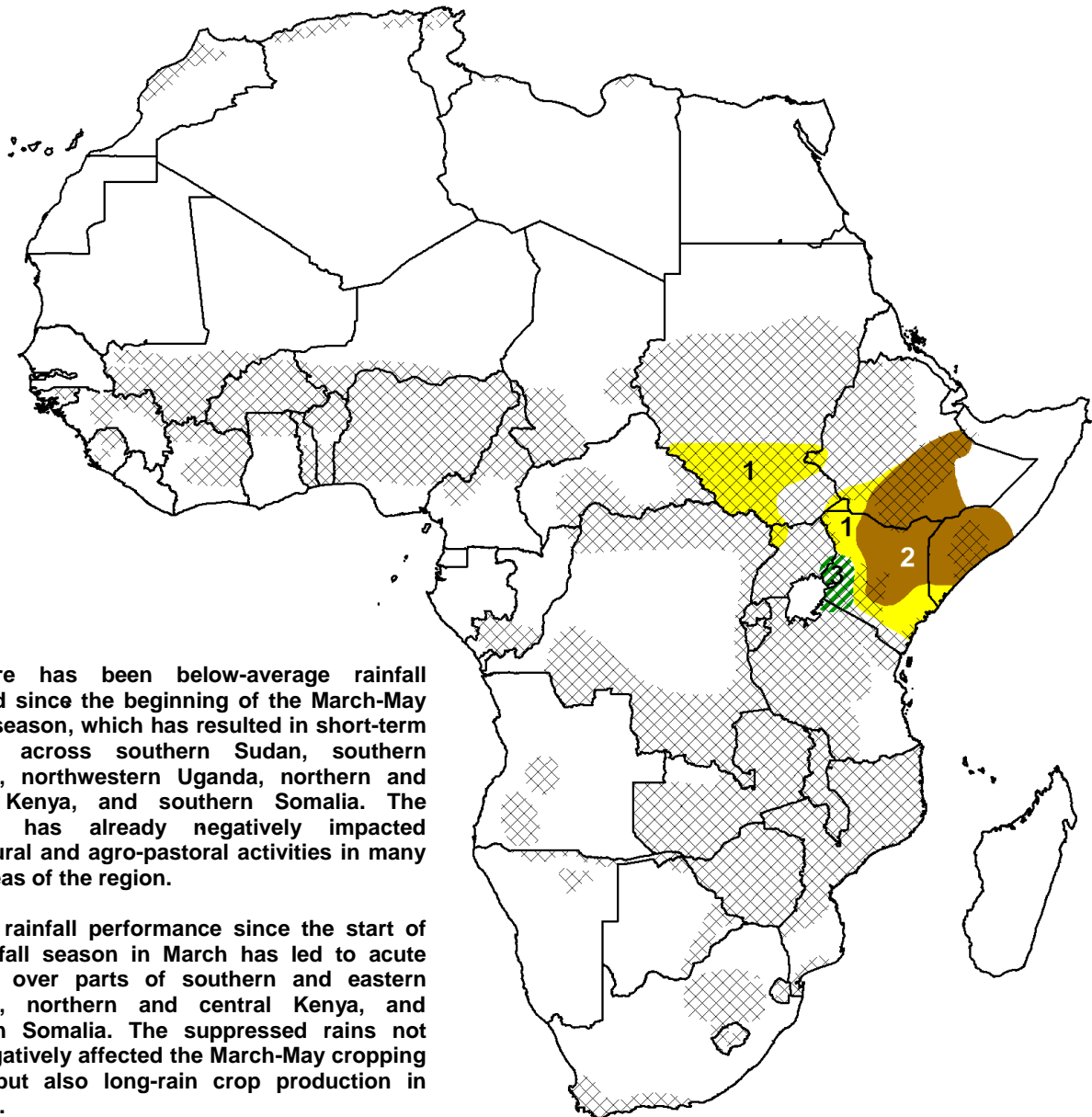


- An increase in precipitation was observed across dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa.
- Continued widespread moderate rain has been recorded around the Gulf of Guinea.

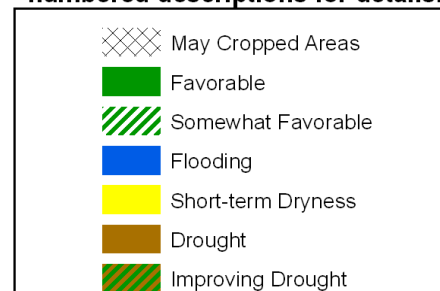


1) There has been below-average rainfall recorded since the beginning of the March-May rainfall season, which has resulted in short-term dryness across southern Sudan, southern Ethiopia, northwestern Uganda, northern and central Kenya, and southern Somalia. The dryness has already negatively impacted agricultural and agro-pastoral activities in many local areas of the region.

2) 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 not only negatively affected the March-May cropping period but also long-rain crop production in Ethiopia.

3) Four 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.

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



Rainfall increased across the Greater Horn of Africa.

After several months of below-average rain, above-average rainfall was widespread across much of the Greater Horn of Africa during the past week. Heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) was observed across Uganda, Ethiopia, and southern Sudan with the highest rainfall totals (> 75 mm) located over southern Sudan and localized areas in the eastern Oromiya, and southern Afar regions of Ethiopia. Rain gauges measured over 80 mm of rain on May 20th at Ginir, located in the eastern Oromiya region. The increase in rains across southern Sudan has helped eliminate moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall deficits across the Central and Eastern Equatorial regions of Sudan. However, rainfall has still been below-average across western portions of southern Sudan. Moderate rainfall (10-40 mm) was also prevalent across central and northern Somalia helping to improve ground conditions in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. The increase in rain across dry areas in southern Ethiopia and Somalia during the month of May has aided in enhancing moisture conditions at the end of the March-May rains season. In contrast, dry conditions were observed across much of northern, central and eastern Kenya and southern Somalia as light rainfall (< 10 mm) was recorded (**Figure 1**). Seasonal rainfall deficits greater than 100 mm can be found across central regions of northern Kenya.

Due to the recent increase in rains during the first two dekads of May, the WRSI shows satisfactory cropping conditions across Ethiopia, Sudan, southern/central Somalia and around Lake Victoria in Kenya. In particular, the persistent moderate rains around Lake Victoria in southwestern Kenya have created somewhat favorable cropping conditions during May. Meanwhile, the rains have arrived too late to help crops across Somalia but the increase in moisture will benefit rangeland areas during the dry summer months ahead. In contrast, poor conditions exist over dry portions of central and southern Kenya (**Figure 3**) where sufficient rainfall has been lacking since March.

For the next week, heavy rain (> 40 mm) is forecast over Uganda central/southern Sudan and western/central Ethiopia. The abundant rain expected over Sudan should help to reduce moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits. In contrast, light rain (< 10 mm) is forecast over Somalia and central/eastern Kenya.

Widespread moderate rain observed across Gulf of Guinea.

During the past seven days, moderate rain (10-40 mm) was observed across the Gulf of Guinea. While the rainfall was both spatially widespread and temporally frequent, the quantity was below-average in most locations. The below-average rain, however, did little to affect the positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies over bi-modal areas around the Gulf of Guinea as locations in Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire have observed greater than 140% of their expected precipitation. Conversely, rainfall over uni-modal areas in Nigeria, especially in the northeast, has been below-average during the past thirty-days with some locations observing half the amount of rain usually recorded (**Figure 3**). Rainfall has been frequent over these areas although not in sufficient quantity. Forecasts for the next week indicate a return to more abundant rainfall across dry regions in Nigeria which should help to reduce recent deficits.

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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