

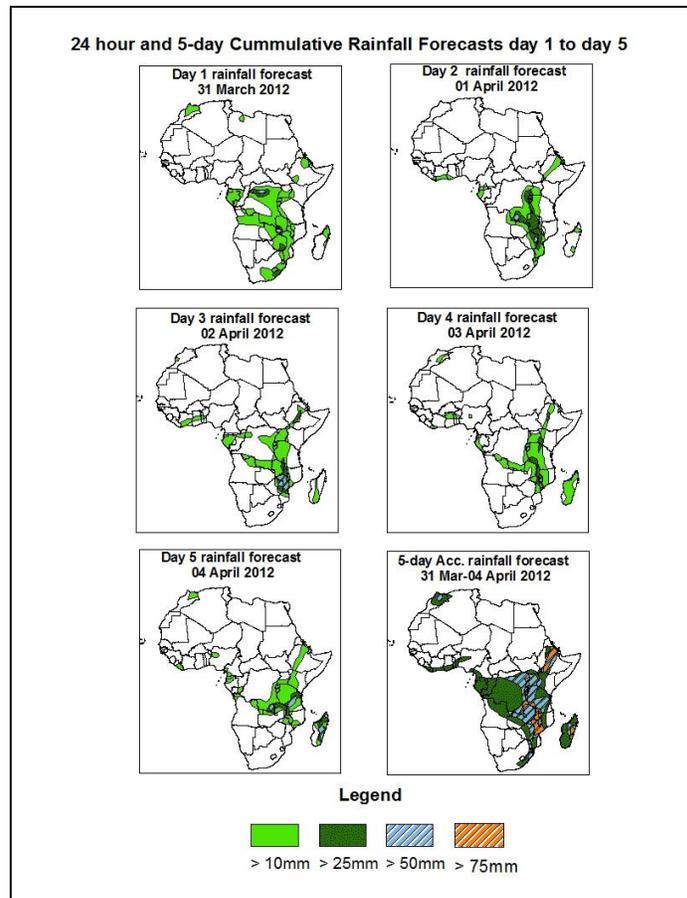


NCEP Contributions to the WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and to the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) Initiative

1.0. Rainfall Forecast: Valid 06Z of 31 March – 06Z of 04 April 2012, (Issued at 16:30Z of 30 March 2012)

1.1. Twenty Four Hour Cumulative Rainfall Forecasts

The forecasts are expressed in terms of 75% probability of precipitation (POP) exceeded, based on the NCEP, UK Met Office and the ECMWF NWP outputs, the NCEP global ensemble forecasts system (GEFS) and expert assessment.

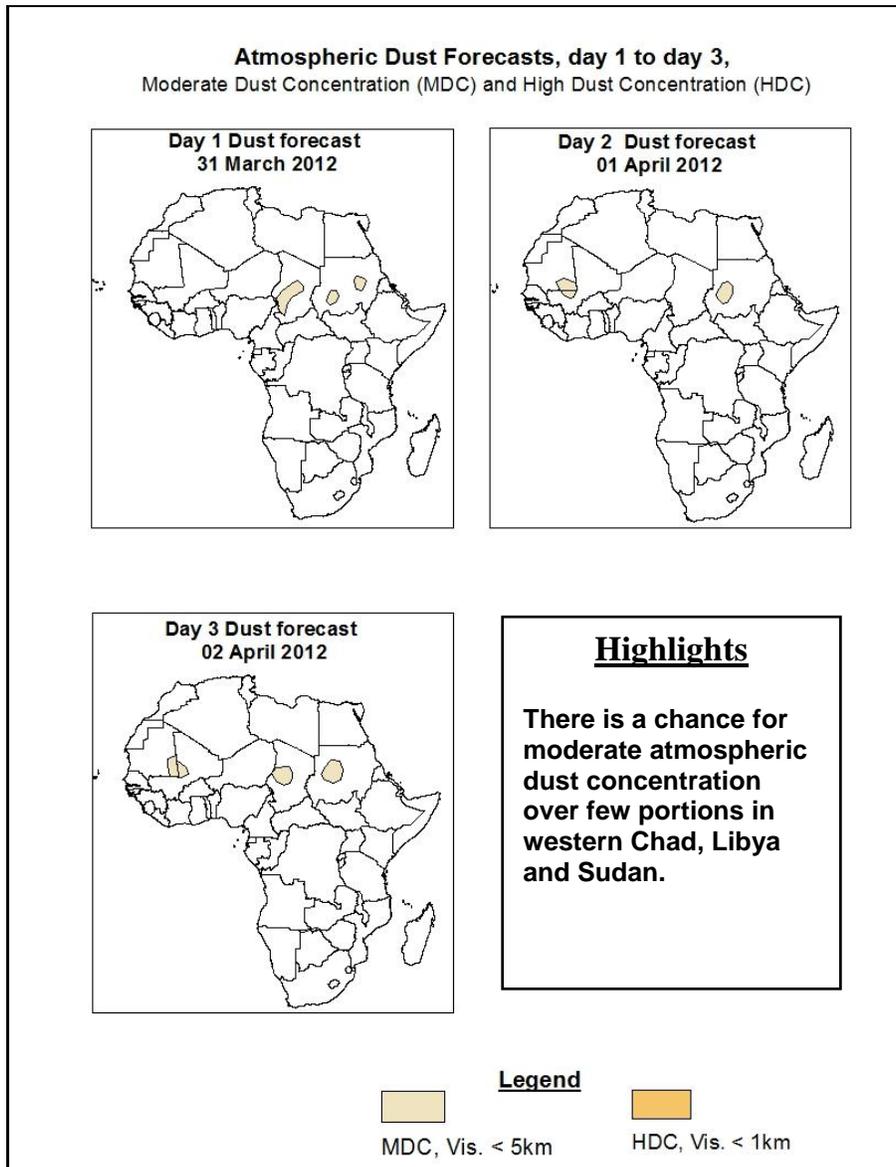


Summary

In the next five days, low level tropospheric wind convergences from the Gulf of Guinea to northeastern DRC passing through CAR, Cameroun and northern DRC, the low level weak convergence in the vicinity of eastern DRC, western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and western Tanzania and later over central Uganda, central Tanzania, eastern Malawi and southern Mozambique associated with the meridional arm of the ITCZ, low level convergences over western Ethiopia and the mid-latitude trough over eastern South Africa are expected to enhance rainfall in their respective regions. Hence, there is a chance of moderate to heavy rainfall over central Ethiopia, Gabon, eastern DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, southern and central Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Madagascar Island.

1.2. Atmospheric Dust Forecasts

The NCEP/GFS, the UK Met Office, the ECMWF and the NCEP/WRF outputs are used to identify areas with high probability of dust concentration.



1.3. Models Comparison and Discussion-Valid from 00Z of 30 March 2012

The GFS, ECMWF and UKMET models indicate series of lows and their associated troughs across northern, central and the South African countries.

A low will form in the vicinity of CAR and southern Chad with a central MSLP of 1007mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1004mb towards the end of the forecast period, according to the **GFS** model. According to **ECMWF** model, the same low with a central MSLP value of 1008mb will form in the vicinity of Central Africa Republic and southern Chad at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1005mb towards the end of the forecast period. According to the **UKMET** model, this low with a central MSLP value of 1007mb will form over the same area at the beginning of the forecast. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1004mb towards the end of the forecast period. According to **GFS** model, a low will form in the vicinity of central DRC with a central MSLP value of 1009mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to progressively shift westwards to western Gabon and fill through 24 to 72 hours.

According to **GFS** model, a low will form in the vicinity of the Republic of Southern Sudan with a central MSLP value of 1006mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1004mb towards the end of the forecast period. According to **ECMWF** model, the same low with a central MSLP value of 1006mb will form in the vicinity of southern Sudan at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1005mb towards the end of the forecast period. According to the **UKMET** model, the low will form over the same area with a central MSLP value of 1005mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1004mb towards the end of the forecast period.

A low will form in the vicinity of southern Botswana with a central MSLP of 1008mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to fill and progressively shift northeastwards to eastern Mozambique through 24 to 72 hours, according to the **GFS** model. According to **UKMET** model, a low with a central MSLP value of 1010mb will form in the vicinity of southeastern DRC at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends

to progressively shift southeastwards to southeastern Mozambique where it will merge with an incoming sub-tropical trough through 48 to 72 hours.

According to **GFS** model, a low will form in the vicinity of Burkina Faso with a central MSLP value of 1007mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to deepen with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1005mb towards the end of the forecast period. According to **ECMWF** model, the same low with a central MSLP value of 1008mb will form in the vicinity of central Burkina Faso at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to shift northeastwards to western Mali and deepen progressively with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1006mb towards the end of the forecast period. The same low will form over the same area, according to **UKMET** model, with a central MSLP value of 1007mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to fill with its central MSLP value increasing to 1008mb towards the end of the forecast period.

The St. Helena High pressure system over southeast Atlantic Ocean with a central MSLP value of 1029mb at the beginning of the forecast period tends to weaken with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1024mb towards the end of the forecast period, according to **the three** models.

The **entire** models locate the Mascarene high pressure system over southwestern Indian Ocean with a central MSLP of 1028mb at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends propagate eastwards and weaken progressively with its central MSLP value decreasing to 1012mb towards the end of the forecast period.

At the 850hpa level, a lower tropospheric wind convergence is expected to be active from the Gulf of Guinea to northeastern DRC passing through Cameroun, CAR and northern DRC throughout the forecast period. A low level weak convergence zone is expected to form in the vicinity of eastern DRC, western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and western Tanzania associated with the meridional arm of the ITCZ. It tends to progressively shift eastwards to central Uganda, central Tanzania, eastern Malawi and southern Mozambique towards the end of the forecast period. Another low level convergence zone, also associated with the meridional arm of the ITCZ will be located over central Ethiopia running from Red Sea to Kenya / Ethiopia border throughout the forecast period. Localized winds convergences associated with a mid-latitude trough are

expected to dominate the flow over eastern Botswana and eastern South Africa at the beginning of the forecast period. They tend to progressively shift eastwards to southeastern Mozambique and Indian Ocean towards the end of the forecast period.

At 500hpa, a northeast-southwest oriented, eastwards propagating mid latitude trough with the low geo-potential value of 5640gpm is expected to dominate the flow over western Morocco throughout the forecast period. A mid-latitude trough with a geo-potential value of 5660gpm is expected to dominate the flow over central Botswana and central South Africa at the beginning of the forecast period. It tends to propagate southeastwards reaching southeastern South Africa with a geo-potential value of 5840gpm 72 hours after the end of the forecast period.

At 200mb, strong winds associated with Sub-Tropical Westerly Jet are expected to dominate the flow from northern Atlantic Ocean across North Africa to Persian Gulf during the forecast period. The intensity of the jet is expected to exceed 80kts while moving to the east with its core values occasionally increasing to more than 120kts during the forecast period.

In the next five days, low level tropospheric wind convergences from the Gulf of Guinea to northeastern DRC passing through CAR, Cameroun and northern DRC, the low level weak convergence in the vicinity of eastern DRC, western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and western Tanzania and later over central Uganda, central Tanzania, eastern Malawi and southern Mozambique associated with the meridional arm of the ITCZ, low level convergences over western Ethiopia and the mid-latitude trough over eastern South Africa are expected to enhance rainfall in their respective regions. Hence, there is a chance of moderate to heavy rainfall over central Ethiopia, Gabon, eastern DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, southern and central Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Madagascar Island.

2.0. Previous and Current Day Weather Discussion over Africa

(29 March – 30 March 2012)

2.1. Weather assessment for the previous day (29 March 2012)

During the previous day, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was observed over Northeastern DRC, western Gabon, southern Nigeria, northwestern Algeria and northeastern Madagascar.

2.2. Weather assessment for the current day (30 March 2012)

Intense clouds are observed over southern Ghana, southern Togo, southern Benin, southwestern Nigeria, western Gabon, southern Congo, DRC, western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Western Tanzania, northern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, eastern South Africa, western Mozambique, eastern Madagascar, central Ethiopia and northeastern Libya.

