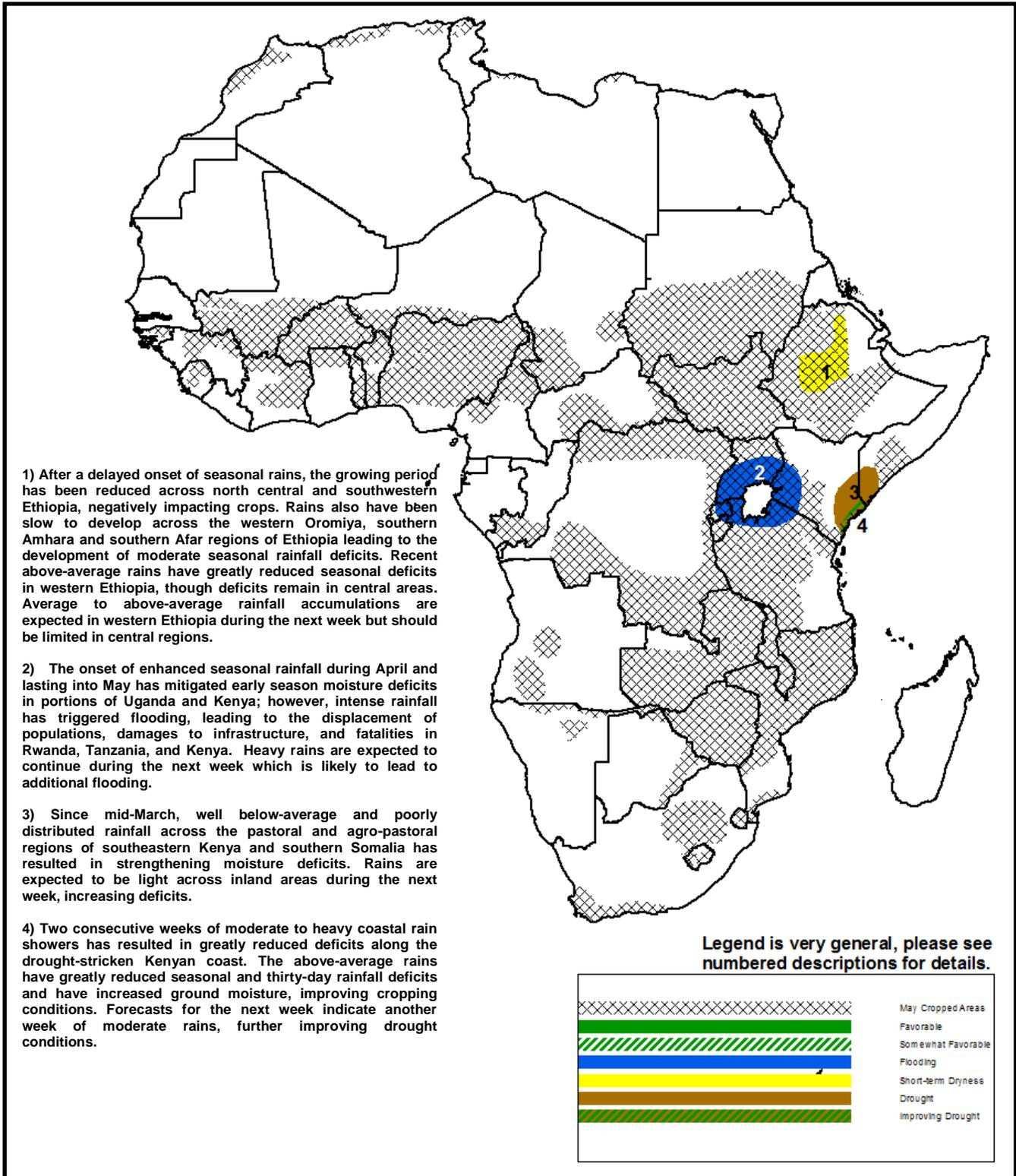


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 24 – May 30, 2012

- Coastal showers in Kenya helped to reduce seasonal deficits, improving ground conditions.



Above-average rain is observed in South Sudan.

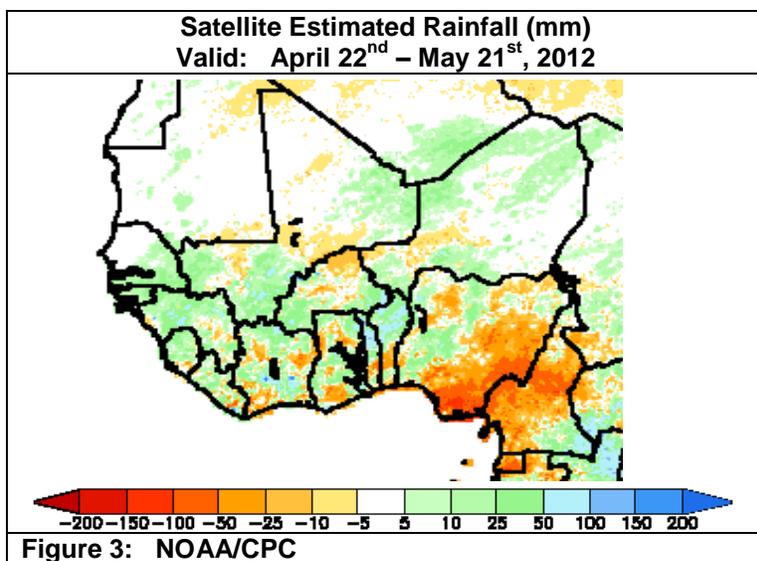
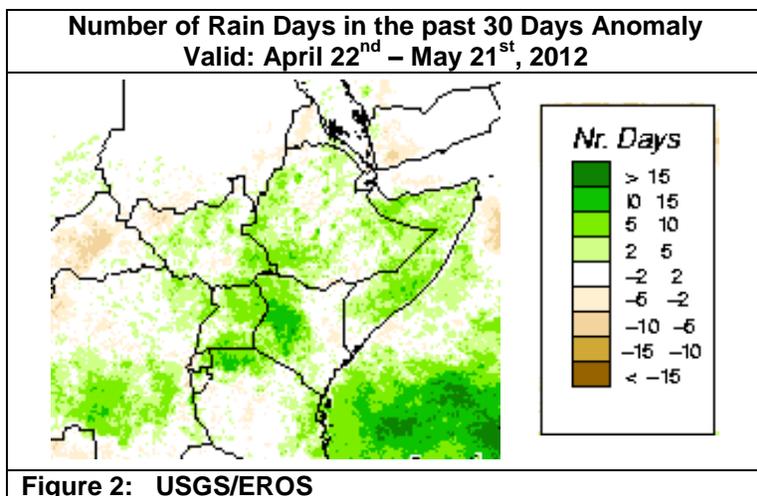
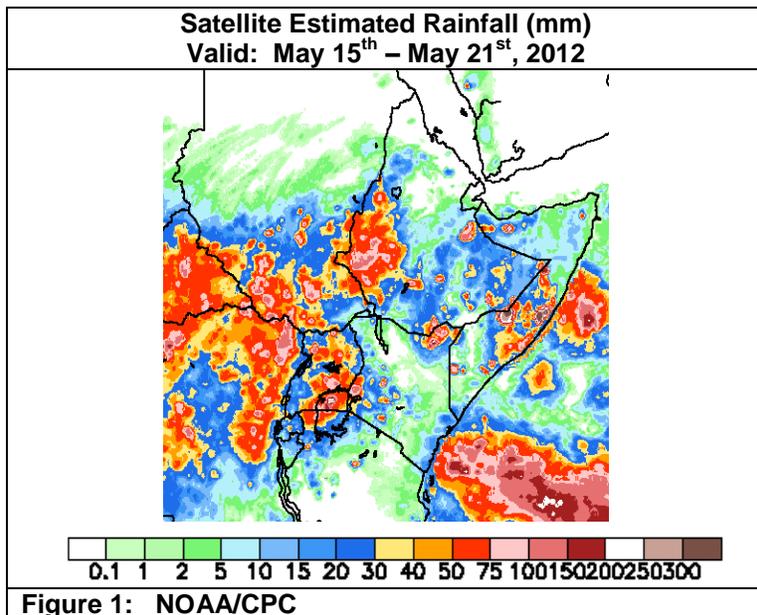
During the past week, above-average and heavy rain (>50mm total) was recorded across much of western Ethiopia, South Sudan, southern portions of Sudan, coastal Kenya, central/southern Somalia and Uganda. Widespread rains over South Sudan for a second consecutive week have helped turn seasonal rain deficits into surpluses, including over portions of western South Sudan which observed a delayed start to seasonal rainfall. Heavy rains (>50mm) also continued for a third week across the western Oromiya, Benishangul-Gumuz, southern Amhara, Gambela and SNNP provinces of Ethiopia. Rains were below-average in central and western portions of Ethiopia. Farther south, heavy coastal rain showers (>50mm) (Figure 1) in Kenya aided areas which have observed below-average rainfall during the past 90 days. Beneficial rains were also observed across southern and central Somalia. In contrast, average to below-average rain was recorded across southwestern Kenya for the first time since the beginning of April, providing relief to saturated conditions.

Precipitation during the past 30 days has seen an increase across much of east Africa. An analysis of the number of rain days during the past thirty-day indicates just how often rain has fallen. Saturated and flood prone areas around Lake Victoria in southwestern Kenya have observed 10-15 more days of rainfall than normal. 5-10 more days of rainfall occurred across Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, northern Tanzania and Somalia (Figure 2). With an above-average number of rain days, total rainfall accumulations are above-average across many of these regions with surpluses exceeding 150mm in Kenya, and ranging between 50-150 mm in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia. The heavy rains in southern Ethiopia and Somalia resulted in flooding concerns along the Shabelle River.

For the next seven days, models forecast moderate to heavy rain across much of east Africa. Heavy rain (>40mm) is expected around Lake Victoria in Uganda and Kenya, and in localized areas in western/southern Ethiopia. Moderate rains (10-30mm) are forecast in coastal Kenya, Somalia and western/central Sudan. The rains in coastal Kenya should reduce deficits.

Moderate to heavy rain continues across West Africa

For a third consecutive week, widespread moderate to heavy rainfall (>30mm) was observed in West Africa. The heaviest rains (>50mm) were observed along coastal West Africa in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Nigeria. The recent early season, abundant rains have caused well distributed 30 day rainfall surpluses across northern, western and southern West Africa. However, rains, though frequent, have been below-average across eastern Nigeria and western Cameroon leading to moderate rainfall deficits (Figure 3). For the next week, models forecast moderate to locally heavy rain (>20mm) across West Africa, including eastern Nigeria, where seasonal rains have been below-average.



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.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.