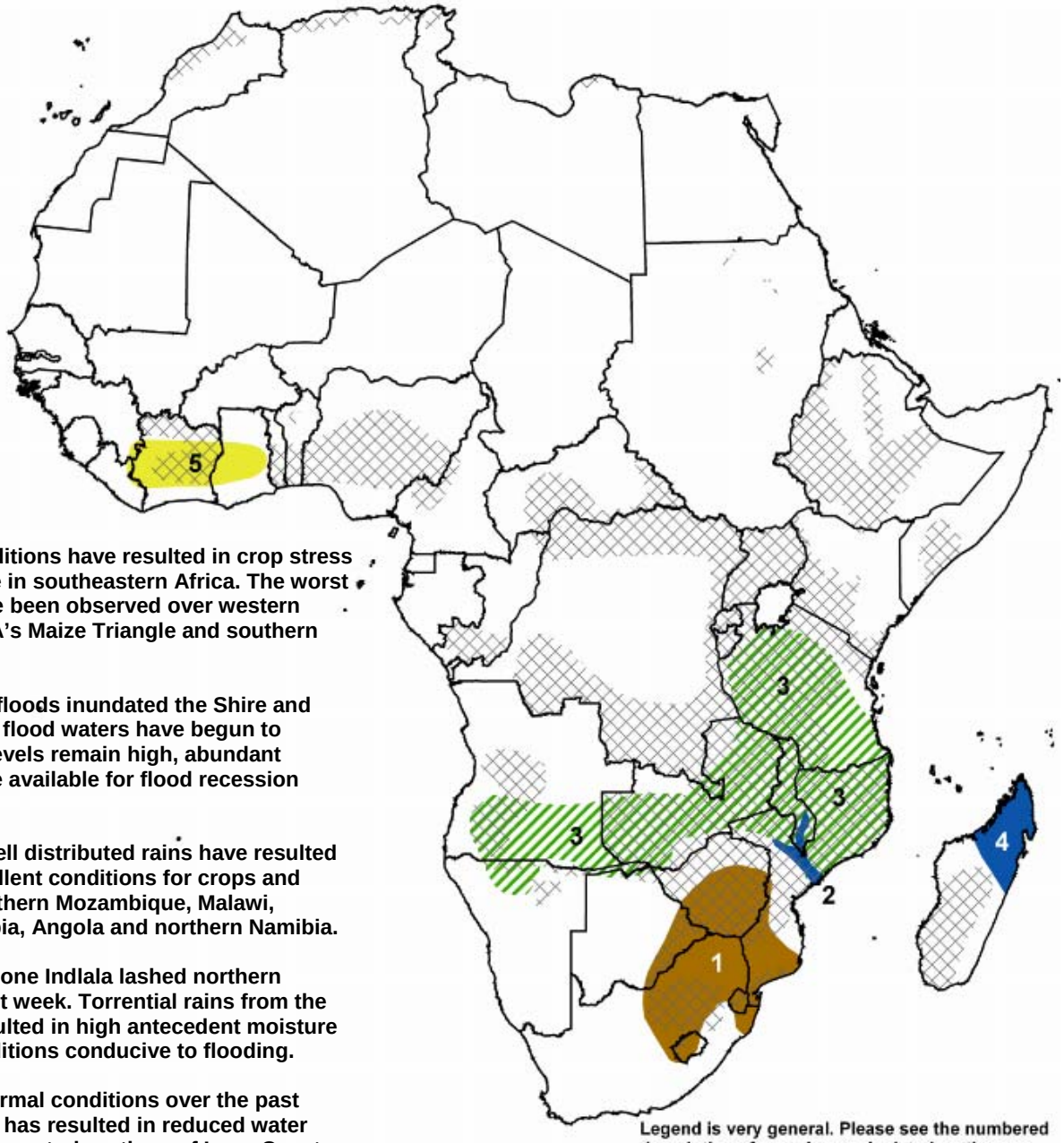
The USAID FEWS-NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa March 22 - 28, 2007

- **Drought conditions have resulted in crop failure across western parts of RSA's Maize Triangle, Lesotho and southern Zimbabwe, with crop stress in the eastern part of the Maize Triangle as well as central Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Drought conditions have developed in eastern Botswana and southern Mozambique as well.**

- **Flood waters on the Zambezi and Shire rivers are slowly receding. Good rains this season have resulted in favorable growing condition in northern Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola and Namibia.**



1) Hot, dry conditions have resulted in crop stress and crop failure in southeastern Africa. The worst conditions have been observed over western portions of RSA's Maize Triangle and southern Zimbabwe.

2) After severe floods inundated the Shire and Zambezi rivers, flood waters have begun to recede. While levels remain high, abundant moisture will be available for flood recession agriculture.

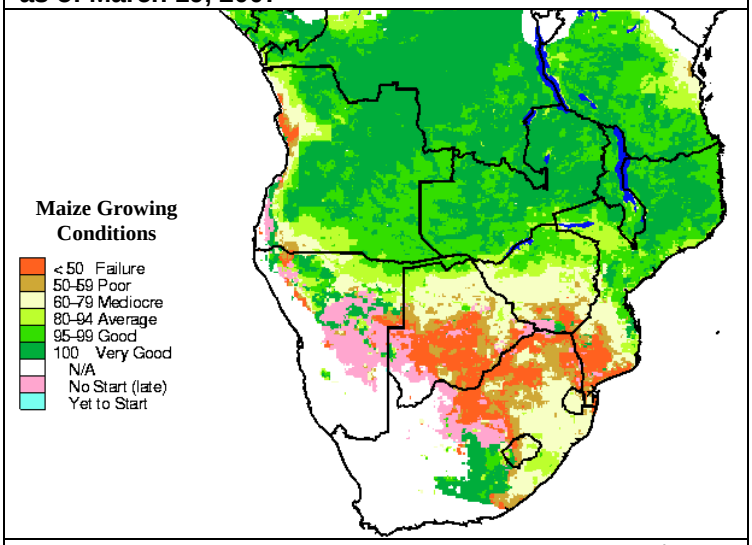
3) Abundant, well distributed rains have resulted in good to excellent conditions for crops and pastures in northern Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola and northern Namibia.

4) Tropical Cyclone Indlala lashed northern Madagascar last week. Torrential rains from the storm have resulted in high antecedent moisture levels and conditions conducive to flooding.

5) Drier than normal conditions over the past several months has resulted in reduced water supplies across central portions of Ivory Coast and Ghana.

Drought continues to worsen over RSA, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and the surrounding region. Hot, dry conditions since the beginning of the New Year have resulted in crop failure across the western portions of RSA's Maize Triangle, southern Zimbabwe and western Lesotho. Poor rains have resulted in crop stress across eastern parts of the Maize Triangle, as well as Swaziland and central Zimbabwe. Farms that were able to employ soil moisture conservation techniques, such as deep soil ripping, and those that planted early seemed to have a better crop. Erratic and spotty rains have resulted in poor conditions across southern Mozambique and eastern Botswana as well. Luckily, the high production areas in northern Zimbabwe received near normal rainfall, resulting in generally average crop conditions.

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI) for Maize as of March 19, 2007

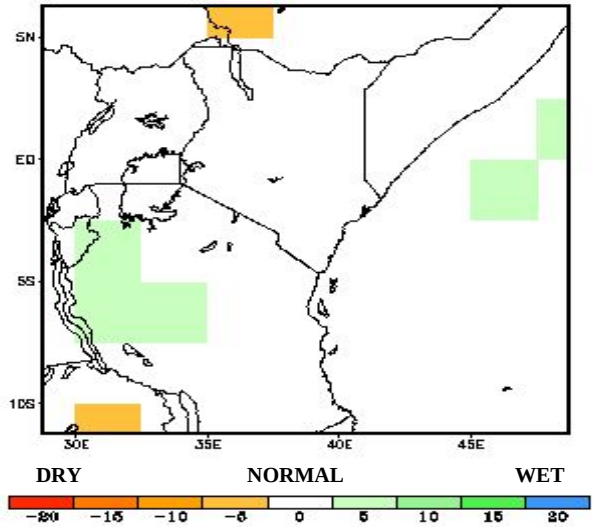


Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Abundant, well distributed rains have favored crops, pastures and water supplies north of the Zambezi. While drought and poor growing conditions persist to the south, good seasonal rains have resulted in nearly ideal growing conditions for crops across Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and northern Mozambique. According to the latest issue of the Rainfall and Agromet Bulletin from Malawi, a bumper crop is expected once again this year. The crop seems to be made in Malawi, with corn either at maturity or at the drying stage. Favorable conditions are being reported in Tanzania as well. According to the latest Dakadal Weather Review put out by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency, pasture conditions and water availability for livestock were very good across the country. Crops were reported to be in good condition in the unimodal areas, with favorable early season conditions in the bimodal areas. According to a recent field report, the good rains have resulted in the early filling of the reservoir behind the Mtera dam in Rufiji basin this year. Rainfall and soil moisture parameters are indicating good conditions across much of Zambia, as well as Angola and Namibia.

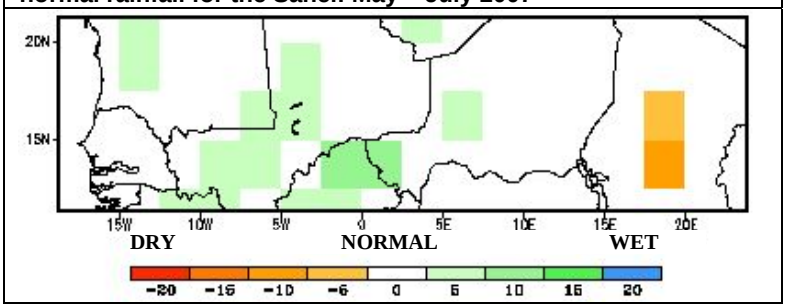
After severe flooding along the lower Zambezi and Shire rivers, flood waters have begun to recede. Persistent heavy rains across the Zambezi Basin triggered the most severe flooding since 2001. However, rainfall has begun to taper off across the basin as the rainy season nears its climatological end. Water levels along the river have begun to recede. Although the floods have washed away bridges, displaced people and inundated some crops, there are some positive aspects to be recognized in the flood's wake. The abundance of moisture across the flood plain should result in favorable conditions for a good flood recession crop this year.

Departure from climatological probabilities for above or below normal rainfall: March - May 2007



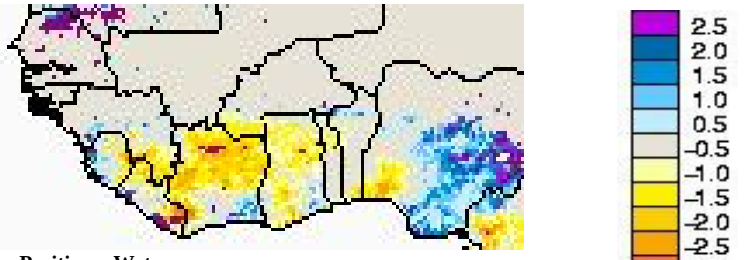
The outlook for Mar-May 2007 East Africa rainfall at one month lead favors climatology across the region, except over western Tanzania where there is a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall.

Departure from climatological probabilities for above or below normal rainfall for the Sahel: May – July 2007



There is a tilt in the odds favoring above normal rainfall over portions of the Sahel, including Mali, Burkina Faso, and local areas in Niger. There is a tilt in the odds favoring below normal rainfall locally over central Chad. Climatology is expected elsewhere.

3 Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) as of March 10



Positive = Wet
Near 0 = Near Normal
Negative = Dry

Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Rainfall has been below normal across Ivory Coast and parts of Ghana since October. Although less than 20% of the annual total falls during October-March, these rains are significant. The lack of rain has resulted in some localized water shortages. However, conditions are expected to improve during April.