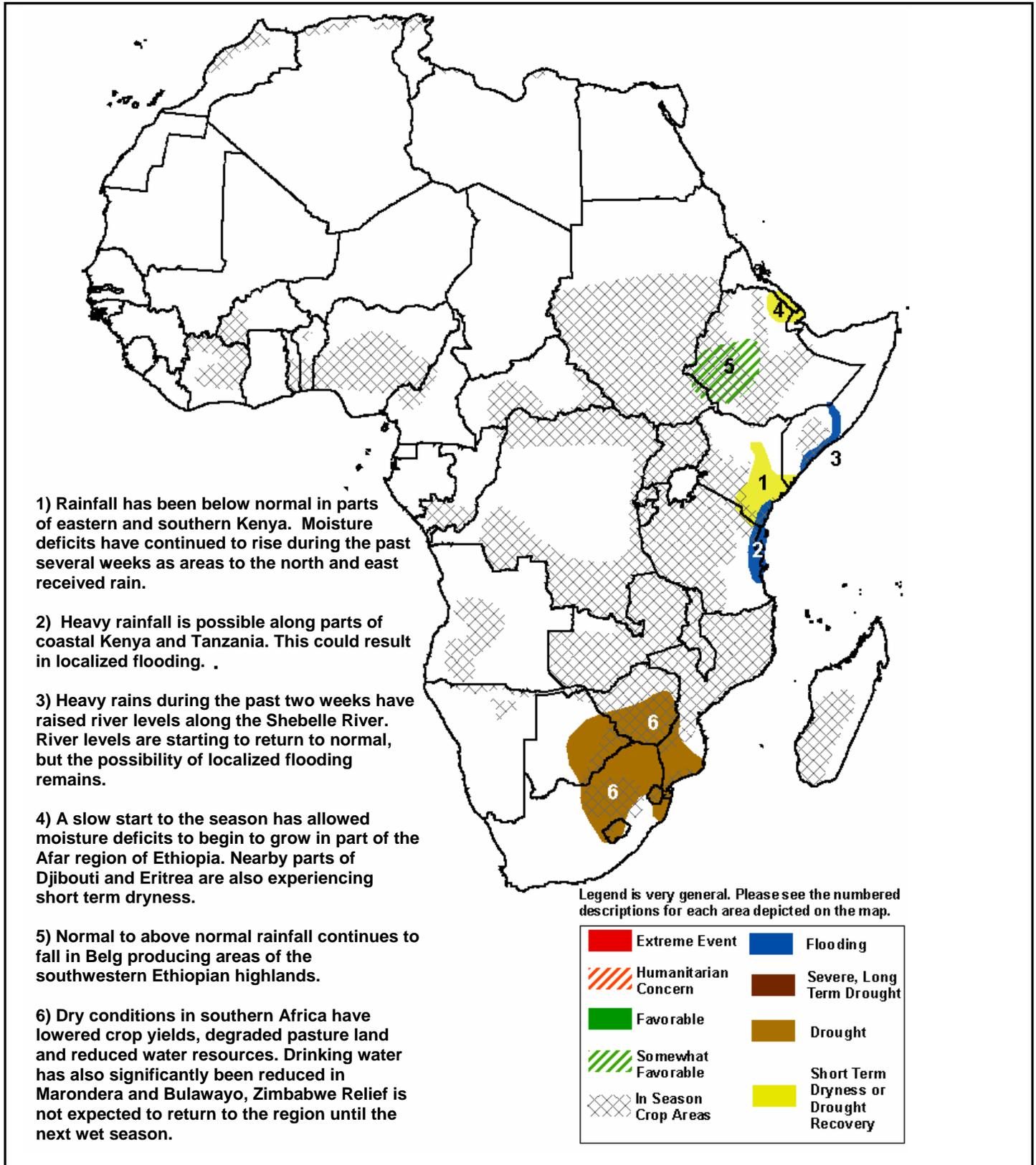


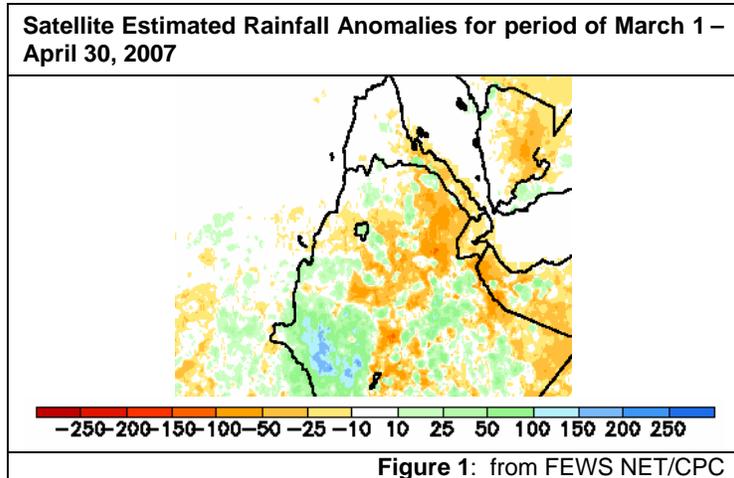
- Rainfall in Somalia is not as heavy as it was during the last two weeks. There is still the potential for flooding along the Shebelle river, however as the precipitation makes its way down stream.
- A slow start to the season is responsible for short term dryness in portions of Afar in Ethiopia and nearby parts of Eritrea and Djibouti.



## Short Term Dryness in the Afar Region While Wet Conditions Remain in Southwest Ethiopia

Lack luster rainfall in the Afar region of Ethiopia and neighboring parts of Djibouti and Eritrea has had a slow start to the wet season. Moisture deficits of up to and exceeding 100 mm are present in Ethiopia. There have also been reports of poor conditions from parts of Djibouti. This area could recover quickly if rains begin to fall during the next few weeks. However, little to no precipitation is expected during the coming week.

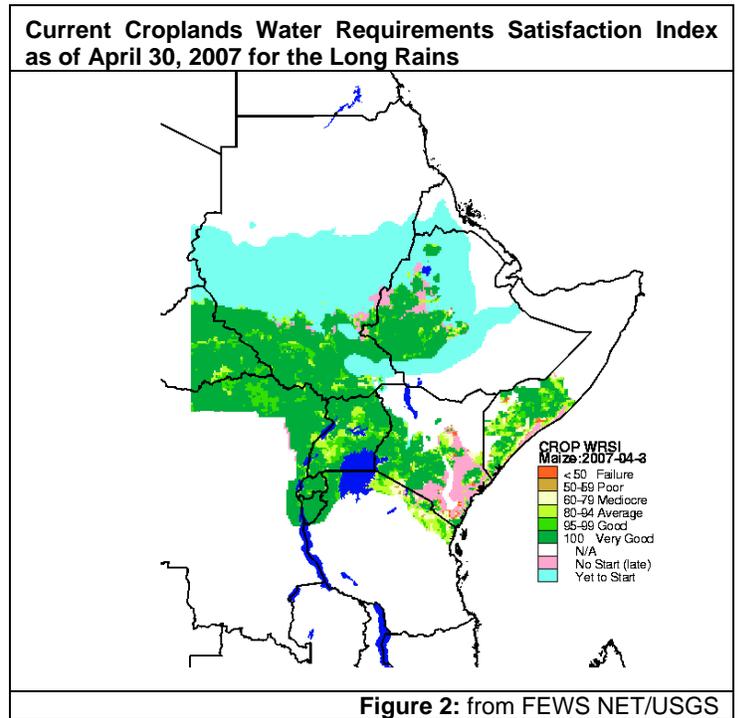
This area is in sharp contrast to southwestern Ethiopia where above normal rainfall totals have almost reached 200 percent of normal rainfall during the March 1 to April 30. So far this season rainfall has been abundant enough that soil conditions are considered to be slightly better than normal for crops and pastures.



## Start of Season Delayed in Eastern and Southern Kenya

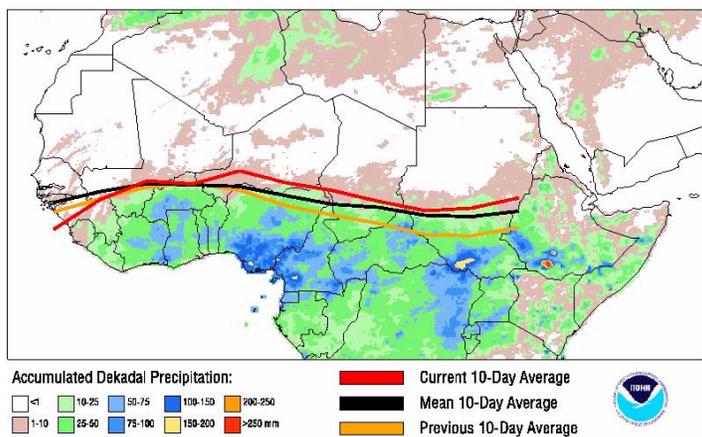
Short term dryness has been observed across eastern and southern Kenya. These dry conditions stem from a delayed start to the seasonal rains (See Figure 2 below). Conditions in nearby parts of Somalia and Ethiopia were also poor until heavy rainfall moved into the region. Unfortunately the negatively impacted portion of Kenya did not receive significant rainfall.

Conditions in Kenya did not improve during the last week, and only light showers are expected during the coming period. It should be noted that parts of southern Somalia have also begun to dry out again. Rainfall during the past 10 days was below normal across southern and eastern Kenya and southern Somalia.



## ITCZ Lags in West, Recovers in East

**Latest ITCZ position for the period of April 21-30, 2007**



The ITCZ regressed southward in the far western portion of Africa during the past 10 days. This was associated with below normal rainfall in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. Meanwhile in the east, where the ITCZ had been lagging, it pressed northward and is currently slightly further north than normal for this time of year.

Daily monitoring of the position of the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone has resulted in the map shown above as Figure 3. The image depicts current vs. mean dekadal position of the ITCZ, as well as the location during the previous period, with accompanying 10-day accumulated rainfall.