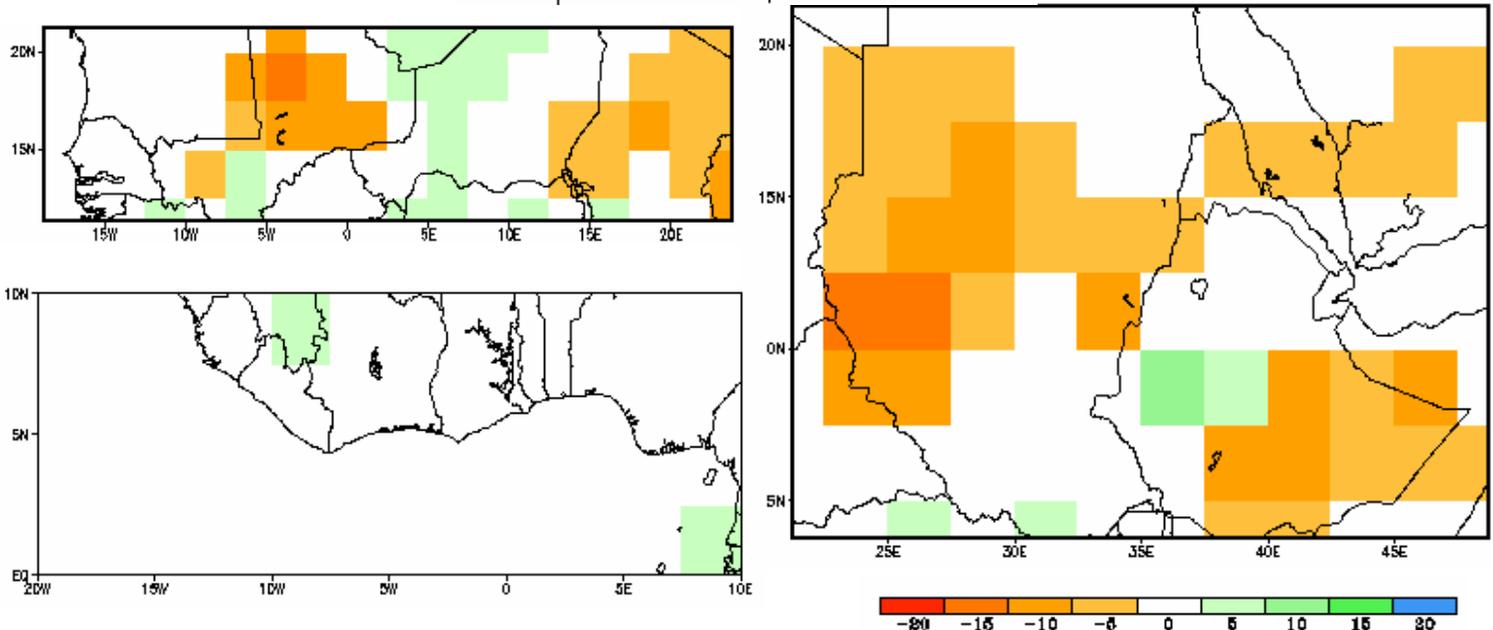
Gulf of Guinea Region

Climatology is expected across the region, except locally over eastern Guinea, where there is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall.

Northern Horn of Africa

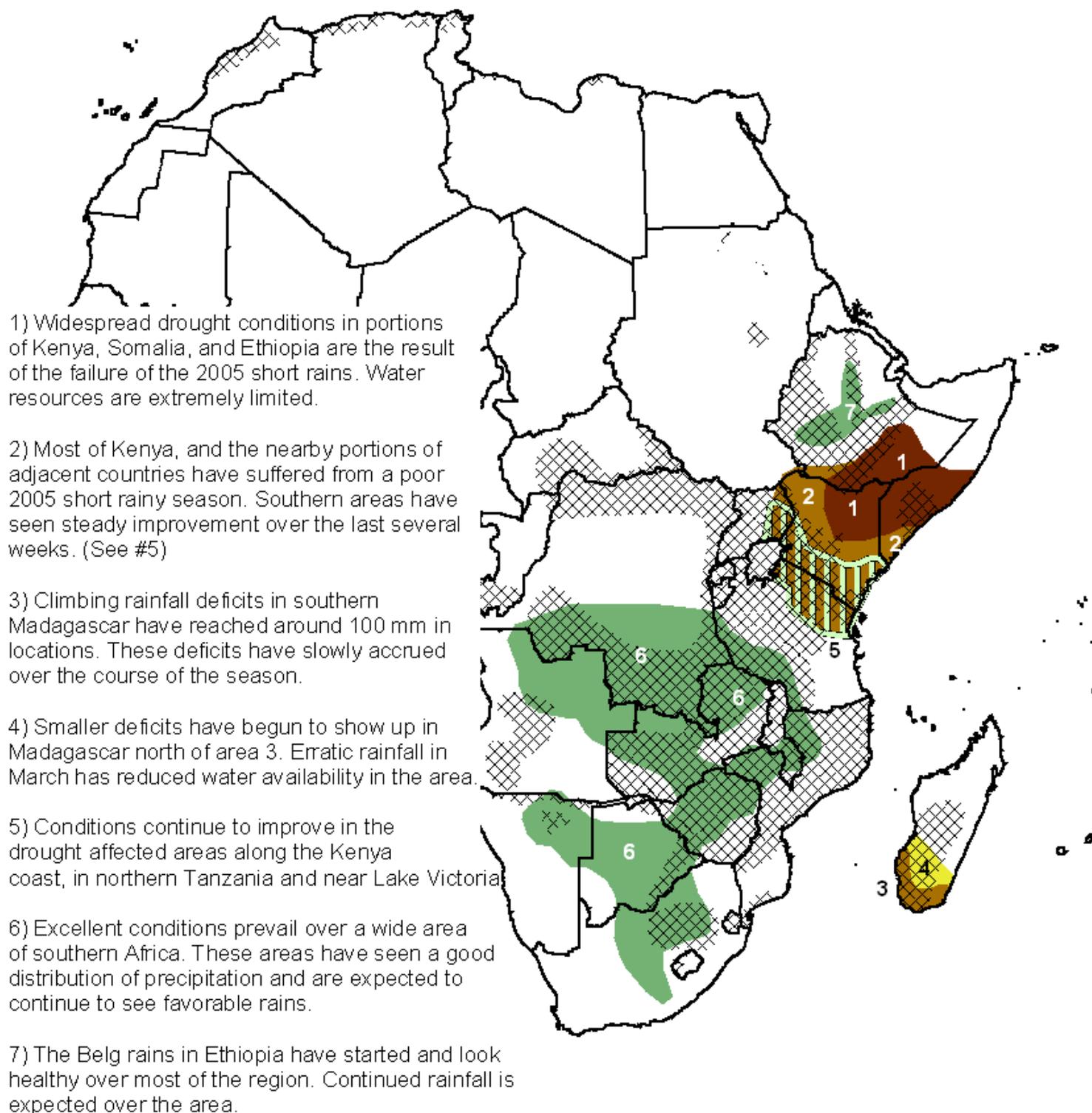
The outlook for Jul-Sep 2006 at four months lead calls for a slight to moderate tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall over western Sudan, including the Darfur region, and over east central Ethiopia, and central Somalia. There is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal precipitation in west central Ethiopia.

CCA Depart. Clim. Prob. Forecast X 100
Jul-Sep 2006 Rainfall, Four Months Lead



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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)



Valid: March 23 - 29, 2006

Weather Hazards Benefits Text Explanation:

1. The failed 2005 short rains have devastated northeastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia. Most of the region has received less than half of its normal rainfall, creating precipitation deficits as large as 400 mm. Limited water resources have devastated both agricultural and pastoral livelihoods throughout the area. In some areas, the current drought is the most recent in a series of consecutive poor seasons. Recently, moisture has returned to the region, but it is likely causing more harm than good. People, livestock and soils that have been weakened by the dry conditions may have difficulty coping with even moderate rainfall. During the past week in Somalia, near the border with Kenya light rains fell, providing up to 20 mm of moisture. In addition along the Kenya- Ethiopia border as much as 50 mm fell. Light rainfall was observed elsewhere. Additional moisture is possible during the coming period.
2. A poor 2005 short rainy season in most of Kenya, as well as neighboring sections of Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia has reduced water availability. The poor rainy season reduced crop yields, as well as degrading pasture, has limited drinking water, and resulted in power rationing in central Tanzania. In Tanzania, although deficits have largely been erased by recent rainfall, the poor distribution of rainfall has reduced water available for soil moisture, and for hydroelectric power generation. In other areas deficits still remain with some areas well below their seasonal totals, especially in Kenya. Some relief has reached the area, although its capacity for improvement will be limited. The areas receiving the most relief are near Lake Victoria, and along the Kenyan coast. Noticeable rainfall has also been falling on and off along the Kenya- Tanzania border. Similar rainfall is expected next week.
3. Southern Madagascar has seen erratic rainfall during the current wet season. Rainfall has been near 150 mm below normal. Although this is typically a marginal area, the deficits have reached a significant level. A dry spell that has lasted from February through March is having serious implications on water resources. Little or no precipitation fell in the area during the last week. Rainfall during the coming week is more likely.
4. Deficits of up to 100 mm have hampered portions of southern Madagascar. Deficits here are not as large as they are at the southern tip of the island, but are still causing a reduction in the availability of water. Although there was no improvement during the past week, significant rainfall is possible during the coming period.
5. Although there has been limited improvement to the drought in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, power rationing, water shortages, and poor agro pastoral conditions remain. Rainfall has been steady along the Kenyan coast stretching along the border with Tanzania and around Lake Victoria. Some locations received in excess of 50 mm of rain during the past week. Additional rainfall is possible during the coming week.
6. Most of southern Africa has enjoyed a good season during the 2005-2006 wet season. Ideal or near ideal growing conditions have benefited the region as a whole, with only minor deviations from normal precipitation. These healthy agricultural, pastoral, and hydrological conditions are expected to continue.
7. Most of the Belg areas in Ethiopia have experienced a strong and healthy start to the season. Although this does not guarantee a good season, conditions thus far have been ideal. Steady rainfall continued last week, and is expected to see no interruptions through the coming week.

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