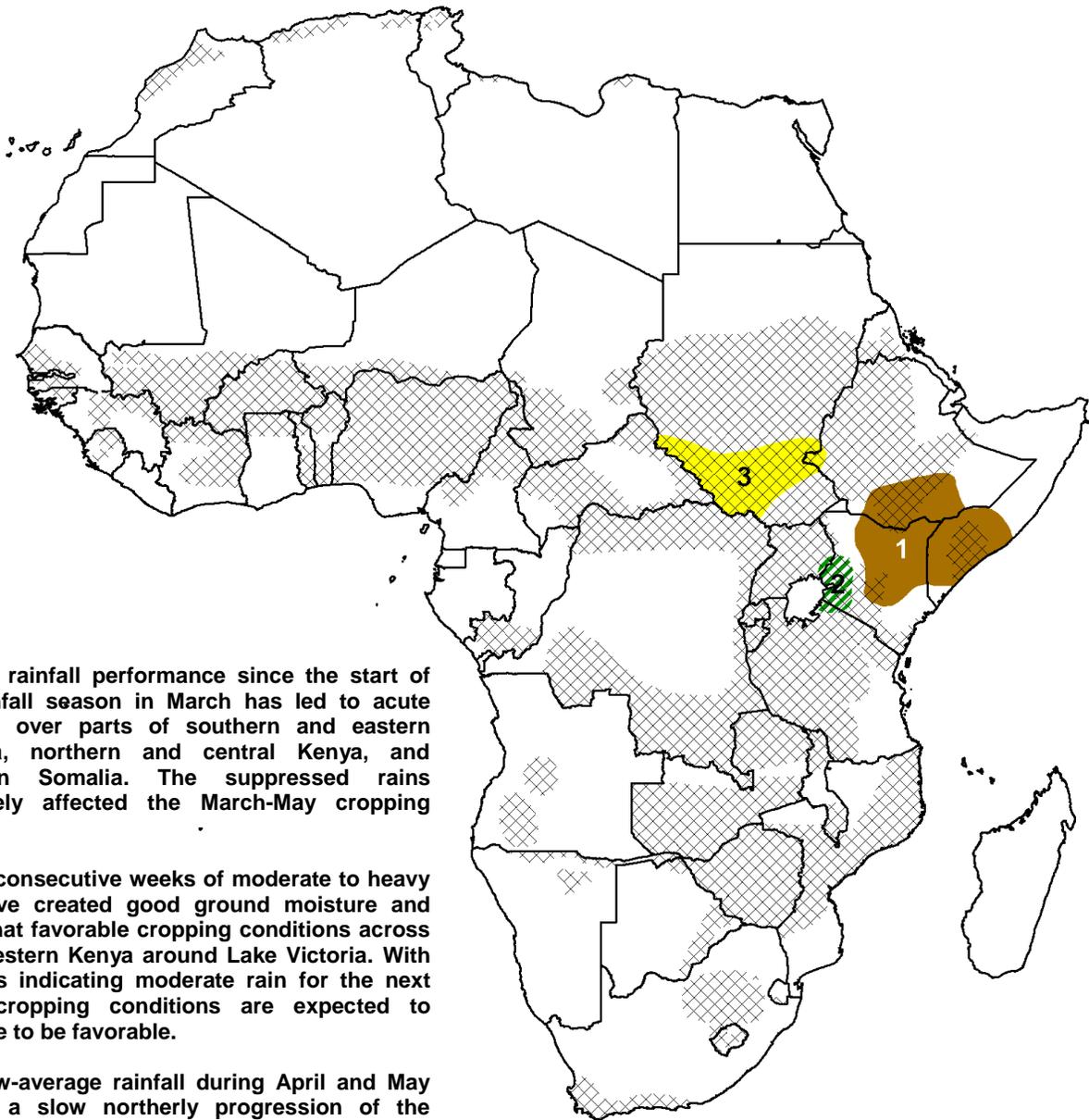


- Anomalous heavy rain fell across central and southern Sudan reducing rainfall deficits.
- Widespread above-average rain occurred across much of the Gulf of Guinea during the past week.

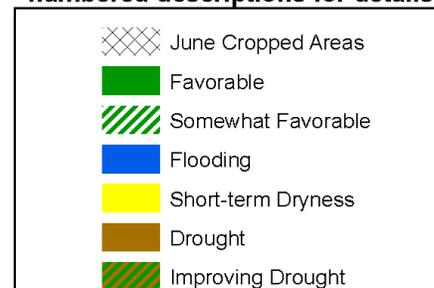


1) Poor rainfall performance since the start of the rainfall season in March has led to acute dryness over parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia, northern and central Kenya, and southern Somalia. The suppressed rains negatively affected the March-May cropping period.

2) Five consecutive weeks of moderate to heavy rain have created good ground moisture and somewhat favorable cropping conditions across southwestern Kenya around Lake Victoria. With outlooks indicating moderate rain for the next week, cropping conditions are expected to continue to be favorable.

3) Below-average rainfall during April and May tied to a slow northerly progression of the Intertropical Front across southern Sudan has led to developing moderate rainfall deficits in the region which could impact pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in southern Sudan.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Heavy rain fell across central and southern Sudan.

During the past week, anomalously wet conditions were observed across much of central Sudan as rain fell further north in Sudan than what is climatologically expected for the end of May. Widespread moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) was recorded across central and southern Sudan, Uganda, southwestern Kenya and central and northern Ethiopia. The heaviest precipitation totals (> 75 mm) were observed across the Tigray and Amhara regions of Ethiopia. The abundant rain over Ethiopia has continued the above-average start to the long rains season. The rain has fallen over crop production areas which were negatively affected by the suppressed rainfall from March-May. The ample rainfall over southern Sudan marked a departure from the below-average rain observed over the past two months and has helped erode moderate early season rainfall deficits. The northward extent of the moderate rain (30-50 mm) over the Darfur and Kordofan region of Sudan was similar to where rain is seasonally expected to fall later in June and July. Meanwhile, light rain (< 10 mm) was observed across southern Ethiopia, Somalia and much of Kenya (**Figure 1**) as the March-May rainy season comes to an end. A late season increase in rain has helped improve ground and pasture conditions over Somalia and southern Ethiopia, however, the seasonal rainfall was below-average due to extended periods of dryness in March and April.

The increase in rain across Ethiopia during the last several weeks as well as the increase in rain over Sudan during the past week is tied to an increase in the number of rain days. Over the past thirty-days, there has been between 5-15 more rain days than average over much of northern and central Ethiopia and Uganda while 2-5 more rain days occurred over central portions of Sudan. However, localized areas in southern Sudan, where thirty-day rainfall deficits are between 25-50 mm, have observed 2-5 less rain days than normal (**Figure 2**).

During the next week, rain is forecast to be heavy (> 50 mm) across western Ethiopia, while further west, moderate rainfall (10-40 mm) is expected over the drier, western portions of southern Sudan. Elsewhere, moderate rain is also forecast over southwestern Kenya and seasonally light rain (< 10 mm) is expected over Somalia and Kenya.

Above-average rain was observed across Gulf of Guinea.

Over the past week, widespread moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) was observed across the Gulf of Guinea with the heaviest rain (> 75 mm) falling over coastal Nigeria. In particular, the abundant rain that was observed over much of Nigeria has helped to reduce moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits. Further west, moderate rain (10-40 mm) continued over bi-modal portions of the Gulf of Guinea including Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone (**Figure 3**) allowing for good moisture conditions. Overall, cropping conditions are sufficient across the Gulf of Guinea as rainfall has been frequent and spatially consistent. For the next week, models forecast a reduction in rain across northern portions of Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin while moderate rain should continue across coastal regions around the Gulf of Guinea.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 24th – May 30th, 2011

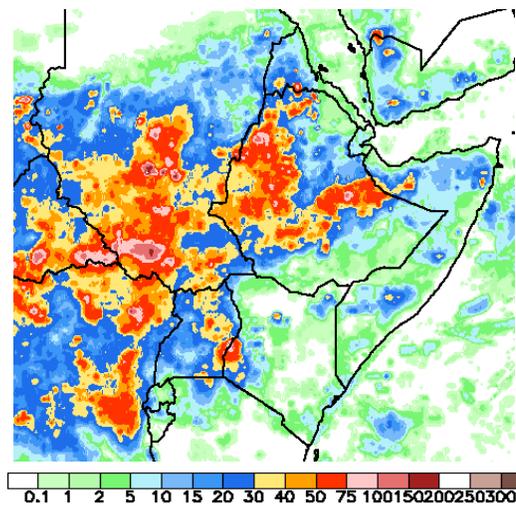


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Number of Rain Days Anomaly
Valid: May 1st – May 30th, 2011

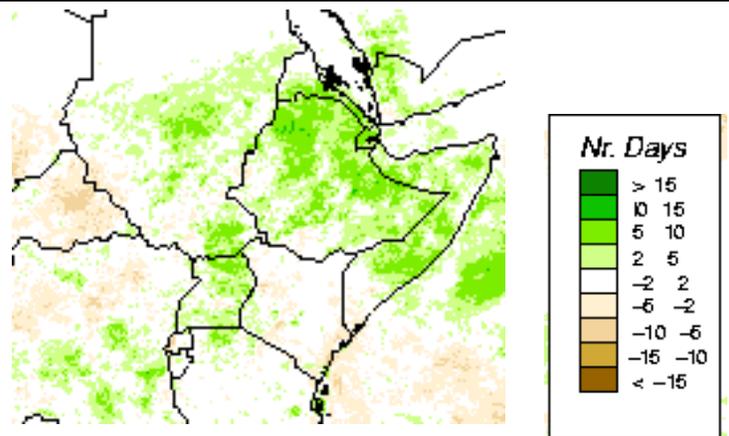


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 24th – May 30th, 2011

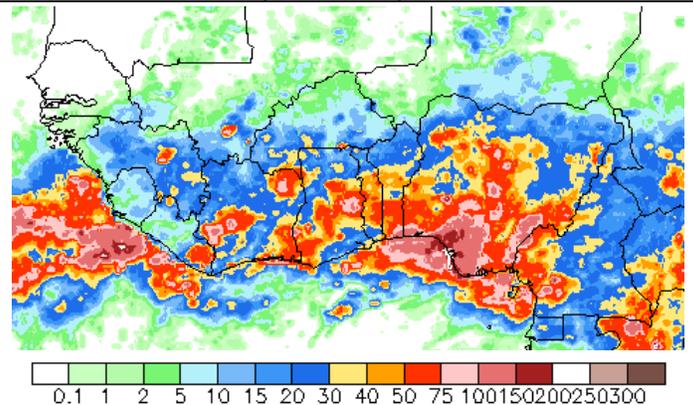


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards assessment 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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