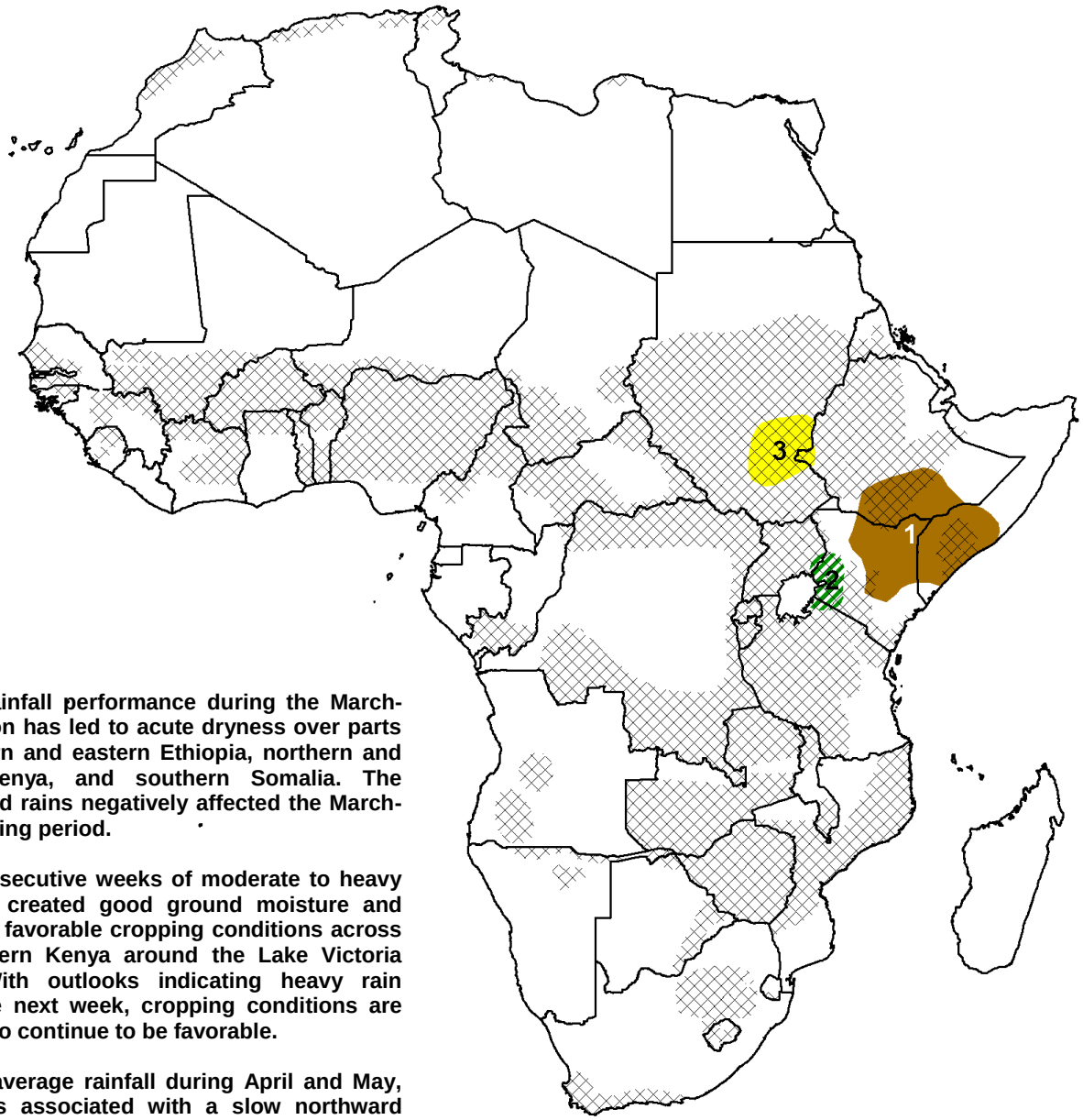
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
June 9 – June 15, 2011

- **An increase in seasonal rainfall was observed in Nigeria and southern Cote d'Ivoire during the last observation period.**
- **Seasonal rainfall continued in southern Sudan and western Ethiopia.**



1) Poor rainfall performance during the March-May season 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) Six consecutive weeks of moderate to heavy rain have created good ground moisture and somewhat favorable cropping conditions across southwestern Kenya around the Lake Victoria region. With outlooks indicating heavy rain during the next week, cropping conditions are expected to continue to be favorable.

3) Below-average rainfall during April and May, which was associated with a slow northward progression of the Intertropical Front across southern Sudan, has resulted in moderate rainfall deficits in the Jonglei region of southeastern Sudan. The short-term dryness could impact pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the region.

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

- June Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Heavy rains were observed in southern Nigeria and southern Cote d'Ivoire during the last observation period.

During the last seven days, a continuation in seasonal rainfall was observed along the coastal regions of the Gulf of Guinea. For the second week, seasonal rainfall was concentrated across southern and central Nigeria, indicating the seasonal progression of the African Intertropical Front in the region (**Figure 1**). Heavy (> 50mm) rainfall was also observed in eastern Benin, Nigeria, and Cameroon during the past seven days. Further west, heavy rainfall fell in Guinea Bissau and northwestern Guinea, southern Liberia, and southern Cote d'Ivoire. However, moderate (< 30mm) rains were recorded elsewhere. The uneven spatial distribution of rainfall during the last several weeks has sustained mild to moderate (10-50mm) rainfall deficits in many areas of the Gulf of Guinea region, including western Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and northern Nigeria. The persistence of moisture deficits could affect crops during their early stages in many local areas of central and northern Nigeria.

In the Gulf of Guinea region, favorable vegetation conditions were observed in the western portion during the third dekad of May due to above-average rainfall received in that area during the last two months. In contrast, degraded conditions prevailed in the eastern portion of the region because of frequent but insufficient rainfall received during the last several weeks. This has resulted in deteriorated vegetation conditions throughout the eastern portion compared to the 2000-2010 average conditions as shown in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly (**Figure 2**).

Rainfall forecast for the upcoming seven days suggests heavy (> 50mm) rainfall along the coastal areas of the Gulf of Guinea region, with the heaviest (> 150mm) rains in coastal Liberia. Heavy rains are also expected in many local areas of northern Nigeria and southern Niger. Heavy rainfall that is forecast during the next seven days is expected to erode moisture deficits and benefit cropping activities in northern Nigeria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 31th – June 6th, 2011

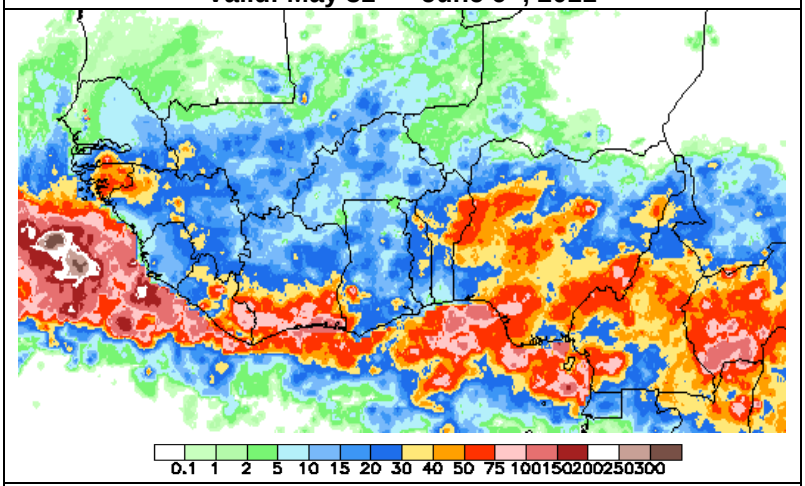


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: May 21st – May 31st, 2011

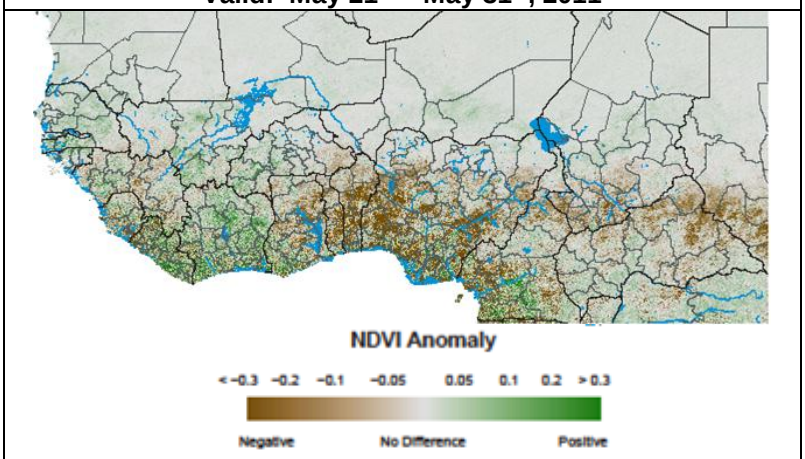


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Seasonal rainfall continues in eastern Africa.

In the Greater Horn of Africa, seasonal rainfall continued in southwestern Sudan, western Ethiopia, and southwestern Kenya during the last week (**Figure 3**). Heavy (> 50mm) rainfall was also observed in local areas of eastern and southern Sudan, northern Uganda, and the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia during the last seven days. Elsewhere, little to no rainfall (< 10mm) was recorded as the March-May rainfall season came to an end. In southern Sudan, rainfall was not as widespread as that during the previous week due to anomalous northwesterly winds and enhanced Somali Jet, which have contributed to the suppression of rainfall in the region. As a result, moderate thirty-day moisture deficits have been maintained in southeastern Sudan despite the above-average rainfall received during the previous week. The persistence of moisture deficits could impact pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the region. For the upcoming seven days, model rainfall forecast calls for a high probability for rainfall exceeding 50mm across western Ethiopia and western Kenya. The continuation and timely onset to the seasonal rainfall are expected to benefit agricultural activities in the region.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 31th – June 6th, 2011

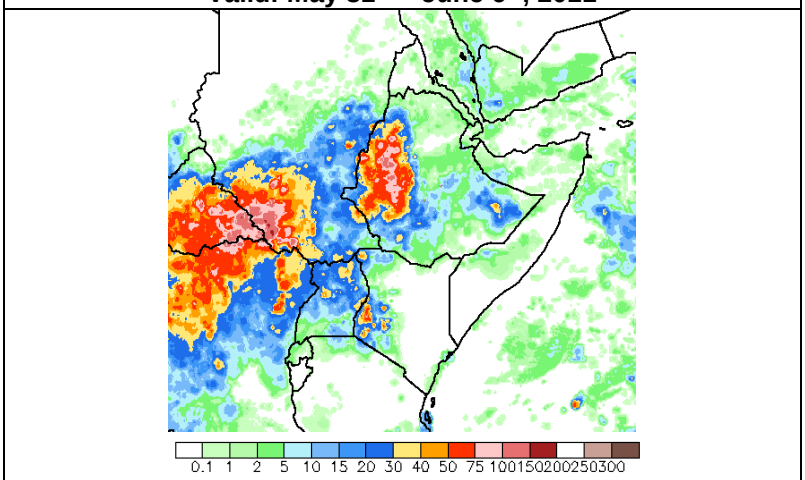


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.