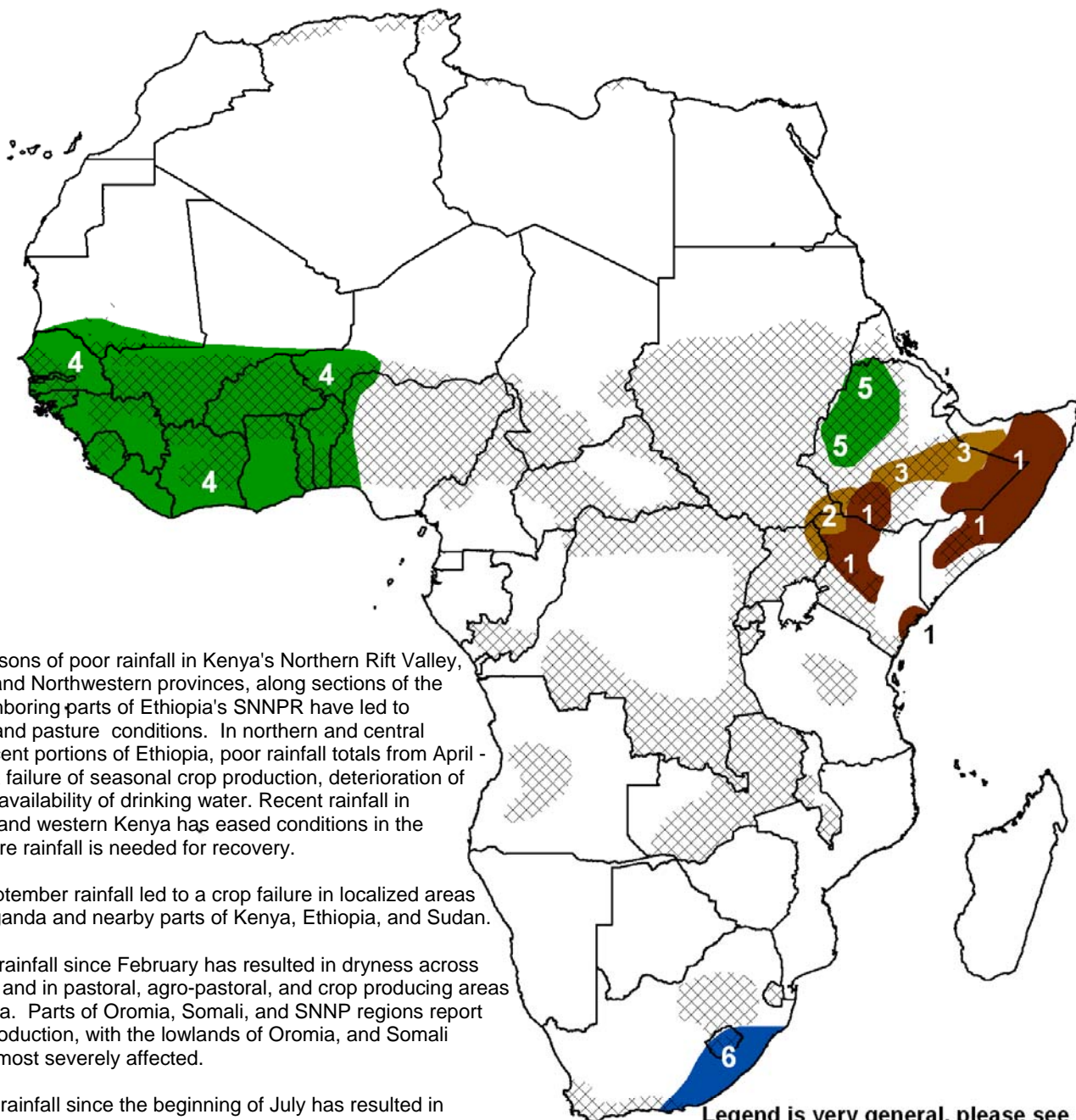


- Early rainfall in northern Somalia has begun replenishing water resources, which were depleted during the dry March to May season.
- Rains have been abundant across most of west Africa and western Ethiopia. Seasonal rains have begun to withdraw from the northern areas of these two regions as the dry season is expected to begin during October.



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

- October Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-Term Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought

Good rainfall distribution continues as season ends, unseasonable relief continues in Somalia

As the season comes to a close in parts of West Africa, precipitation has remained well distributed during the month of September. Rainfall was also consistent across Ethiopia, including the majority of the Afar region and neighboring portions of Djibouti and Eritrea.

Northern Somalia has also experienced consistent, but unseasonable rainfall. This has alleviated some of the dryness from poor rainfall during the main wet season, from March to May. Although light rainfall typically occurs during September and October, it is unusual for it to be this frequent, and this heavy. Rainfall during the past week exceeded 75 mm in some locations; the typical September and October rainfall rarely exceeds 50 mm in this area. The current rainfall is providing a chance for the refilling of water resources and an unseasonable improvement for pastures.

Early signs of the shift of rainfall to the south continue. Scattered rainfall has made its way into Madagascar, South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland. During October precipitation typically increases in intensity across this region.

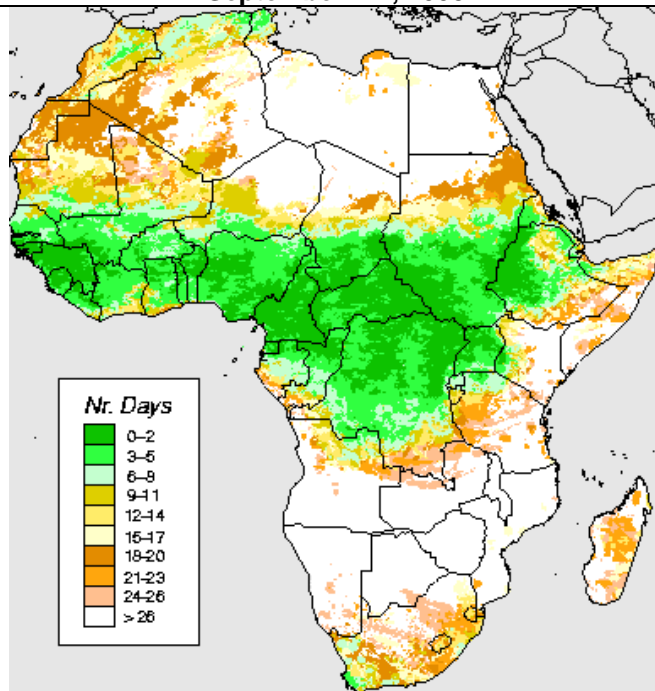
Outlook for southern Africa

With the dry season coming to a close across many parts of southern Africa, the outlook is generally positive, with the odds favoring average to above-average precipitation across most of the region (Figure 2).

The odds favor above-average rainfall across much of South Africa and Mozambique. The locations with highest probability of above average rainfall are along the Kwa-Zulu Natal coast including Port Elizabeth and East London as well as Swaziland and nearby portions of South Africa. The odds also favor above average precipitation in scattered areas of Namibia and Angola. The highest tilt in the odds in this region is in southwestern Angola, which experienced flooding last season that caused localized damage to infrastructure and crops.

There are two areas that have odds favoring below-average seasons. The first is in southern Madagascar, with the second near where the Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo borders meet.

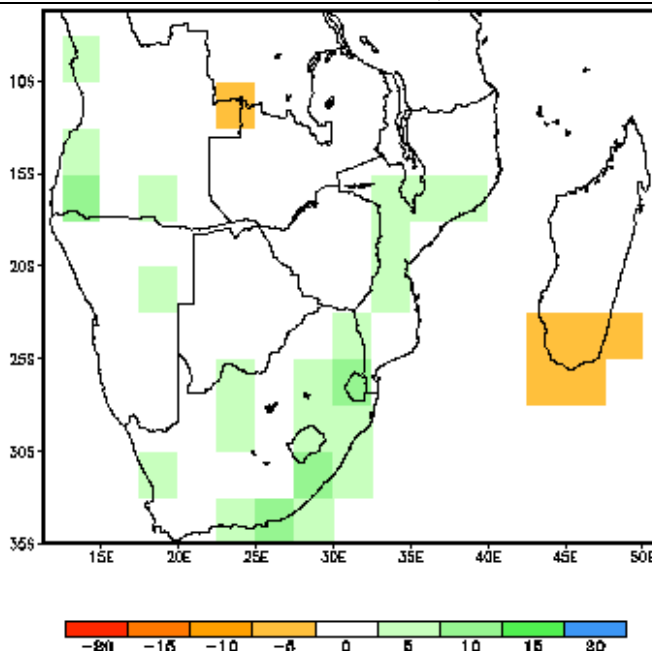
**Figure 1: Number of Dry Days during the past 30 Day Period
September 27^h, 2008**



Note: Rainfall distribution remains even across west Africa and the Horn. Rainfall has also been consistent across northern Somalia and southern Africa.

Source: FEWS/USGS

**Figure 2 Probability Forecast
October - December, 2008**



Note: Currently the odds favor above-average rainfall in some parts of southern Africa during the October to December rains. However, in southern Madagascar the odds favor below-average precipitation. The rest of the region is favoring near normal conditions.

Source: FEWS/NOAA