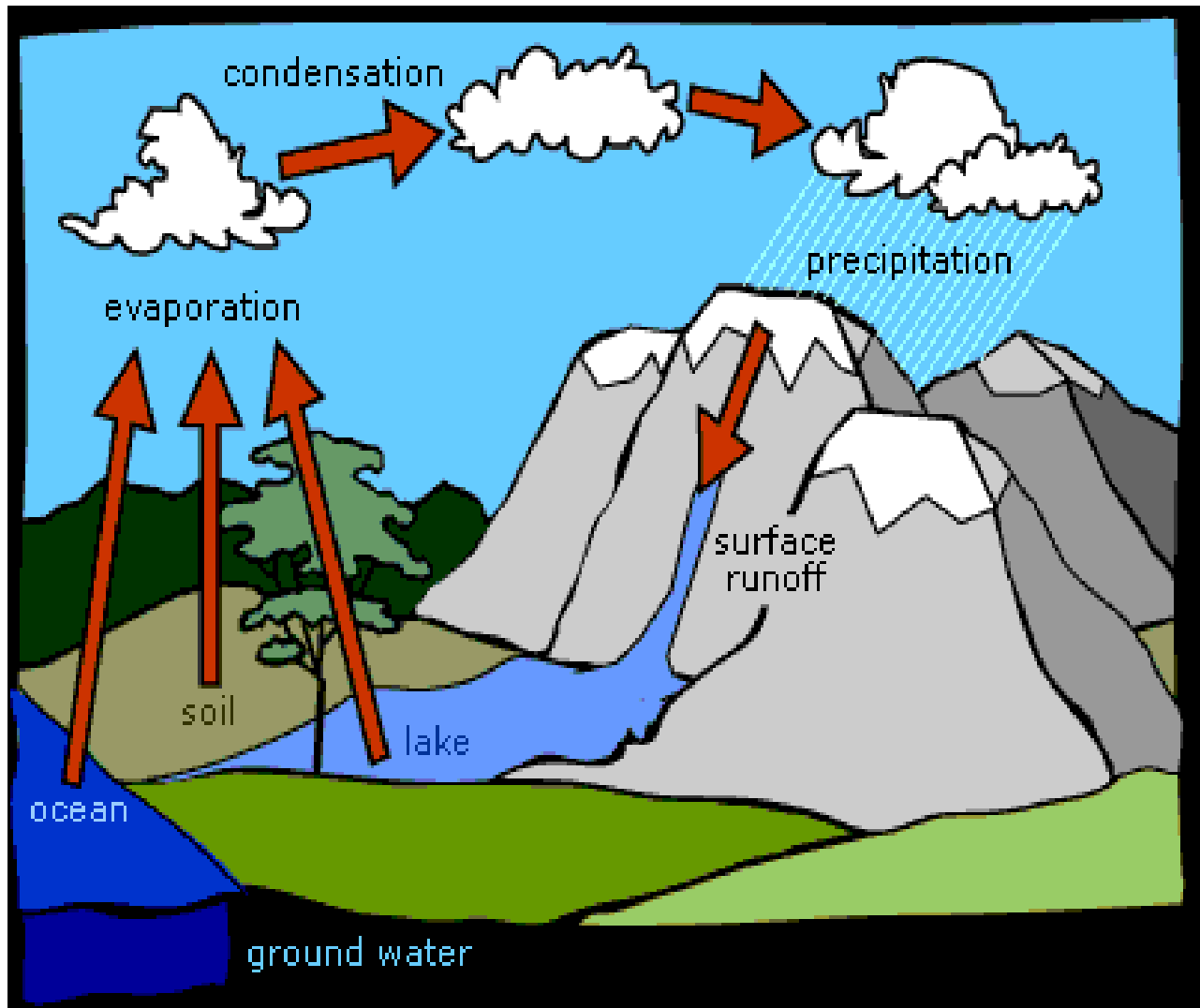


# National Meteorological Agency



Hydro Meteorological Bulletin for April, 2019

## **Foreword**

This Monthly Hydro meteorological Bulletin is prepared and disseminated by the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) of Ethiopia, for the purpose of providing hydro meteorological information to different sectors of the community involved in water related activities.

In general, Hydrometeorology is concerned with the study of the atmosphere and land phases of the hydrologic cycle, particularly, on the interrelationships involved. In this bulletin, more emphasis is given to presenting the results of analyses done on the extreme rainfall events as well as the moisture status prevailed over river catchments.

Accordingly, the data used in producing this bulletin are collected from selected indicative meteorological stations, which are believed to represent each of the main river catchments (hydrological regimes) of the country and the results of the hydro meteorological analyses are presented in maps format. Analysis presented in the forms of maps indicates comparisons of the total and extreme monthly rainfall events, monthly mean temperature and aridity index conditions for each basin.

Thus, the information contained in this bulletin is believed to be helpful in monitoring the performances of many hydraulic structures such as culverts, bridges, reservoir spillways, road embankments, dikes, flood prone areas as well as in planning and designing such new structures over the respective basins. It also gives the user an insight into the value as well as the contributions of the hydro-meteorological information towards the accomplishment of water resources assessment and management with respect to sustainable development of the country. Meanwhile, your comments and constructive suggestions are highly appreciated to make the objectives of this bulletin a success.

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## I. Introduction

Ethiopia is located between latitudes of 3.8°N to 14.5°N and longitudes of 33°E to 48°E with an area of about 1.12 million km<sup>2</sup>. The varied topography of the country shows extreme changes in altitude with its lowest point at about 120meters below sea level (Kobat Sink Afar depression) and its highest point about 4620 meters above sea level (Ras dashen.).These physographic variations create a large difference in meteorological and hydrological condition both by time and space.

*From meteorological point of view, there are three seasons in Ethiopia; Belg, Kiremt and Bega.*

***Belg (February-May) is the small rainy season in Ethiopia. Much of the northeastern, central, southern, southwestern, eastern and southeastern parts of the country receive considerable amount of rainfall during this season.***

***Kiremt (June-September) is the main rainfall season for most parts of the country except for the lowlands of southern and southeastern Ethiopia.***

***Bega (October-January) is mostly a dry season for most parts of the country except for southwestern as well as the lowlands of south and southeast Ethiopia.***

In general the mean annual rainfall amount ranges from 2400mm (over south western) to 500 and below over the northeastern and southeastern lowlands. Hydro meteorologically a rainy day is considered as the one with 2.5 mm of rain or more but in this publication a rainy day is one regardless of the amount.

In Ethiopia, water resources availability in terms of space shows a marked discrepancy when one goes from east to west. The eastern part of the region compromise 7 catchments with only 11 percent of the water resource and while the west compromise 5 catchments with 89 percent of water resources.

## II. Catchments profile

### Catchment

### Location

Mereb – Gash Catchment: -

Northwestern tip of Tigray.

Atbara-Tekeze Catchment: -

The Tekeze River basin is situated in the northwest of Ethiopia between  $11^{\circ}40'$  and  $15^{\circ}12'$  N, and  $36^{\circ}30'$  and  $39^{\circ}50'$  E. It is bordered by the Mereb River basin and by Eritrea in the north, the Atbara River plains in Sudan in the west, the Abay River basin in the south and Danakil basin in the east.

Blue Nile/ Abbay Catchment: -

Roughly  $13^{\circ}$  N South of Gondar to  $11^{\circ}30'$  N, and west of  $39^{\circ}45'$  E of Wollo, northwestern parts of Shoa; Gojam except the South Western and Western narrow area, Wellega and extreme Eastern tip of Illubabor together with a narrow northeastern strip of Keffa. It is the largest catchment that covers about 16 percent of the total area of Ethiopia. The Catchment that includes the Lake Tana, Upper Abbay (to Guder confluence), Middle Abbay (to didessa confluence), Didessa, Dabus, Lower Abbay, Dinder and Rahad Sub-basin.

Baro –Akobo Catchment: -

The south western and western narrow strip of Wellega, except the eastern tip, the whole of Illubabor and southwestern tip of Keffa. The Catchment has upper and lower sub-basins along Baro River. The Catchment It is the wettest catchment because of the highest rainfall over the area.

Danakil – Afar Catchment: -

East of  $40^{\circ}$  E of Tigray, North of  $11^{\circ}$  N of Wollo, narrow coastal strip south of  $14^{\circ}30'$  N of Eritrea. The basin is the lowest region in the country where the kobar sink; with an elevation of about 120 meters b.s.l is found.

Awash Catchment: -

North of Garamuleta mountains, south of  $11^{\circ}40'$  N of Wollo, south of  $9^{\circ}$  N of Shoa, Northern tip of Bale and North part of Arsi. The catchment has upper, middle and lower sub-catchments. In general the catchment is narrow at the upper part marked by numerous volcanic mountains and wider at the lower part joining major tributaries from

Gulf of Aden – Aysha Catchment): -

northwestern highlands and a number of seasonal wadies from the southeast highlands.

Eastern narrow strip of Hararghe. It is a very dry

Area with no stream flow representative

Meteorological station. Thus, no assessment is done for this catchment in this publication.

Omo-Ghibe Catchment: -

Southwestern narrow strip of Shoa, the whole of Keffa except the southwestern tip, southwestern tip of Wellega, Western half of northern Omo and northwestern tip of Sidamo. The upper part of the catchment starts from the plateaus in north part of Ghibe and extends southward to the lower part of it (known as Omo River).

Central Lakes-Rift Valley Catchment: -

The whole of North and South Omo, west and southwestern narrow strip of Sidamo, southwestern portions of Shoa and western narrow tip of Bale and western part of Arsi. The catchment is found in the Great Rift Valley system and typically known by its lakes and streams. Lakes which adjoin the Awash catchment are found in its upper part, while Lake Awassa and Bilate in its central part and end to chamo bahr in its lower part.

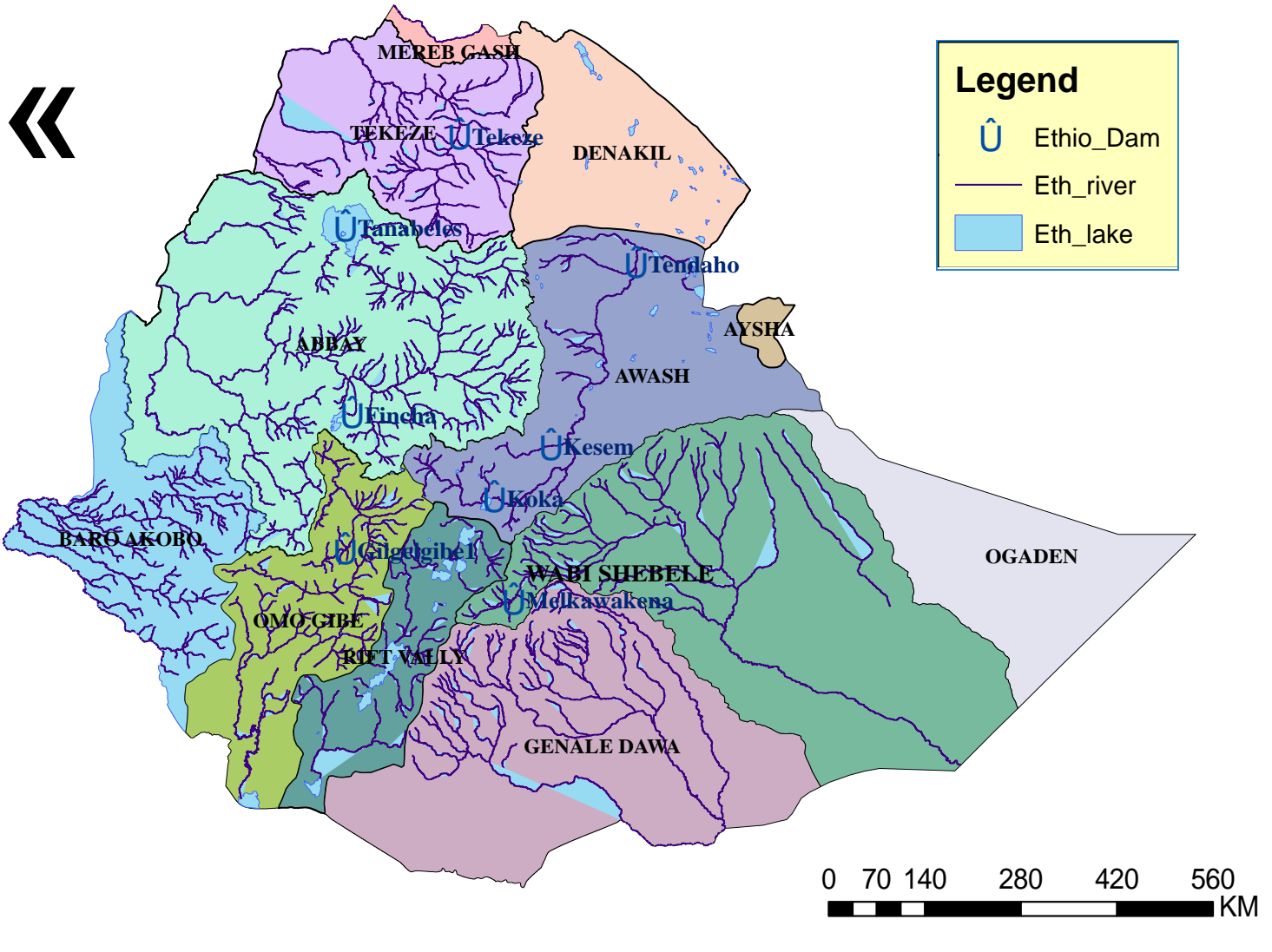
Genale Dawa Catchment: -

The western half of Bale (South of Goba) and southeast, southwestern and northeastern parts of Sidamo. The catchment constitutes three river systems namely Dawa, Genalle and Wabi Gestaro that meet each other before they cross the Ethio-Somalia border.

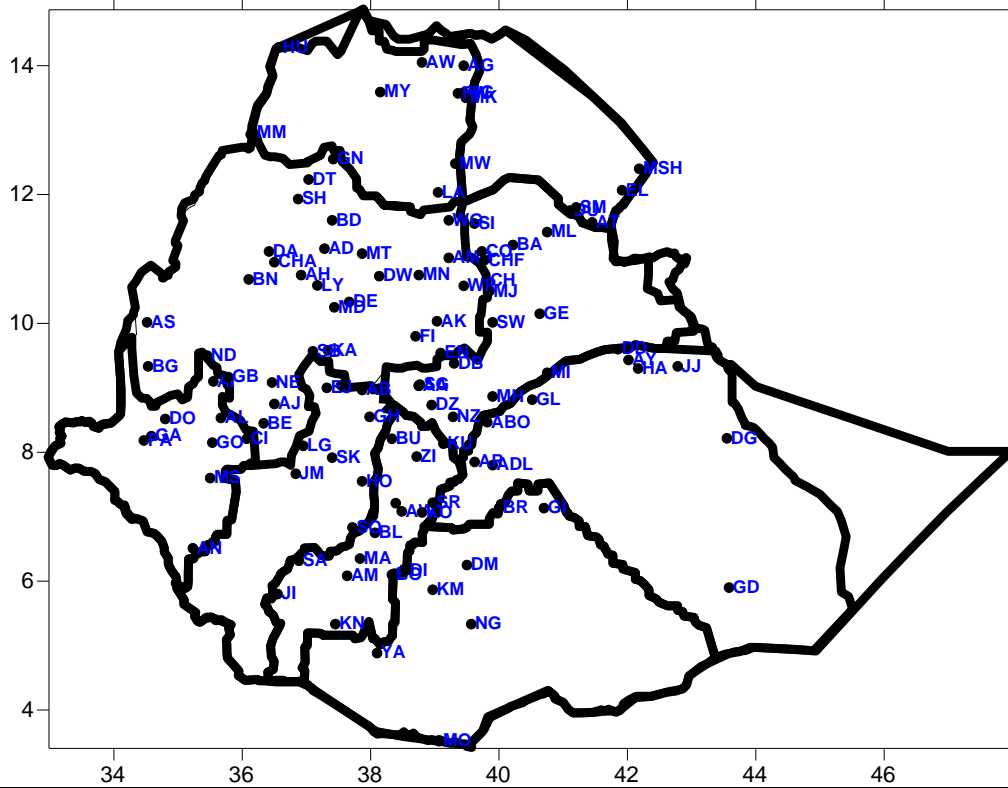
IV. Major River Catchments in Ethiopia, Location and Spatial Status

No.	Catchment Name	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Length in Kilo meter			Volume of water bm <sup>3</sup> /An num	Altitude (meter)  <i>Peaks</i> (Highest & Lowest)
			Within Eth.	Outside Eth.	<i>Total</i>		
01	Mereb-Gash	5,700	440	160	600	0.15	North tip of Tigray
02	Tekaze – Atbar	90,001	608	560	1168	8.13	4620 Ras Dashen 125 Tikil -Dengay
03	Blue Nile(Abbay)	204,100	800	650	1450	52.62	4231 Guna 200 Horekelife
04	Baro - Akobo	75,912	227	280	557	23.55	3700 Masha 410 Jikawo
05	Afar (Denakil)	62,882	-	-	-	0.86	
06	Awash	112,696	1200	-	1200	4.6	4000 N.Shewa 4001 NW mt. 4002 of A.A 250 L.Abe
07	Aysha	2223				0.86	
08	Omo-Ghibe	78,213	760	-	760	17.96	4203Guge/Gurage Mt. 195 Chiri
09	Rift valley	54,900	-	-	-	5.63	
10	Genale - Dawa	171,042	480	570	1050	5.88	4310 Bale mt./Batu 500 Dolo Odo
11	Wabi - Shebele	205,697	1340	660	2000	3.16	3626 Mt.Gololcha 200 Somalia Desert
12	Ogaden	77,121	-	-	-	-	1500 Turkile 350 Gelad

# V. Basin map of Ethiopia



Meteorological Station distribution used for hydro meteorological Bulletin



STATION	CODE	STATION	CODE	STATION	CODE	STATION	CODE
A.A (Bole)	AA	Cheffa	CHF	Gonder	GN	Mille	ML
Abomsa	ABO	Chercher	CH	Gore	GO	Mira Abaya	MR
Adet	AD	Chira	CI	Hageremariam	HG	Motta	MT
Adigrat	AG	Combolcha	CO	Harer	HA	Moyalle	MO
Adwa	AW	Dangla	DA	Hossana	HO	Mytsebery	MY
Aira	AI	Debrebrhan	DB	Humera	HU	Nazaret	NZ
Alem ketema	AK	Degehabur	DG	Jijiga	JJ	Nedjo	ND
Alemaya	AY	Debre markose	DE	Jimma	JM	Negele	NG
Alge	AL	Debre Tabore	DT	Jinka	JI	Nekemt	NE
Ambamariam	AMB	Debre Zeit	DZ	Kachise	KA	Pawe	PA
Ambo	AB	DembiDolo	DO	Kibremengist	KM	Sawla	SA
Arbaminch	AM	Dilla	DI	Konso	KN	Sekoru	SK
Arjo	AJ	DireDawa	DD	Kulumsa	KU	Semera	SM
ArsiRobe	AR	Dolomena	DM	Koffele	KO	Freweyni	FW
Assaita	AT	Dubti	DU	Konso	KN	Shahura	SH
Assossa	AS	Ejaji	EJ	Kulumsa	KU	Shambu	SB
Awassa	AW	Elidar	EL	Lalibela	LA	ShewaRobit	SW
Ayehu	AH	Enewary	EN	Layber	LY	Shire	SR
Aman	AN	Elidar	EL	Limugenet	LG	SholaGebeya	SG
Bale Robe	BR	Enewary	EN	Maichew	MW	Sirinka	SI
BahiDar	BD	Fitche	FI	Mankush	MA	Sodo	SO
Bati	BA	Gambella	GA	Masha	MSH	WegelTena	WT
Beddele	BE	Gelemso	GL	Mehalmeda	MD	Wereillu	WR



Begi	BG	Gewane	GE	Mekaneselam	MN	Yabello	YB
Blate	BL	Ghion	GH	Mekele	MK	Ziway	ZY
Bui	BU	Gimbi	GB	Metehara	ME		
Bullen	BN	Ginir	GI	Meisso	MS		
Chagni	CG	Gode	GD	Metema	MM		

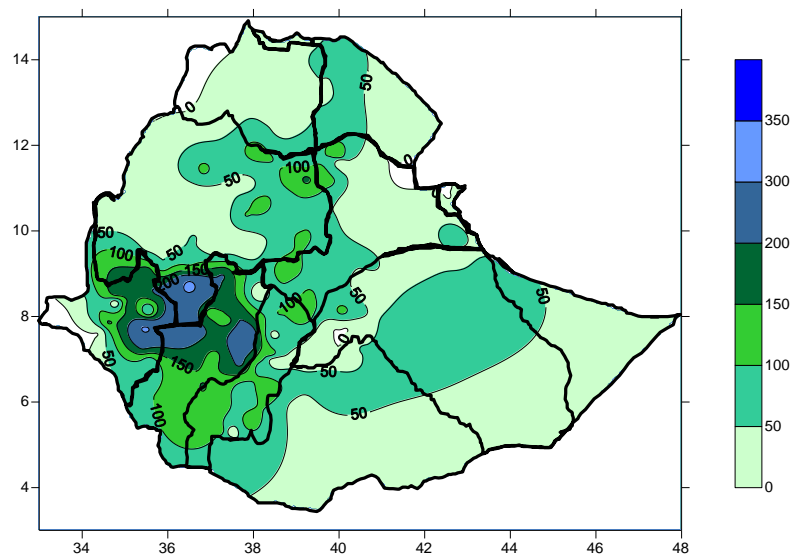
The above stations have five basic meteorological elements they send daily records for Addis Ababa main office of NMA. We use the meteorological elements which are the main factors for hydro meteorological impacts. These are rainfall, temperature, wind speed, evaporation and sunshine duration. This information is important to guide for different water resource activities.

Belg(February-May) :- It is known that Belg is the second small rainy season from February to May across eastern half, central and southern portion of the country. Belg rain benefiting catchments are Awash, Tekeze, eastern Abay, Wabishebele, Genale dawa, Rift Valley and OmoGibe basins. Belg season is characterized by warm and humid weather condition within those Belg months and also the highest air temperature value is observed over most middle and lower catchments of main river basin.

### Precipitation

We used Isohyetal approach which is lines of equal precipitation is drawn taking to consideration over drainage basins from observation taken as a number of rain gauge stations.

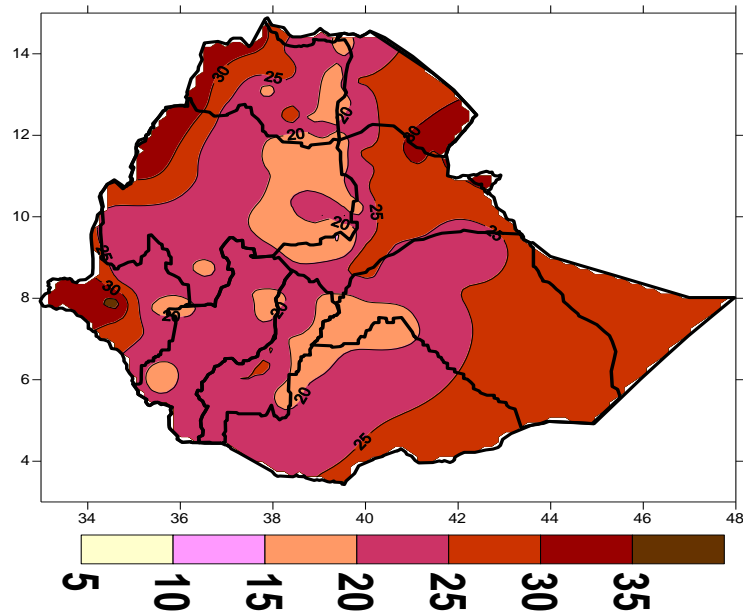
During April the better amount of rainfall was observed across Belg benefiting river basins of the country. According to this most parts of OmoGibe, eastern Baro Akobo and some places of southern parts of Abay were received 150 - 200mm rainfall. Over the eastern Abay, upper and middle Awash, lower OmoGibe, middle Baro Akobo, upper divide place of Tekeze, upper Afar Denakel, upper and southern portion of Genale dawa, upper Ogaden and middle wabishebele catchments were received from 50mm up to 100mm rainfall. The rest western half of Abay, most parts of Tekeze, lower Awash, Genale dawa, upper and lower wabi shebele lower Ogaden and lower BaroAkobo catchments were received below 50mm rainfall shown below in figure (1).



**(Fig.1) Monthly precipitation of April, 2019**

**Temperature**

The monthly average temperature of April was decreased due to occurrence of rainfall and cloud coverage compared to the previous month. In this case during April some places of over upper parts of Abay, Awash, Wabishebele, Genaledawa and eastern Rift Valley and pocket places of upper Baro Akobo and Omogibe catchments recorded below 20°C. The lower catchments of Wabishebele, Genaledwa, Abay, BaroAkobo, Awash, Tekeze, Ogaden and Afar Denakel were experienced above 25°C shown below in figure (2).



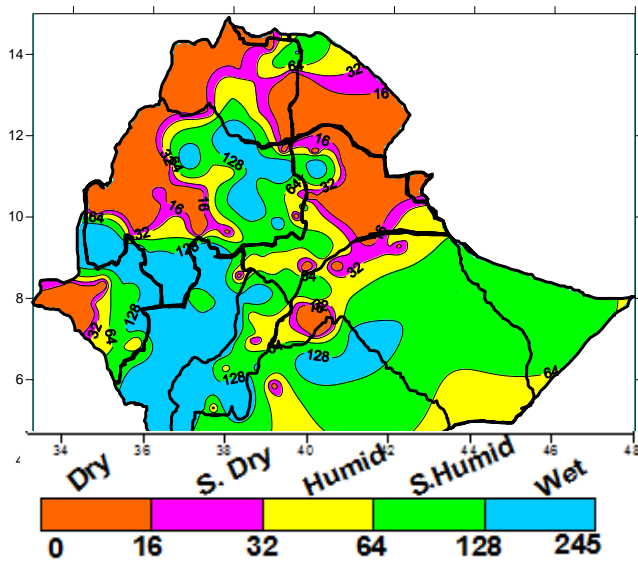
**(Fig. 2) Mean monthly Temperature of April, 2019.**

**Assessments of Aridity Index**

To compute the aridity index we use Thornthwait method, which is computed from the monthly values of rainfall and evaporation. The evaporation is computed empirically from mean monthly air temperature. In assessing the effectiveness of rainfall, in terms of water availability relationships between the rainfall and air temperature has been worked out in terms of moisture indices. The aridity index values above 128 which shaded in deep green were show wet condition. Light green to yellow value indicates humid to semi humid and pink to red values show semi dry to dry condition.

The moisture performance of April had better performance over south western, eastern, southern and central river basins. Accordingly most parts of omo gibe, Abay, Rift valley, middle and lower Ogaden, upper and middle Awash, most parts of eastern BaroAkobo and middle and divide place of eastern Tekeze and some upper parts of AfarDenakel catchments were preformed wet to semi humid weather condition. The rest most of western Abay ,most parts of

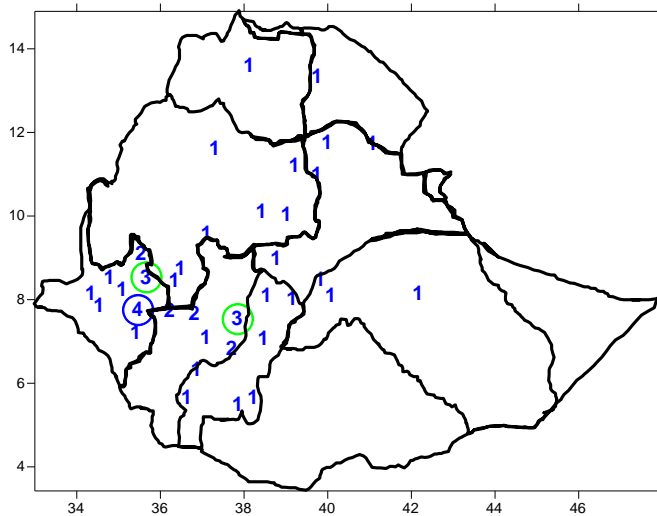
AfarDenakel , Tekeze, lower Awash, and middle and lower BaroAkobo ,upper and lower wabishebele basins were dominated under dry and semi dry condition below in figure (3)



(Fig.3) Aridity Index of April, 2019.

**1. Distribution of heavy fall exceeding 30mm per day over different river basins**

During April the occurrence of heavy fall were observed over most Belg rain benefiting catchments, hence most parts of Omogibe, Rift Valley, Ogaden, Genaledawa, Baroakobo, upper and lower Awash, some parts of southern and eastern Abay, upper Wabishebele, upper Afar Danakel and upper Tekeze catchments were received from one to four days. The maximum frequency of heavy fall days was recorded over Baroakobo, and Omogibe basin at Masha station at four days and at Hossana station three days respectively shown below figure (4).



(Fig.4) Distribution and frequency of heavy fall days in April, 2019

***Expected weather impact on water resource during the coming Month of May, 2019***

In the normal condition the distribution and amount of rainfall gradually increase across Belg benefiting catchments, however Kiremt rain bring meteorological phenomenon starting to enhance wet weather condition over south, west and western half parts of the country. In line with this during May the forecast information indicated that rain bring meteorological phenomena decide continue to have a better capacity to carry wet weather condition over many river basin.

According to this most of Abay, Baro Akobo, Rift Valley, AfarDankel, OmoGibe, Ogaden, Tekeze, upper and middle Awash, Genale Dawa and Wabishebele catchments will have normal and above normal amount of rainfall distribution. In addition to this across some places of those catchments will be expected heavy rain fall and may cause flash flood. In the other side the occurrence of heavy fall has important for availability of water to enhance the level of dams and reservoirs.