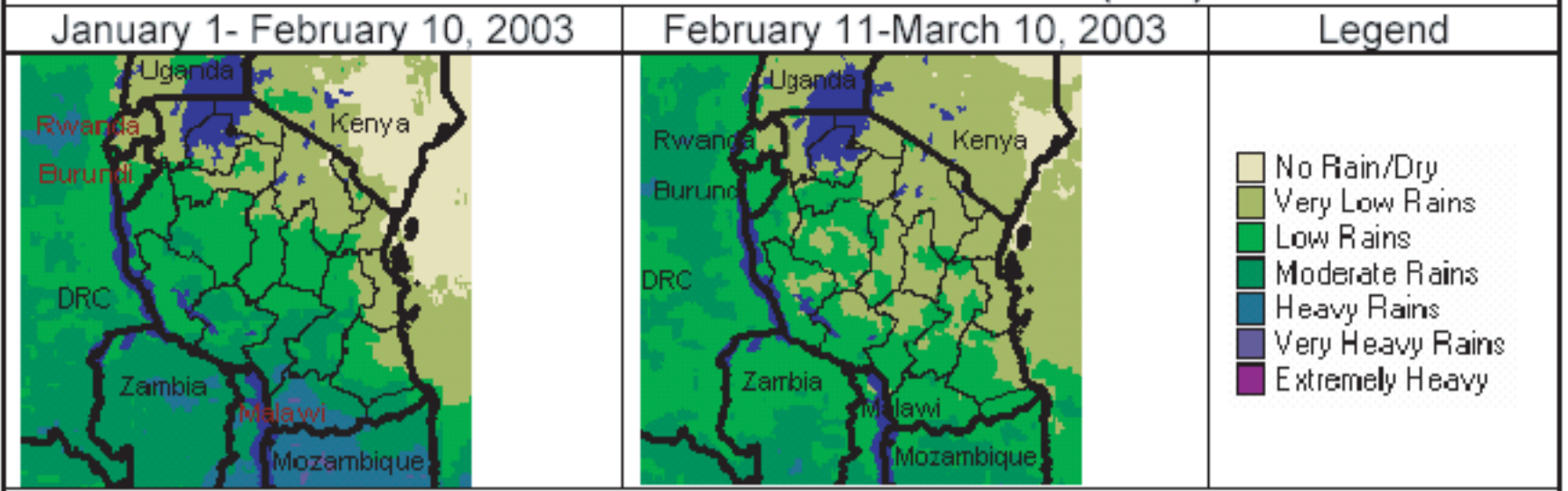
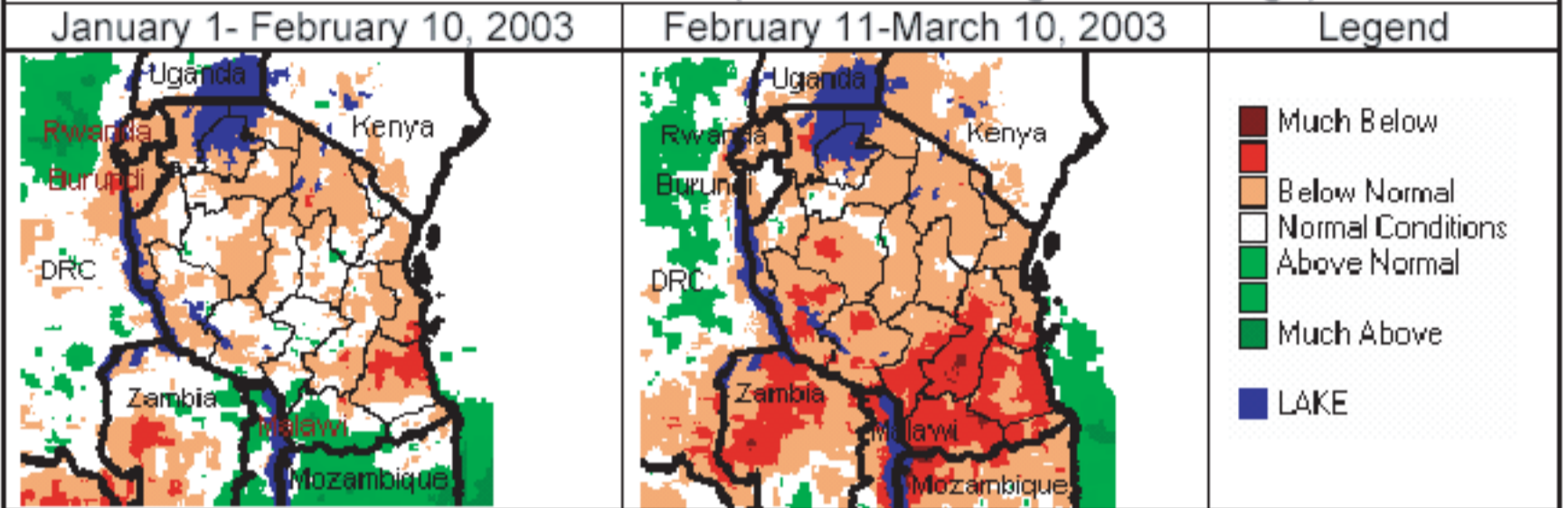


Figure 1: METEOSAT Rainfall Estimates for January to early March, 2003

Current METEOSAT Rainfall Estimates (RFE)



Observed RFE difference (Current vs. long term average)

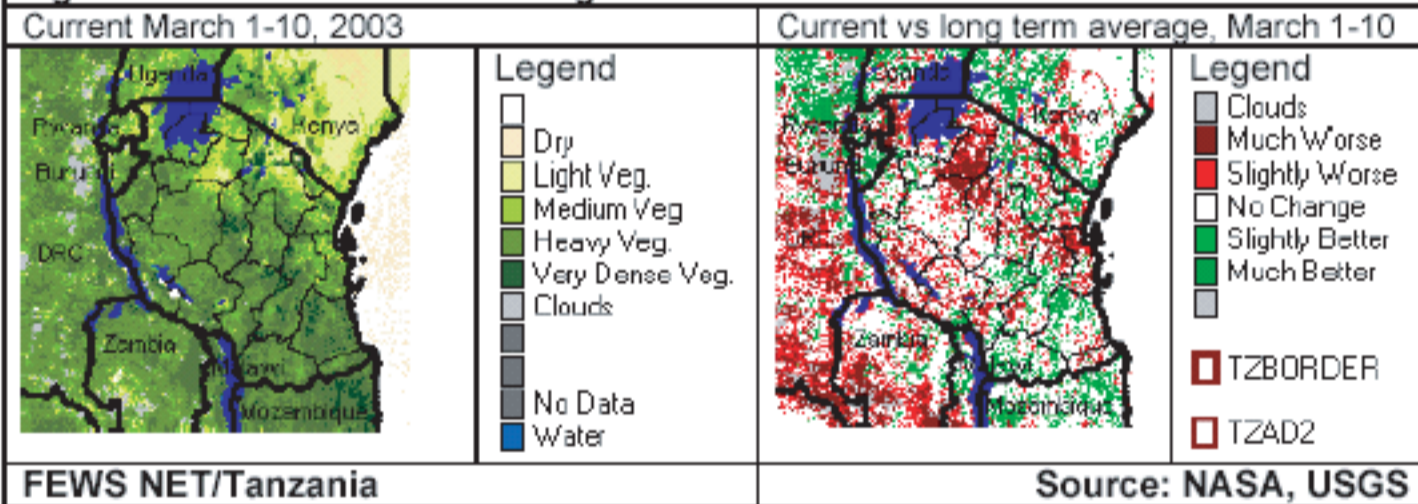


FEWS NET/Tanzania

Source: NASA, USGS

A longer than usual dry spell has affected most parts of the country. Normally, the dry spell lasts for two to three weeks during January and February, but this year, it has extended to March, with some locations receiving very low or no rains from January (Figure 1).

Figure 2: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

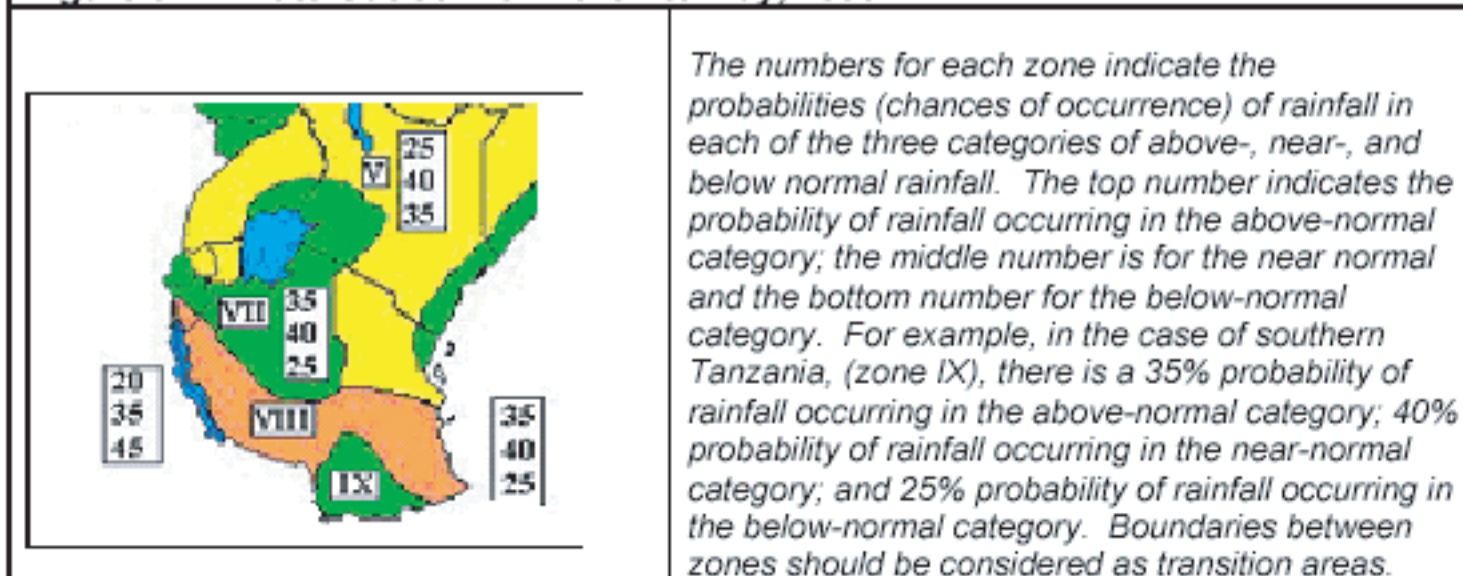


FEWS NET/Tanzania

Source: NASA, USGS

This long dry spell has resulted in a significant loss of vegetation over time, as indicated in the satellite images of vegetation for the first ten days of March (Figure 2). Compared to the long term average, the NDVI for a number of northern and eastern locations was slightly worse or much worse during the dekad of March 1-10.

Figure 3: Climate Outlook for March to May, 2003



Source: Eleventh Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa