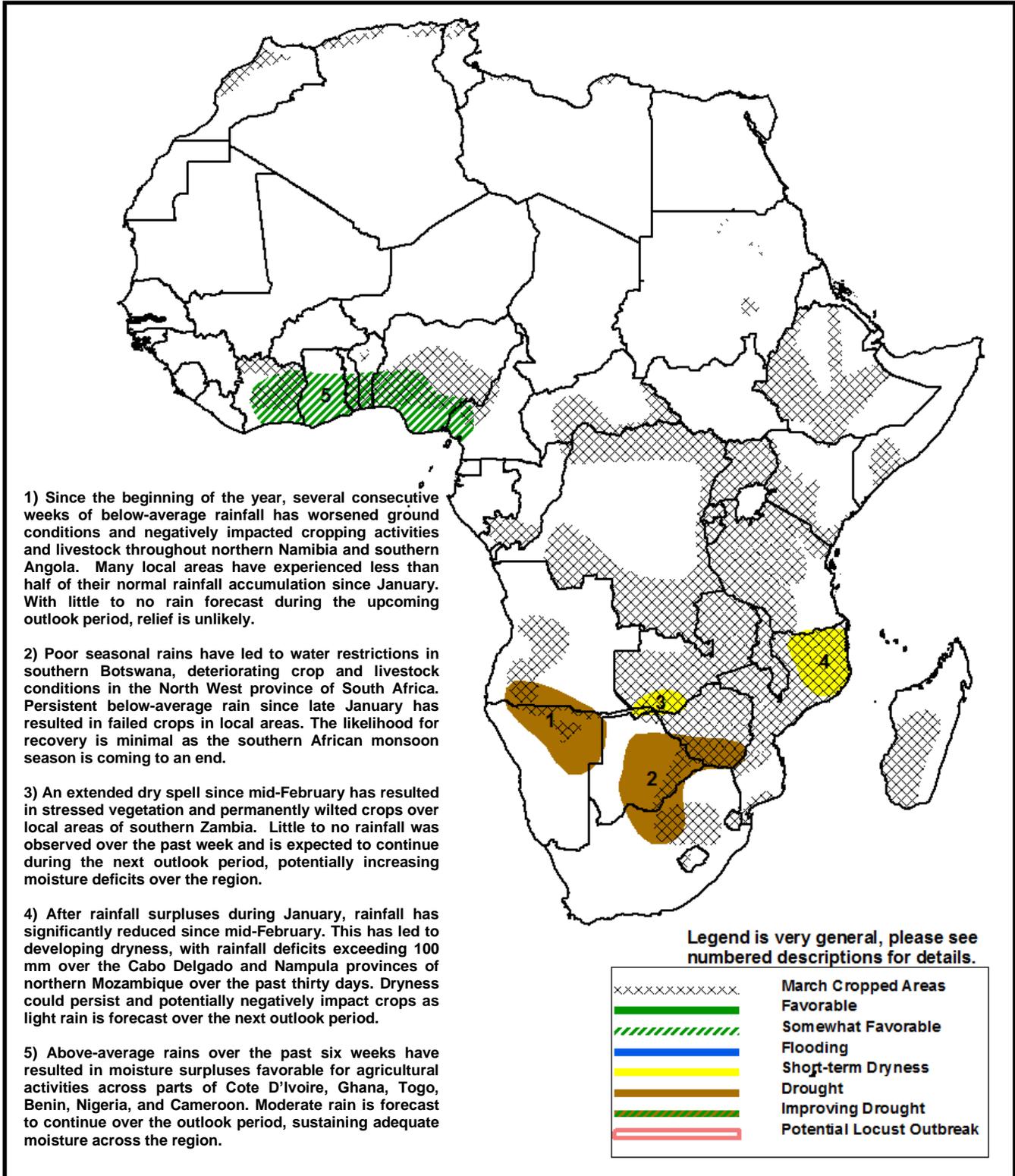


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 28 – April 3, 2013

- Good rains continue across Ethiopia, but the delayed onset of the season has already negatively affected cropping activities over local areas.



Rainfall deficits persist over northern Ethiopia.

Seasonal rain continues in eastern Africa. During the past week, a robust distribution of rainfall was observed across the region, including eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia. Heavy rain also fell over Uganda, the Lake Victoria region, and southeastern Kenya (**Figure 1**). In Djibouti, torrential rains were reported to cause fatalities and destruction. In Ethiopia, this past week's accumulated rain was above-average and marked the second consecutive week of enhanced rainfall across the country. In general, the continuation of seasonal rain should help to sustain favorable moisture for agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas of Ethiopia. However, analyses of the number of rainy days and rainfall anomaly revealed that parts of the Amhara and Tigray regions have experienced only up to two rainy days and below-average rain during the recent ten days (second dekad of March). Thus, increased and continued rain is still needed over Ethiopia, particularly the northern parts.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies since February 1st shows deficits ranging between 25 and 50 mm across eastern Amhara, Afar, and portions of the SNNP region (**Figure 2**). The drier than average conditions were mostly attributed to a delayed onset and uneven spatial distribution of rain over the past several weeks. This has already reduced planting over many local *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia. In contrast, rainfall surpluses were observed over south-central and localized areas of eastern Ethiopia.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy rain across southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and portions of southern Somalia. There is an increased chance for heavy showers near the Lake Victoria region of southwestern Kenya and localized areas of northeastern Ethiopia. The forecast enhanced rain is expected to reduce rainfall deficits over the dry areas of eastern Africa.

Poor seasonal performance observed in southern Africa.

The southern Africa monsoon has been erratic and patchy. Season to-date rainfall anomalies indicated a dipole pattern, where seasonal surpluses are observed over the eastern sub-region, whereas deficits spread across the western parts. Seasonal deficits have already impacted crop conditions in many areas of southern Africa. An analysis of the cumulative seasonal evapotranspiration anomaly shows below-average conditions, with evapotranspiration anomalies < 70 percent across Namibia, eastern Botswana, central and southwestern Zimbabwe, and northwestern South Africa (**Figure 3**). During the next week, while interactions between tropical and extra-tropical weather systems could enhance rainfall from southwestern Angola, Namibia, to South Africa, an anomalous low-level divergence is forecast to suppress rainfall across Botswana, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, western Mozambique, and northern South Africa. Moreover, with the rain-bearing weather system already moving equatorward, recovery from ongoing dryness is unlikely.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses 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.

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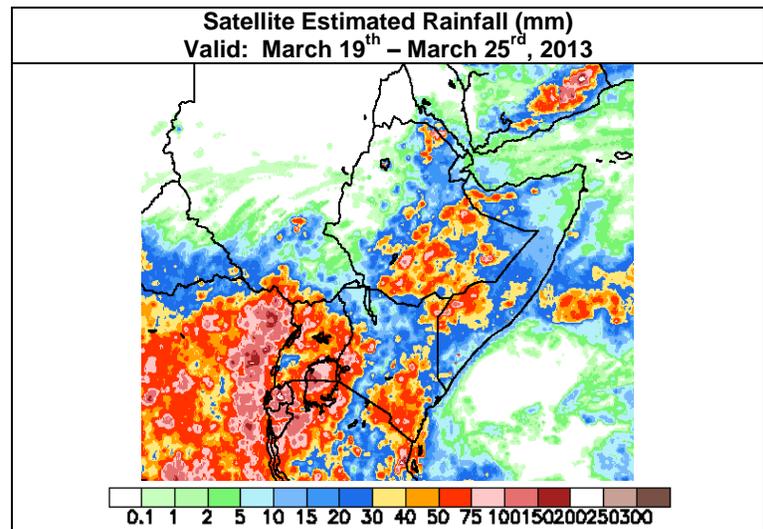


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

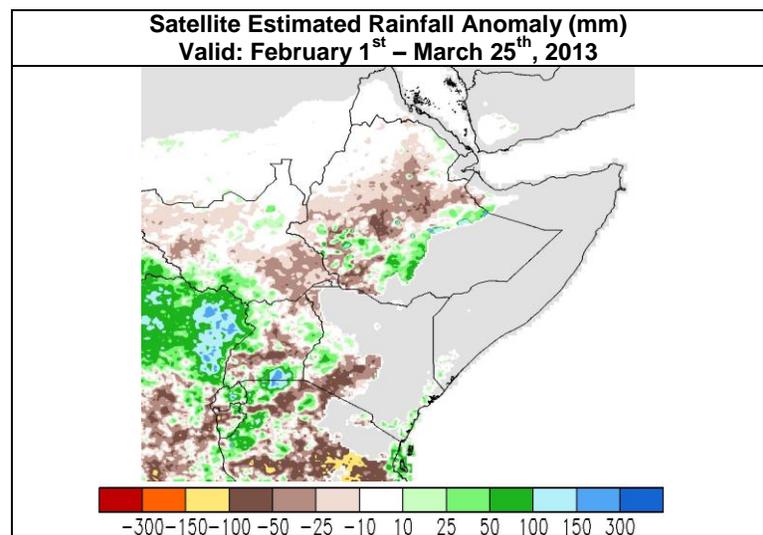


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

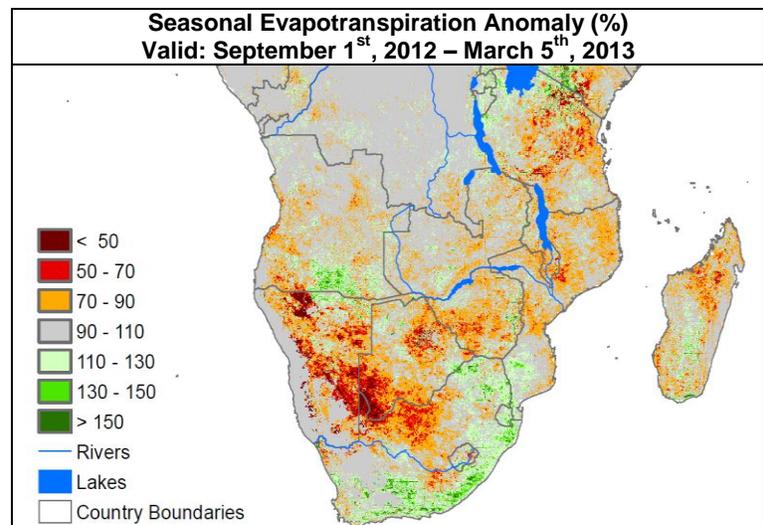


Figure 3: USGS/EROS