Moisture deficits continue to grow in eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Moisture deficits have grown in eastern Ethiopia, southern and central Somalia, and northeastern Kenya due to poor rainfall since late September. Over central and southern Somalia, a dry weather pattern is forecast, which could worsen conditions on the ground.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA
Africa Overview

Dryness emerges in eastern portions of Eastern Africa
In the Greater Horn of Africa, the rainfall was below-average over the past four weeks. While above-average rain was recorded across the western portions of the sub-region, including western and southern Ethiopia, eastern Sudan, eastern South Sudan, and western Kenya, below-average rain fell over portions of eastern Ethiopia, southern and central Somalia, and northeastern Kenya (Figure 1). The observed deficits were attributed to a delayed onset of the October – December rainfall season. Additionally, an analysis of the most recent vegetation index anomalies revealed expanding below-average conditions over southern Somalia and northeastern Kenya. The continuation of poor rain could further negatively impact ground conditions.

During the next week, moderate and scattered showers are forecast in eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. This may help reduce moisture deficits in the region. Farther south, moderate rain is expected over central Kenya. In contrast, below-average rain is forecast over central and southern Somalia.

Light to moderate rain was observed over Southern Africa.
During mid-October, average rain fell over northeastern Angola, while light rain was recorded farther south across northeastern Namibia, western Zambia, Botswana, western Zimbabwe, and northern South Africa (Figure 2). In Angola, last week’s rain helped reduce rainfall deficits over the northeast. However, large moisture deficits persisted over the central portions of the country due to poor rain since late September. Farther south, positive rainfall anomalies were recorded across northeastern Namibia, southern Botswana, central and eastern South Africa, and southern Zimbabwe, which was associated with above-average rain during early October. In contrast, small negative rainfall anomalies were present over the KwaZulu-Natal region of eastern South Africa and eastern Zimbabwe. Recent vegetation indices showed a slight improvement in conditions over areas of Southern Africa as a response to above-average rain during the previous few weeks.

During the next week, widespread, heavy rain is forecast over northern Angola. The forecast ample rain should help reduce moisture deficits over the dry parts of the country. Moderate to heavy rain is expected over northern Zambia, central Mozambique, and central Madagascar. Elsewhere, widespread, light rain is forecast across Namibia, Zimbabwe, eastern South Africa, and southern Mozambique.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures
Above-normal temperatures (1-4°C) prevailed throughout the region during the third week of October. Minimum temperatures fell to -11°C in northeast Kazakhstan. The highest maximum temperatures (around 32°C) were recorded across northwest Afghanistan along with southern parts of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Above-normal temperatures are likely to persist through the end of October. An abnormal heat hazard is posted for parts of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan where the maximum temperatures may average more than 6°C and exceed 30°C.

Precipitation
Widespread precipitation (2-34mm) fell across much of Kazakhstan and northern parts of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan from Oct 15 to 21, while dry weather persisted over the remainder of the region. Abnormal dryness is posted for parts of eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. During the next week, precipitation is expected to be limited to northern Kazakhstan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Abnormal dryness observed over southern Hispaniola
2. Heavy showers and thunderstorms are expected over Nicaragua/Honduras during the next several days. Torrential rain is forecast for parts of Panama and Costa Rica. Flooding is a concern in areas expecting the heaviest rain.
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Above-average rain expected in the region
Light rain was recorded over central Guatemala and western Honduras, while heavy rain was recorded in eastern Nicaragua. The greatest rainfall totals in the region (150-200mm), were in eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. In addition, totals exceeding 100mm were recorded in areas that include El Salvador, and local parts of the Petén department in Guatemala. In contrast, parts of central Guatemala received no rain. Heavier rain in eastern Nicaragua diminished substantial rainfall deficits, which are now relegated to a small area of the northeast. Over longer periods, moisture deficits are less significant, with the season as a whole experiencing near-normal performance. The ground conditions are average in much of the region, with some recent improvement in eastern Nicaragua. The index also shows some patches of poorer values in northern Guatemala and Belize.

Next week, above-average rainfall is expected across most of the region. Areas in eastern Nicaragua and northern Honduras could easily receive 200mm of rain or more. Forecast models also indicate that Costa Rica and Panama may receive large amounts of rain. This rainfall should erase any lingering Nicaragua moisture deficits, but may also lead to flooding throughout the region.

Below-average rainfall is expected across Hispaniola during the outlook period
Light to moderate rainfall was widely recorded over Hispaniola during the past week. Rainfall up to 50mm was recorded in northern Haiti and neighboring regions of the Dominican Republic. Similar amounts were also observed in southern Dominican Republic. The Nippes and Nord-Ouest departments of Haiti, as well as some far-eastern Dominican Republic provinces, recorded almost no rain. The southern peninsula of Haiti registered 7-day deficits as high as 50mm. Elsewhere, the rainfall pattern was closer to average. Over the last 30 days and longer, abnormal dryness persists as a problem across much of Haiti. Many weeks of slightly suppressed rain have led to 30-day moisture deficits of 50-100mm or more across most departments of Haiti and northern Dominican Republic. These anomalies equate to less than 80% of normal, or even less than 50% of normal rainfall. Moisture deficits also stretch through the previous 90-day period along the southern portion of the island. Still, ground conditions are average, with predominantly positive index values throughout Hispaniola.

Next week, below-average rainfall is expected over the region. Rainfall totals are generally expected to remain less than 15mm for the period. This pattern will contribute to growing negative anomalies.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS
Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.