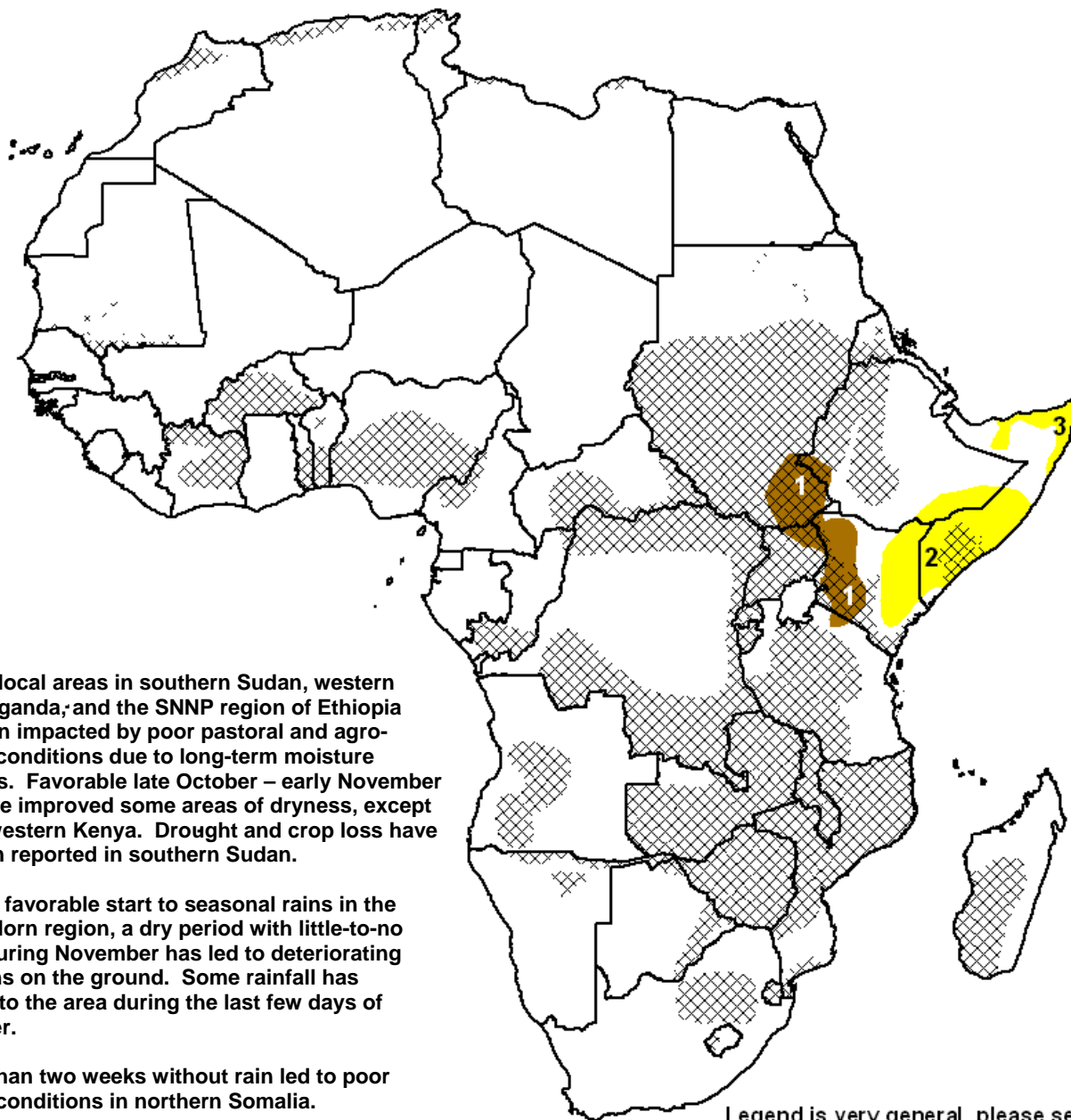


- Tropical Storm Bongani dumped heavy rainfall in northern parts of Madagascar and Mozambique, but left little damage behind.
- November dryness continues to threaten to reverse the beneficial rains of October across much of Somalia.



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



Some relief in East Africa, after a dry November

Rainfall totals increased during the last week, after nearly a month of dryness across the region (Figure 1). Showers, which generally remained light, brought some relief. A few areas picked up on more moderate rainfall including central Somalia and the Somali region of Ethiopia. A few thunderstorms brought more widespread relief to southern and coastal portions of Kenya.

Despite the improvement, due to the poor distribution of rainfall and continued deficits in the western part of the region (Figure 3), additional moisture is needed over the next several weeks. The outlook for the next seven days for the region, however, is optimistic with continued showers and thunderstorms over much of the region (Figure 2).

Bongani spreads rain, limited damage across Madagascar, Mozambique

Tropical Storm Bongani passed just to the north of Madagascar, before losing the little bit of organization it had. The storm mainly brought heavy rainfall to the northern tip of Madagascar, the Seychelles and the Comoros. After losing its organization the remnants moved off to the west, eventually spreading moderate to heavy rainfall in northern Mozambique (Figure 1). The rains caused some very localized flooding, primarily in Madagascar and Mozambique.

Early end to regular rainy seasons in parts of Africa

During 2009 the respective rainy seasons came to an end 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 crops 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.

To the east, in Ethiopia, after having an abundance of rainfall in the western parts of the country, rains pulled out a little early. No significant crop damages have yet been reported, but the season will end with slightly below average rainfall totals.

