During the past 10 days (October 21-31, 2008), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones relaxed. The above configurations contributed to a southward shift of the zonal component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over East Africa region. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) conditions over the Global Oceans were near neutral conditions. However, a slightly warming over the central Indian Ocean resulted into less convection over the West Indian Ocean. This configuration contributed to depressed rainfall over the coastal areas and northeastern highlands.

During the period, the short-rainy season (Vuli) rainfall was reported over some areas of bimodal rainfall pattern in the Lake Victoria basin, northern Kigoma, and northern coast including the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba as indicated in the Figure below. However, the northeastern highlands were generally dry indicating late onset of Vuli rains in these areas.

Observed rains over northern coast during the third dekad of October was a relief to the region as a result of a false start of the season that was reported earlier in the second dekad of the month. The highest 10-day rainfall was 141.6 mm as reported over Mwanza, followed by Mtwara 131.4 mm, Kibaha 94.1 mm, Ukiriguru 84.2 mm, and Dar es Salaam 74.0 mm. Unimodal rainfall pattern areas (central, western, southwestern highlands, and southern) remained seasonally dry except a few areas over southern coastal belt that reported off-seasonal rains as shown in the Figure.