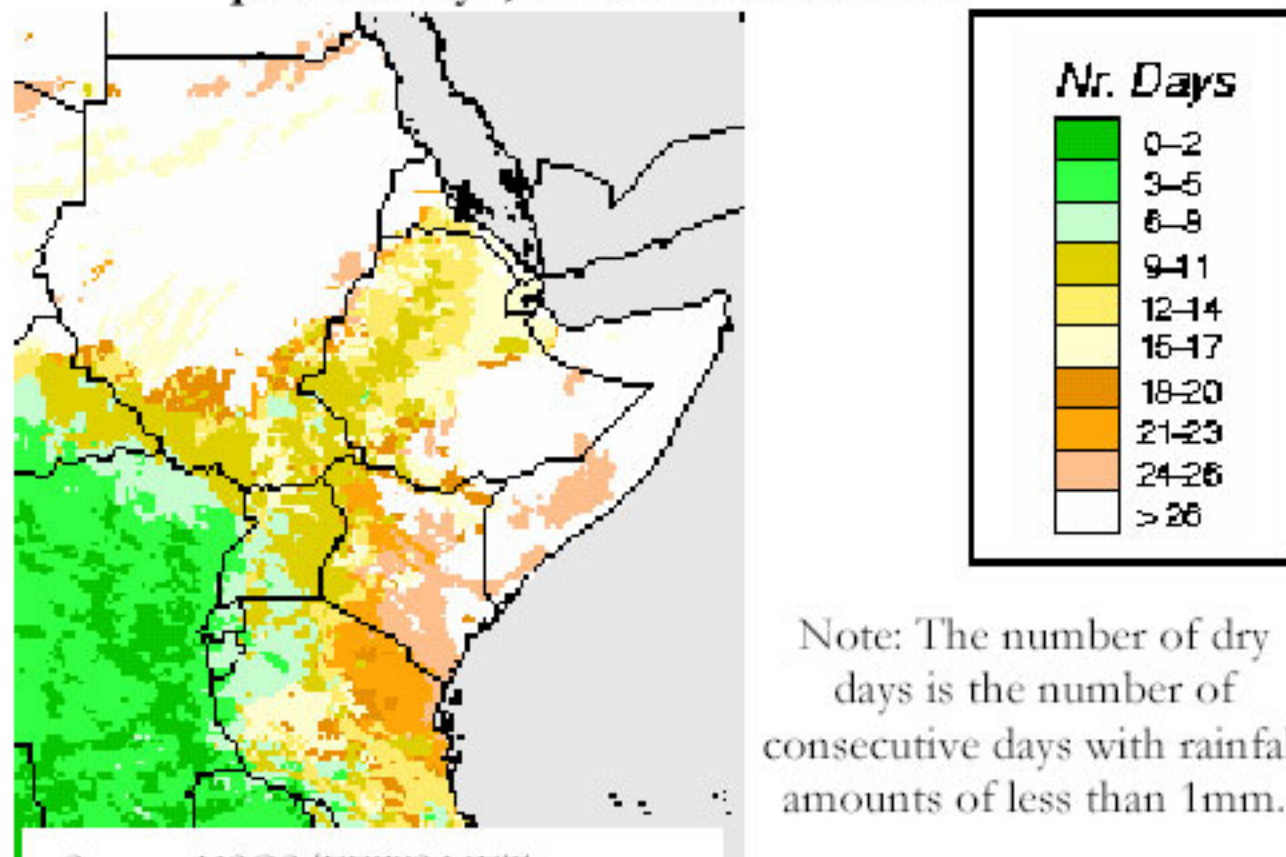


Significant areas experienced between 20-30 consecutive days of dryness (Figure 1) at a critical point in the season.

Figure 1: Maximum consecutive dry days in the past 30 days, as of 10 March 2003

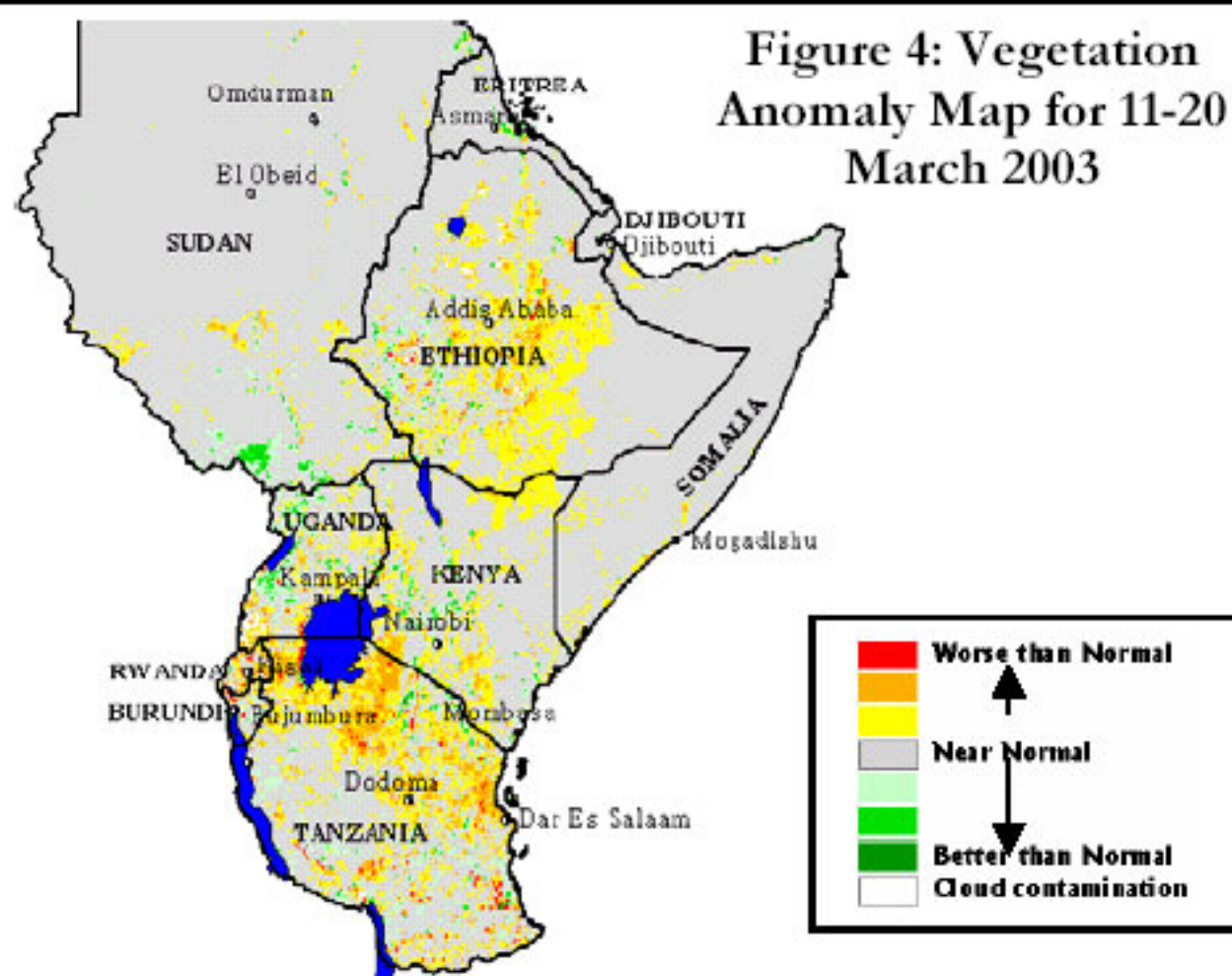


Note: The number of dry days is the number of consecutive days with rainfall amounts of less than 1mm.

Source: USGS/FEWS NET

The vegetation anomaly map (Figure 4) shows below normal conditions across much of the region, reflecting the generally delayed and below average rains, coupled with temperatures +20C above normal. Significant below normal vegetation conditions are particularly evident over most of Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. The early rains in Ethiopia have not yet been sufficient to ensure a recovery of the vegetation. Conditions have improved in central Eritrea following good rains from mid March.

Figure 4: Vegetation Anomaly Map for 11-20 March 2003



Source: USGS/EROS Data Center