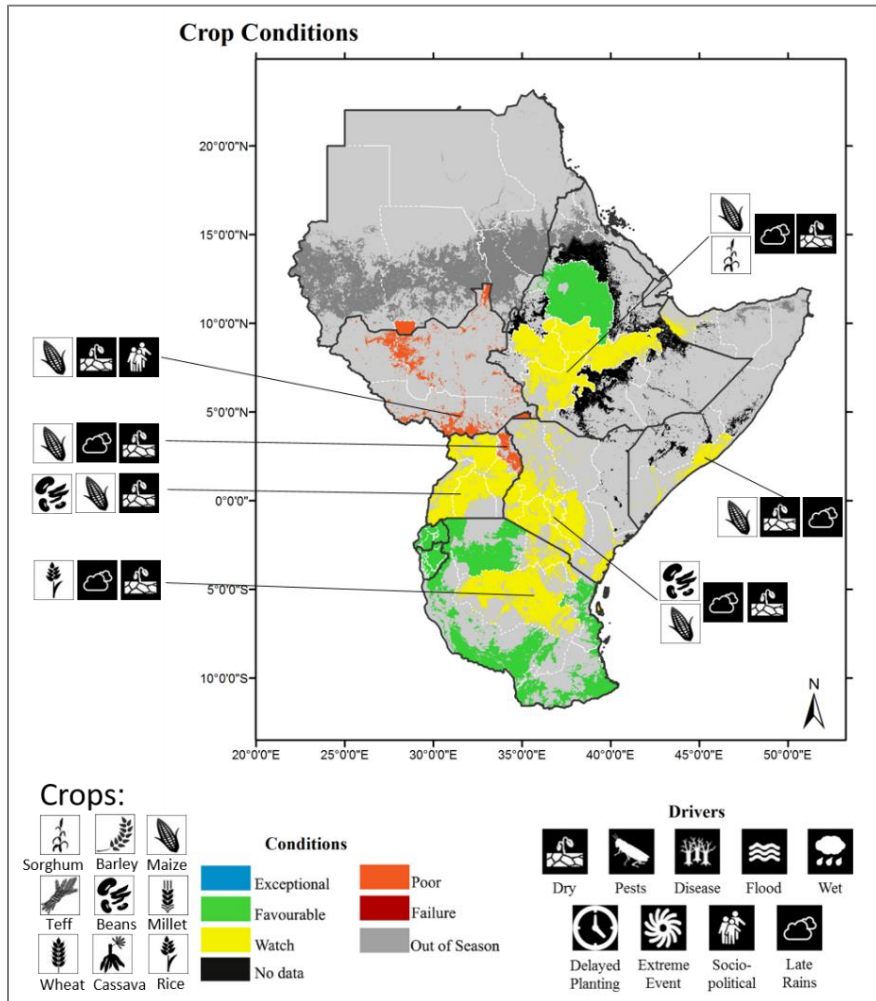




ICPAC

EASTERN AFRICA CROP MONITOR



Overview

The current crop season in the central and southern part of the region normally starts with onset of March to May rainfall season. However, majority of cropping regions have experienced extended dry conditions with **delayed** rainfall. This has disrupted planting activities in the countries where rainfall has commenced and delayed planting in those countries yet to receive rainfall. The Tropical Cyclone “Idai” experienced in early march in Mozambique area redirected precipitation away from the Eastern Africa region resulting persisting dry conditions.



60%

Below Average Rainfall
in Most Countries in March



[Bulletin Quick Access](#)

Crops and Season Overview

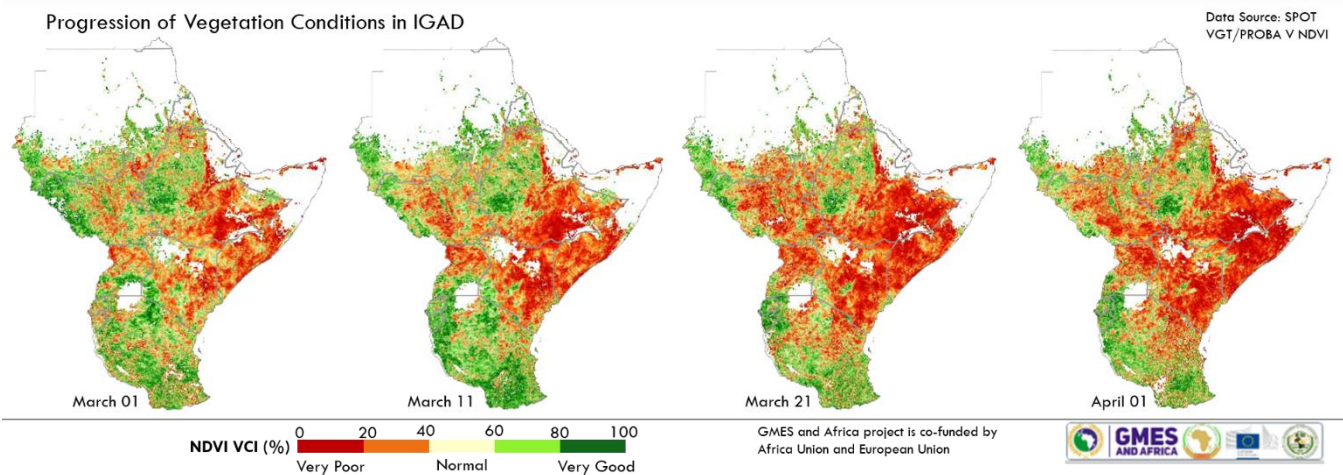
In **Kenya**, in high potential cropping areas of the southwestern “maize basket”, substantial rainfall deficits at the start of the “long rains” season, with cumulative precipitations in February and March below-average, seriously disrupted and delayed planting operations. As the “long-rains” season normally extends until August in these areas, with rainfall forecasts pointing to below-average rains in April followed by improved precipitations for the remainder of the rains season, a near-average harvest, albeit delayed, is still possible. Bi-modal south eastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, the early season dryness was more severe, with no significant precipitations received so far. In these areas, by contrast, with seasonal rains normally subsiding in early June, under the forecast of below-average rains in April, a reduced crop output is highly likely. Poor harvests will potentially result in a second consecutive reduced output, after the 2018/19 “short-rains” harvest, gathered last February, estimated at more than 60 percent below-average. Similarly, in **Uganda**, southern bimodal areas of **South Sudan** and some north eastern bimodal areas of **Tanzania**, delayed rains and dry conditions in March seriously affected planting and establishment of first season crops, and if poor rains in April will materialize, substantial cereal crop production shortfalls are expected. In **South Sudan**, despite some localized security improvements since mid-2018, the prolonged conflict continues to constrain access to fields, and the economic crisis is resulting in soaring prices of inputs. In unimodal central and southern areas of the **United Republic of Tanzania**, where “msimu” crops will be harvested in May, rains in March were up to 60 percent below average, but the rainfall deficits did not have a major impact on vegetation conditions, as rainfall in previous months has been adequate. By contrast, in central Tabora and Singida provinces, where rains in February were also below-average, crops are currently affected by moisture stress.

Crops and Season Overview

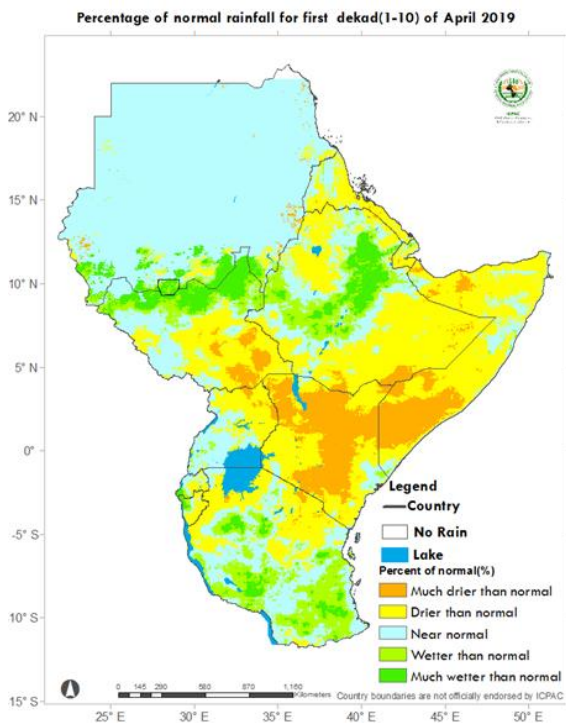
In Somalia, “Gu” rains are normally fully established in April. However, there is some concern due to delay of onset rains in March and dry conditions already present and which may continue (See Regional Outlook pg. 5). In northern parts of the subregion, in Ethiopia, planting of “belg” crops, for harvest from June, is usually completed in March. Abundant early season rains benefited planting and germination of crops in northern “belg” receiving areas of eastern Oromia and Southern Tigray, while in parts of SNNP and in Eastern Oromia rains in February and March were 35-75 percent below average, with a negative impact on sowing activities and vegetation conditions. In the Sudan, prospects for the irrigated winter wheat crop are favourable. However, reduced availability of fuel and currency shortages, affecting ability to pay hired labour, are hindering agricultural operations, and the harvest, normally completed in March, will be delayed by at least one month.

Information Source: The Crop Monitor for Early Warning is a part of GEOGLAM, a GEO global initiative. www.cropmonitor.org

Vegetation Conditions



Rainfall Conditions



Satellite derived vegetation indicators show vegetation conditions in most countries are classified as *poor* to *very poor* compared to long term conditions. The effect of the extended dry conditions show both rangelands and crop growing regions as having below average conditions. Even with the possibility of rainfall in May, the crop growing areas may not have a full length season thus below average crop yields expected. In pastoralist areas, late rains may result in water scarcity and pasture in availability.

This is likely to result in animal losses and natural resource conflicts. With forecast rainfall in May (see ICPAC climate forecast on <http://www.icpac.net/index.php/climate-monitoring/seasonal-forecasts.html>), the rangelands are likely to recover since rainfall distribution effects are lesser felt in livestock farmers as compared to crop farmers.

In estimation about 80% of the Horn of Africa region vegetation conditions is under poor to very poor vegetation conditions and 60% of the region under below normal rainfall performance for the month of March 2019.

Regional Grain Markets and Trade Overview

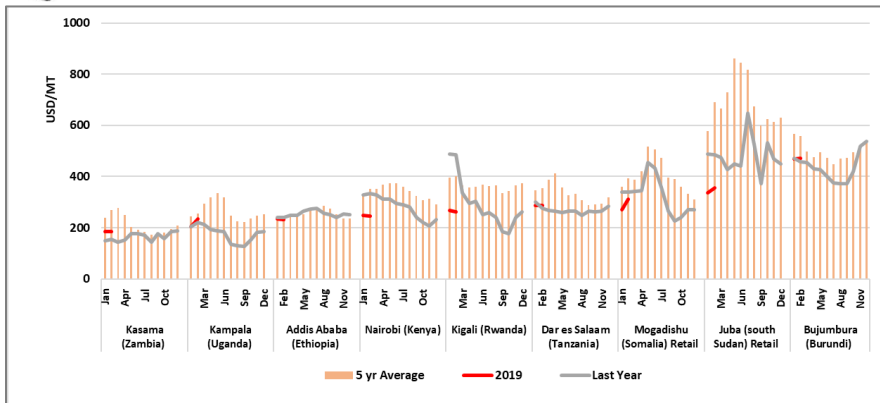
Overview

In Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda prices remained stable in the first three months of the year whereas, in Uganda, a remarkable **increase** in prices was observed in the first quarter. However, in the monitored markets, prices were lower compared to 2018 prices.

- In Kenya prices of maize increased marginally due to anticipated poor May April May (MAM) rains season however, stocks are ample from 2018 long rains season.
- In Tanzania prices were stable owing to above average output in 2018.
- In Rwanda and Burundi, the recently gathered harvest eased pressure on demand for grains staples.
- Imports from Uganda and Tanzania into Kenya declined significantly with reports indicating stocks are ample however; hoarding of commodities by farmers and traders due to anticipated price gains in the near future is expected to impact on market supply.
- In Uganda, prices increased significantly as a result of low supply. The second season crop output was below average due to poor weather conditions. Therefore, price gains in the fourth quarter and the better part of the first quarter of 2019 were not adequately mitigated with the low stocks realized. An upward trend in prices is expected to persist heading into the lean period (April to June).
- In South Sudan, the poor macro-economic situation has left prices elevated in most markets. However, the main season harvest was completed in January thus prices decreased for some grain staples. Imports from Uganda are expected to meet demand gap due to low domestic production however, the poor seasonal outlook for the first season in Uganda may affect supply to not only South Sudan but also other deficit producer countries in the region.



Maize prices and projections



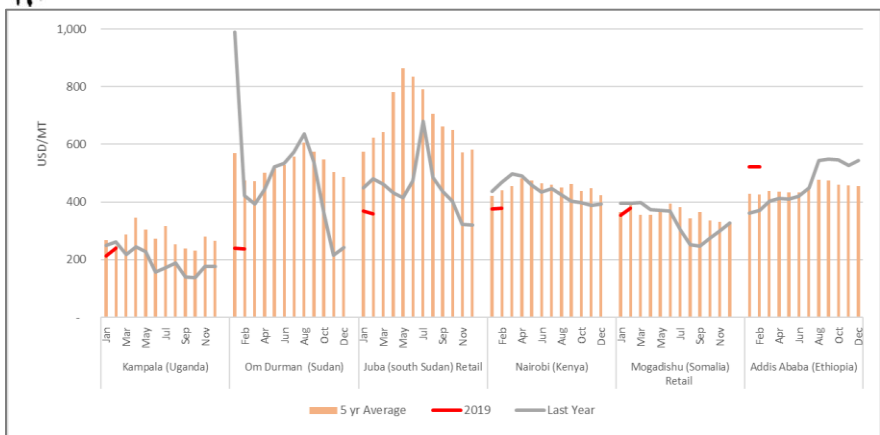
Markets Notes Maize

Price trend is as expected after the post-harvest period in many countries. Exceptions:

- Nairobi, above average harvest in 2018 cropping season
- Dar es Salaam, ample availability from previous season plus expectations of above average harvest
- Sudan, poor economic conditions however prices did not decline
- Juba, prices fell instead of increasing because of increasing inflows from domestic and regional sources as incidents of conflict decline.



Sorghum prices and projections



Markets Notes Sorghum

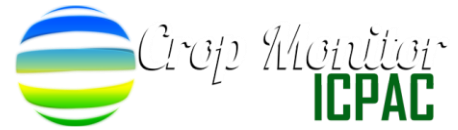
Prices are following seasonal trends. Exceptions; Sudan - poor economic conditions prices did not decline; Nairobi - ample availability hence prices did not increase; Juba, sorghum prices declined instead of increasing due to increasing inflows from domestic and regional sources as conflict incidents decline.



ICPAC
IGAD Climate Prediction
& Applications Centre



**GMES
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Prepared by members of the GEOGLAM
Community of Practice, Coordinated by the
IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center

Partners

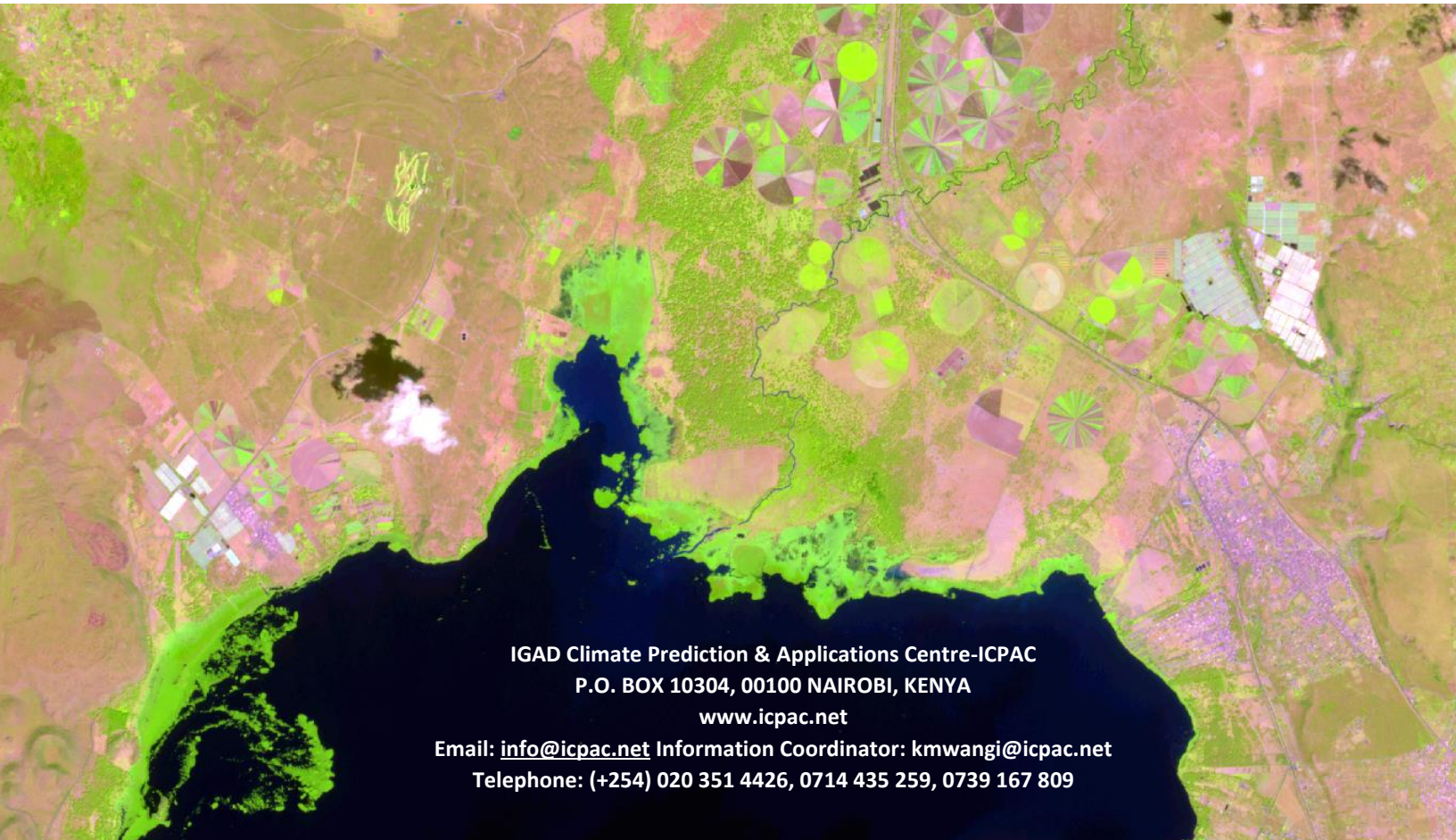


EARTH DATA
FOR INFORMED AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS



*The Crop Monitor is a part of GEOGLAM, a GEO
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