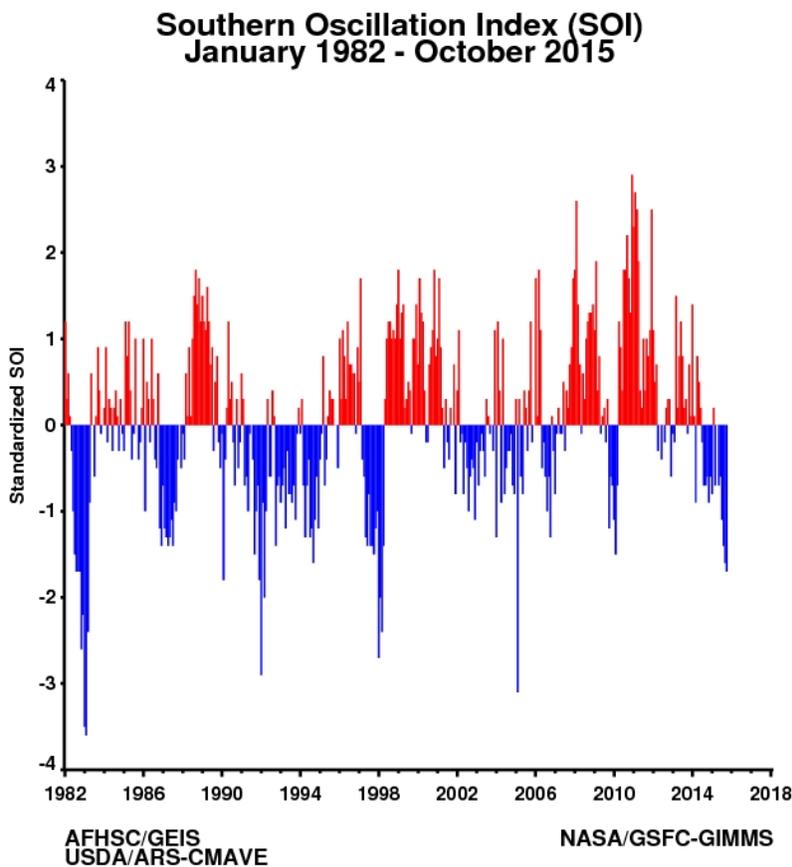


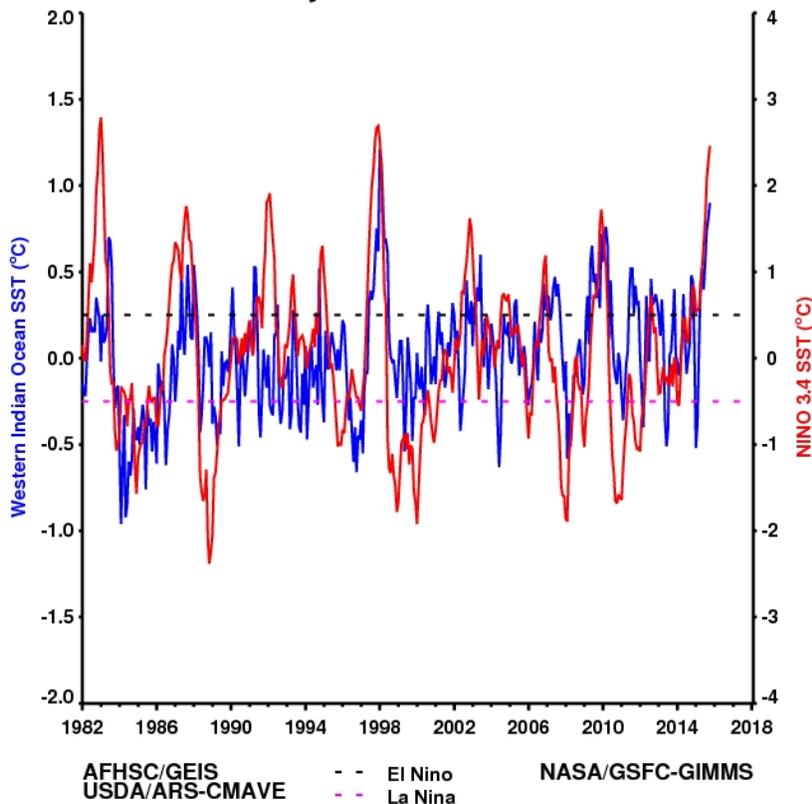
This section of the report will provide a rolling three month update on a monthly basis of the state of the climatic and ecological indicators used in monitoring areas at risk to RVF activity. These indicators include, global SST anomalies patterns, Equatorial Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO: NINO 3.4) SST anomalies, Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) anomalies, Rainfall and anomalies, Normalized Difference Vegetation index anomalies and RVF risk map for Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

October 2015

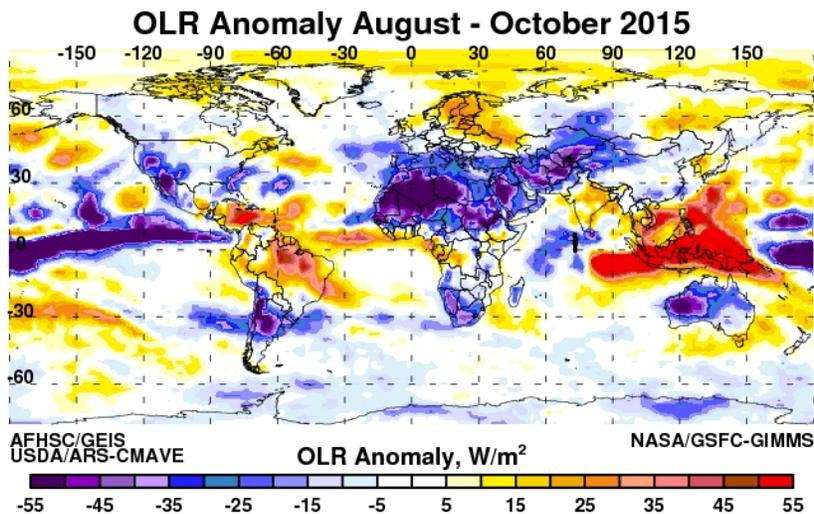
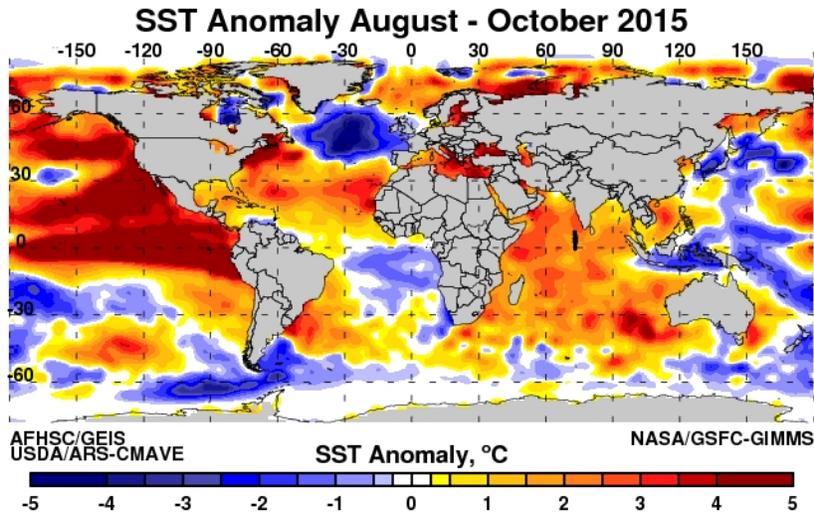
1. SOI and SST Indices



Western Indian Ocean and NINO 3.4 SST Anomalies January 1982 - October 2015

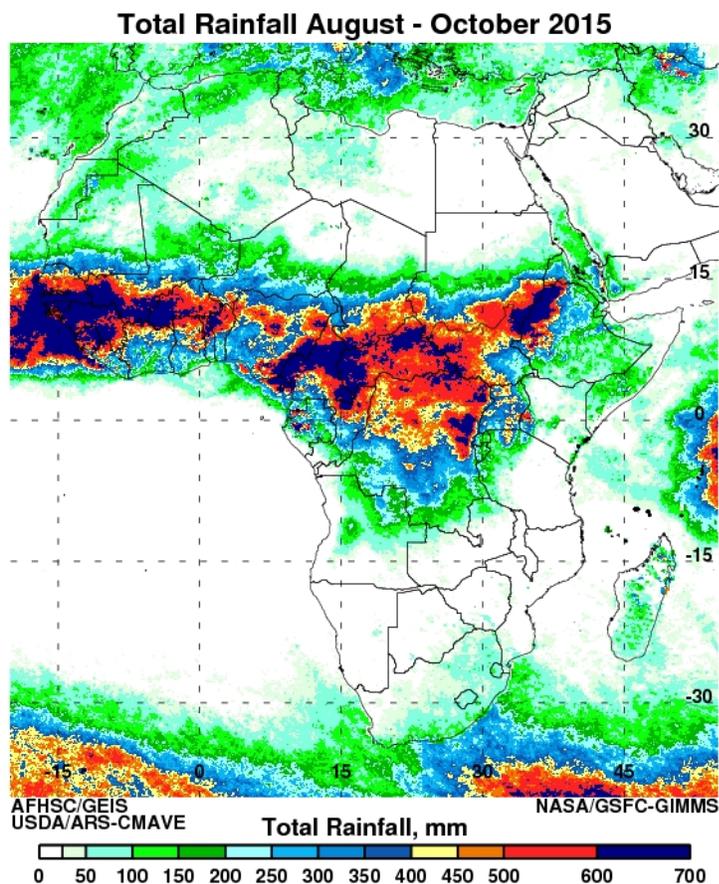


The SOI index has further decreased with a value of -1.7 in October from -1.6 in September, suggesting a further strengthening of El Niño conditions since early summer. This is supported by continued anomalous increase in positive SSTs in NINO 3.4, NINO 4 and NINO1&2 monitoring regions which have tremendously warmed over the last three months with values of +2.46°C, 1.12°C and 2.52°C respectively in October. The western Indian Ocean basin has continued the warming pattern with the WIO SST index at +0.90°C in October (a further record) from +0.81°C in October indicating continued warmer than normal conditions over this ocean basin. The persistent above-average sea surface temperatures (SST) (below) in the central equatorial Pacific region indicate that strong El Niño conditions are present and significantly strengthening. Enhanced convection is amplified over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and suppressed convection over the Indonesian basin is fully entrenched. Collectively, these atmospheric and oceanic conditions reflect strong El Niño conditions are present and persisting. According to [NOAA](#), a majority of the model forecasts predict El Niño conditions (95% chance) through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-2016, gradually weakening through late spring and early summer 2016. The consensus forecast is for a significant El Niño near or in excess of +2.0°C in the Niño-3.4 region (3-month values of the Niño -3.4 index +2.0°C or greater) during the peak period in December - January with a likelihood of this event ranking in the top 3 since 1950. In some locations, certain impacts often associated with El Niño are already manifesting during this Northern Hemisphere 2015 fall season.

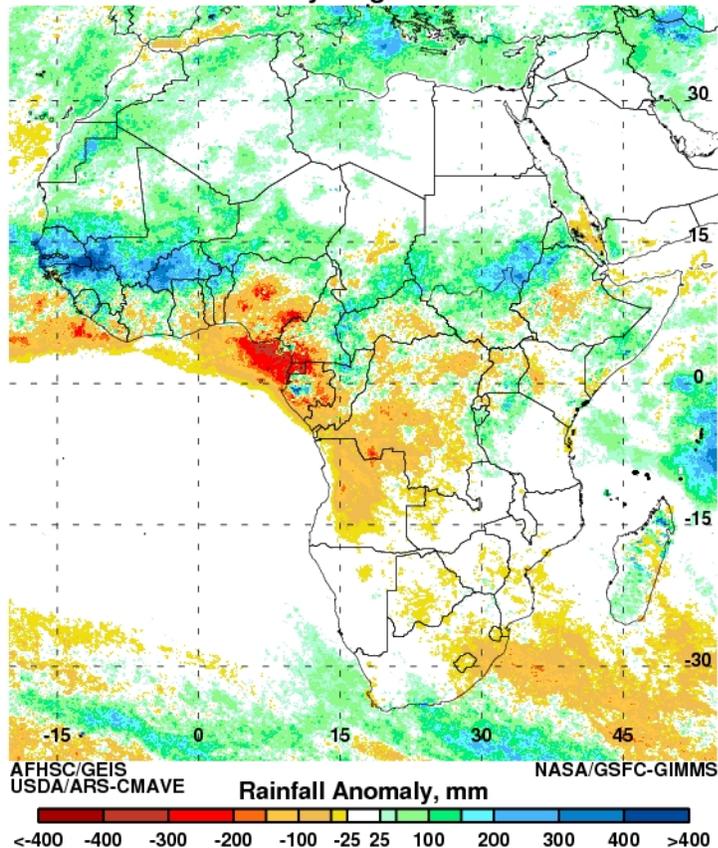


The central equatorial Pacific Ocean continues to show pronounced above normal seasonal SSTs (three month values: $>+2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+5.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) except for the region from 30°S to 10°S (off the South American coast) with below-normal SSTs during the August 2015 to October 2015. The western Pacific Ocean especially the region of the Indonesian basin shows below normal SSTs indicating the continued reversal of ocean and atmospheric circulation across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The entire equatorial Indian Ocean is anomalously warm with departures of $\sim +1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ in western equatorial Indian Ocean and as high as $+3.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ (3-month values) in the southern Indian Ocean off the western Australian coast. Other regions of significant anomalies include the north Pacific Ocean, north Atlantic, equatorial Atlantic off the West African coast, the Pacific Ocean off the California coast, southwest Atlantic Ocean off Argentina and Brazil which show significant positive and negative anomalies on the order of $-/+1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $-/+2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$. Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) anomalies are used here as a proxy for tropical deep convection (rainfall). Reduced convection is shown in yellow to light brown and brown shades and increased/intense convection is shown by shades of blue. Some impacts from the current SST anomaly patterns can be observed in the pattern of global convective activity illustrated by the OLR departure patterns

here. During the August 2015 to October 2015 period, drier-than-average conditions ($>+35\text{W/M}^2$) are now enhanced over the western Pacific Ocean covering the Indonesian basin, as well as drier the normal conditions are prevailing over central Europe-Russia, Caribbean region and northern South America. The severe drought in western US (Californian) have eased up as shown by the negative departures in OLR extending from the northwestern Mexico into southwestern and southern US. Enhanced cooler than average conditions (-50W/M^2) are observed over central to eastern equatorial Pacific and just east of the Date Line. Convective conditions have now moved to northern, Pakistan-Afghanistan region extending into the Middle East and northern Africa. Accordingly Southern Africa and the southern half of South America show negative OLR anomalies suggesting enhanced convective activity. These patterns of depressed and enhanced convective activity coincide well with the patterns of SST departures and reveal certain impacts often associated with El Niño. Monthly and weekly anomalies can be found [here](#). Rainfall and associated anomalies (below) for Africa from August 2015 to October 2015 show rainfall concentrated over equatorial Africa with a maxima between the equator and 15°N . Areas of above normal rainfall ($+50$ to 200 mm) are limited to parts of Sahel region extending eastwards to western Ethiopia, with highest positive anomalies over western Sahel region, the Sudans and central Somalia.

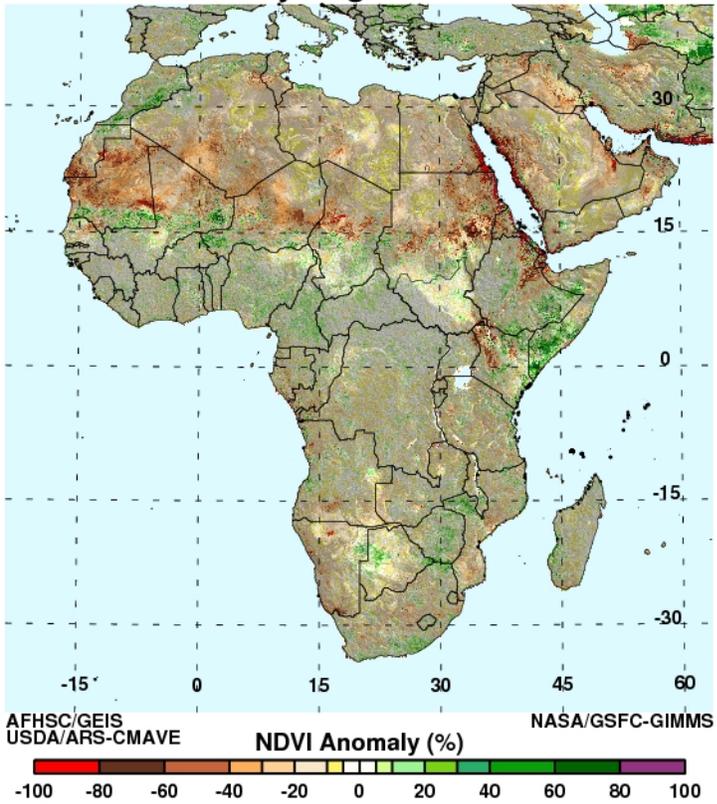


Rainfall Anomaly August - October 2015

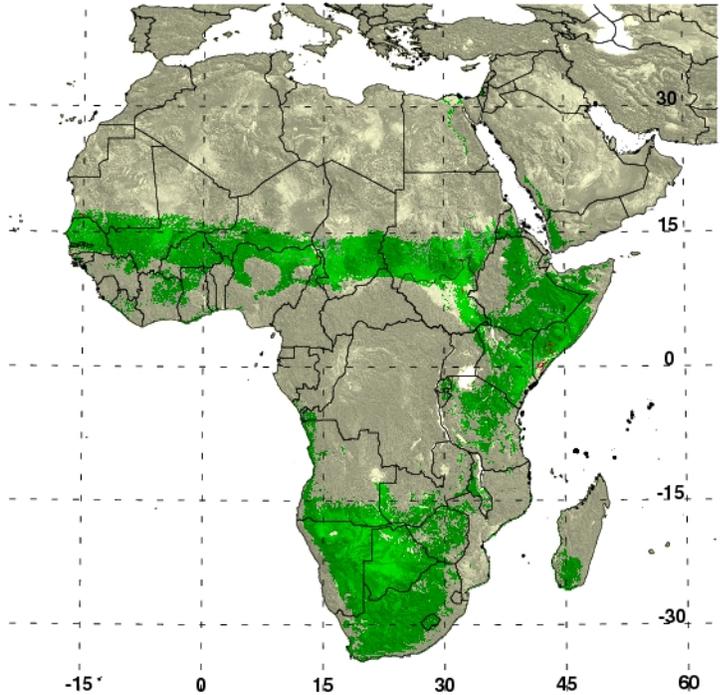


Cumulative NDVI anomalies for Africa for August 2015 to October 2015 still show positive anomalies concentrated in parts of western Sahel (Senegal, Mauritania and Mali), Somalia, SE Ethiopia and parts of NE Kenya. The RVF risk map below was derived from thresholding NDVI anomaly data to detect areas persistent of above normal NDVI. Periods of widespread and prolonged heavy rainfall lead to flooding of dambos and anomalous green up in vegetation, creating ideal ecological conditions for the emergence RVF vectors. For the period August 2015 to October 2015, the RVF persistence model identifies areas at risk in central Somalia which have received above normal rainfall over the last two months and on the border of Mauritania and Senegal where RVF activity is occurring. Given the elevated rainfall conditions in many areas East Africa enhanced surveillance is advised in these areas especially in the next three months (November 2015 to January 2016). The current East Africa seasonal rainfall under this El Niño event is evolving in a rather unique way compared to other previous El Niño events, in particular the western parts of the region that don't fall within the potential epizootic/epidemic (PEAM) region are currently receiving the bulk of excess rainfall. We therefore suggest that some surveillance activities be carried out in the western highlands of Kenya and Tanzania that border the Rift Valley system where some RVF activity has occurred sporadically the past. Rainfall in this western sector is approaching and surpassing the 2006/2007 season. The above normal rainfall conditions during this period could lead to outbreaks of other vector and water-borne diseases.

NDVI Anomaly August - October 2015



RVF Potential October 2015



AFHSC/GEIS
USDA/ARS-CMAVE

- RVF risk areas,
humans and livestock present
- RVF risk areas,
humans and livestock absent
- RVF potential epizootic areas

NASA/GSFC-GIMMS