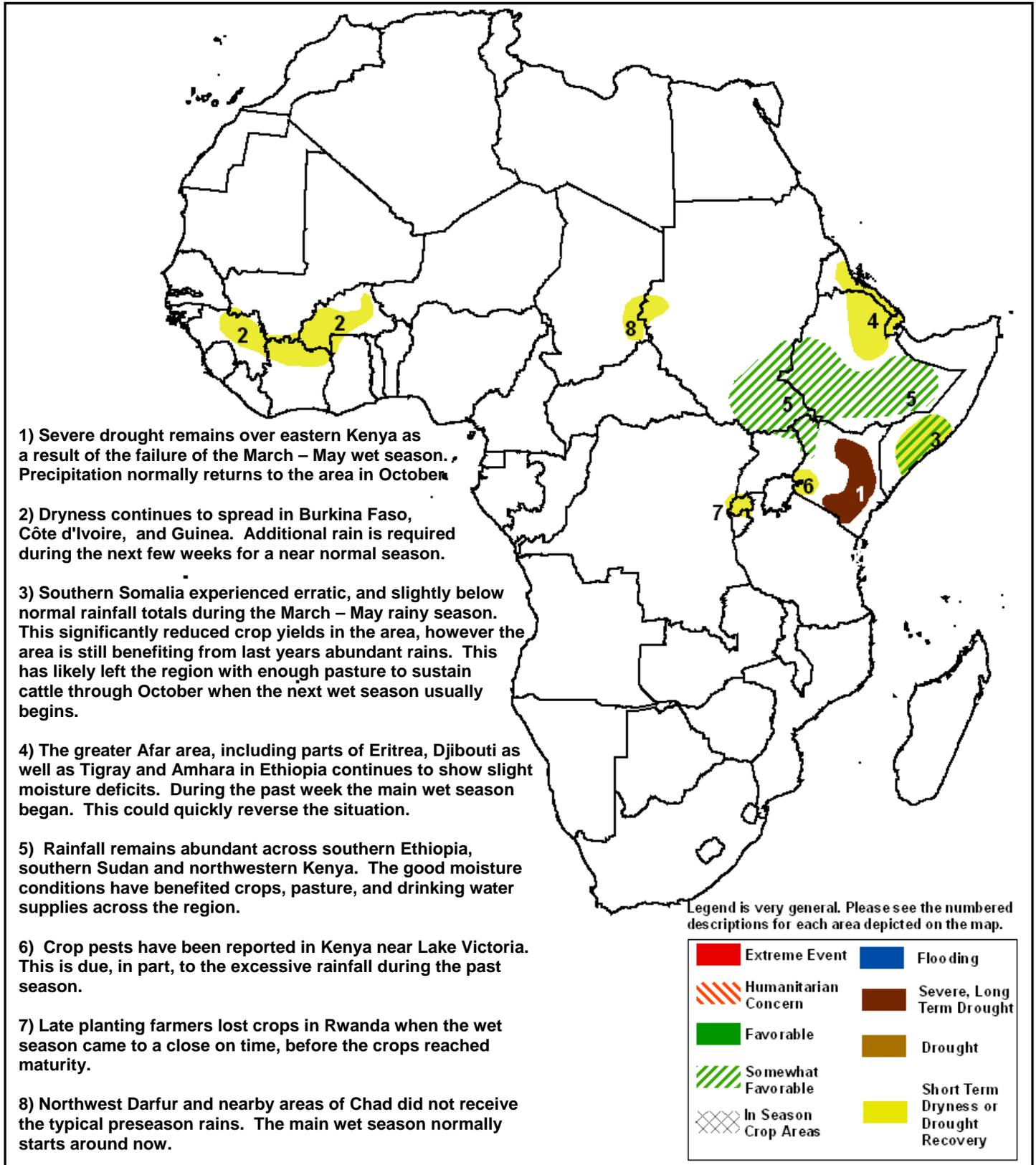


- Dry conditions continue to spread in the Sahel. Additional rainfall is needed soon in the region for a near normal season.
- Good growing conditions benefit southern Ethiopia and Sudan. Soil moisture is also above normal in portions of the eastern Sahel, however the past two weeks have been dry, possibly reversing that trend.



**What looked like it was going to be an above normal season in the eastern Sahel, may not be.**

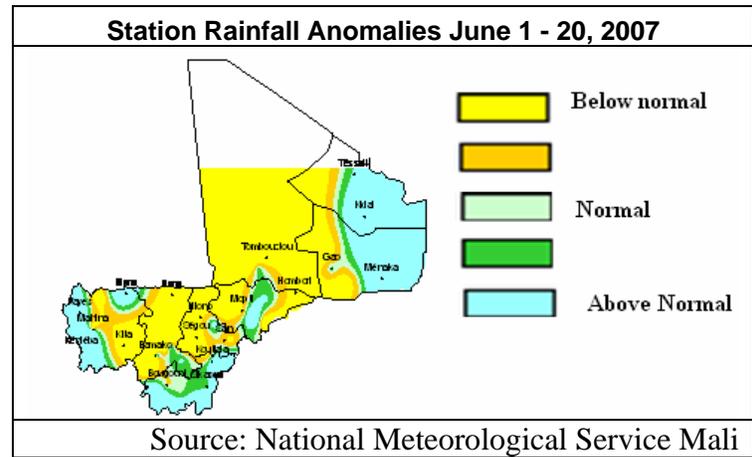
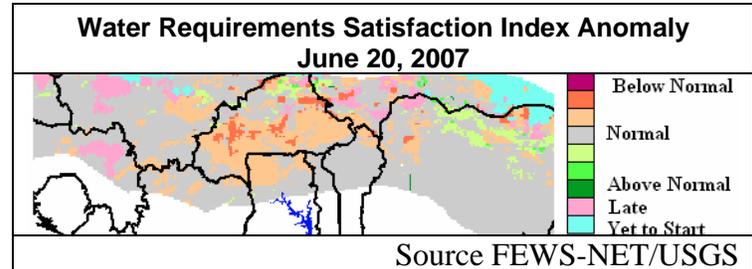
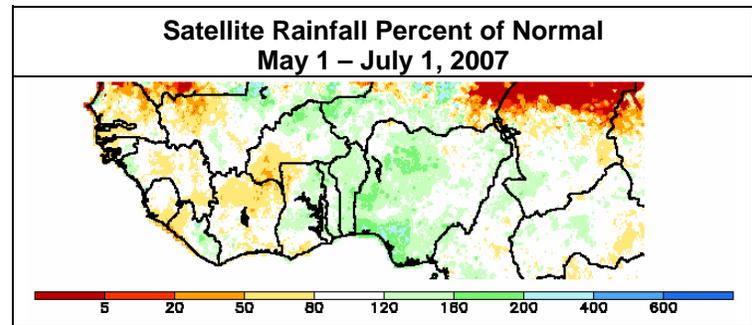
The eastern Sahel began receiving precipitation well before the normal start to the season. These rains gave the appearance that the region was going to have an above normal season for rainfall. Since then moisture conditions have deteriorated, with many areas now returning to normal rainfall totals and some even slipping into moisture deficits.

Unlike the east, the western Sahel did not get that early boost of moisture. Here dryness can be attributed to the erratic rainfall thus far during the wet season. Portions of Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire all have small, but growing rainfall deficits. Moisture during the month of June was also unfavorable further northward in a small part of Mali, southeastern Senegal, throughout Côte d'Ivoire and in much of Burkina Faso.

Dry conditions along the upper Niger river, could have implications further downstream in the inland Niger delta. Although there has been no sign of lower river levels yet, if rainfall in the Guinea highlands does not increase they could drop impacting crops in central Mali.

These deficits can be attributed to the cooling of the sea surfaces in both the Atlantic and the Gulf of Guinea. Below normal temperatures in the Gulf of Guinea area combined with above normal temperatures in the Atlantic typically enhances rainfall. This dynamic assisted in producing normal or slightly above normal precipitation during the last two years. This year, however that scenario is not likely to occur. This makes it more difficult to determine the long range conditions in the Sahel.

Darfur, however is not normally impacted by these changes in the seas surface temperatures, however it to has seen small but growing deficits. This is mainly attributed to lackluster preseason rainfall that is normally wrapping up now. These rains normally break up the soil making it easier to till. The lack of these rains does not imply that the season will be negatively impacted; however it could also be a first warning of trouble. The wet season normally starts during the first half of July in Darfur.



**Good conditions remain in parts of the Horn, other areas set to improve.**

Southern Sudan, southern Ethiopia and northeastern Kenya have all experienced good wet seasons. Further north in Afar, Tigray, Amhara and nearby parts of Eritrea and Djibouti are beginning to see the return of the rains. The long term forecast for southern Somalia and Kenya also promises rainfall, although not until October.

After a normal season in southern Sudan and Ethiopia, rainfall has stayed in the Somali region of Ethiopia well past the normal end of season. These rains have kept pastures recharged and also helped to keep drinking water available. These unusual rains have also remained in central and northern Somalia bring similar benefits to those areas. Throughout Sudan (with the exception of Darfur), see above) conditions have remained slightly above normal throughout the area.

In northern Ethiopia, the first rainy season was a little lighter than normal, allowing small, but significant deficits to accrue. During the last week rainfall returned to the greater Afar region. This is possibly the start of the main wet season in the area. This is the normal start date for the rains in this area.

The forecast for the next wet season in southern Somalia and Kenya looks favorable. There is a slight tilt in the odds favoring above normal precipitation during the wet season. This is, however, a forecast and is subject to change.

