



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

14th Dekad, 11th to 20th May 2008

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HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 14th Dekad i.e. 11th to 20th May 2008 moderate rainfall was experienced over the western and the coastal region. The rest of the country experienced light to moderate rainfall except for parts of Northwestern districts and South Eastern Lowlands, which remained generally sunny and dry during the review period with Kakamega, Kisii, Kericho, Thika, Dagoretti, Embu, Moyale and Mtwapa recording 115.5, 137.1, 36.4, 108.7, 63.2, 205.7, 91.4 and 118.1mm respectively*
- *Maximum (daytime) temperatures remained relatively over most parts of the country due to reduced cloud cover. Night temperatures were relatively cold especially over some parts of Central Rift Valley, with Nyahururu recording a minimum temperature of 4.8 deg. Celsius on 9th May 2008 with a Dekadal mean of 6 deg Celsius. (Fig.2)*
- *The pastoral regions and game parks of Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern lowlands, experienced light rainfall and this resulted in slight improvement in pasture regeneration and water sources. However, for the pastoral and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, hot and dry conditions prevailed resulting in poor pastures and water sources. (Figs.1 & 3).*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW (11th to 20th May 2008)

Central Province and Nairobi area:

Light or no rains at all was experienced over most parts of Central province, Nairobi area and its environs. Weeding is taking place in most parts of these regions. Crops in most parts are experiencing water stress especially in the lowland areas. Army worm invasion has been reported in parts of Kirinyaga, Murang'a and Maragwa districts causing extensive crop damage.

Eastern Province:

Light or no rains at all was experienced over most parts of this region during the Dekad especially in areas bordering Mt Kenya. Weeding is taking place in most places. Crops in most parts are experiencing water stress especially in the lowland areas. Army worm invasion has been reported in parts of Embu, Mbeere and Masinga districts causing extensive crop damage.

To the south (Machakos, Mwingi and Kitui), hot and dry conditions dominated this region. Weeding is taking place in most parts of these regions and the maize crop is at the 9th leaf stage. Beans are in the flowering stage. During the review period the only adverse effect reported was too much sun in this regions and crops are experiencing water stress due to insufficient rainfall.

Coast Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was received in several areas in the region during the review period. Weeding is taking place in most areas and crops are corresponding to normal growth. Due to the rainfall received over this region weeds growth rate has increased resulting in competition of nutrients with the crops.

North Eastern Province:

Light rainfall was experienced in most parts. Despite the reduction in rainfall the soil moisture reserve was enough to sustain improved pastures and improved water sources for both domestic and animal use. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

Western Province:

Light to Moderate rainfall was received in several places in this region (Kakamega, Bungoma and Busia). Weeding and top dressing is taking place in most parts of these regions and most crops are at the shooting stage with crop performance above normal being reported. (Fig.1).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Light to Moderate rainfall was received in several places in this region. Weeding is taking place in several areas of these regions. Crops are at the shooting stage and are corresponding to normal growth. (Figs 1)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Light or no rainfall at all was experienced in the Southern Rift and North Western regions resulting in depressed pastures regeneration and water sources for both domestic and animal use. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

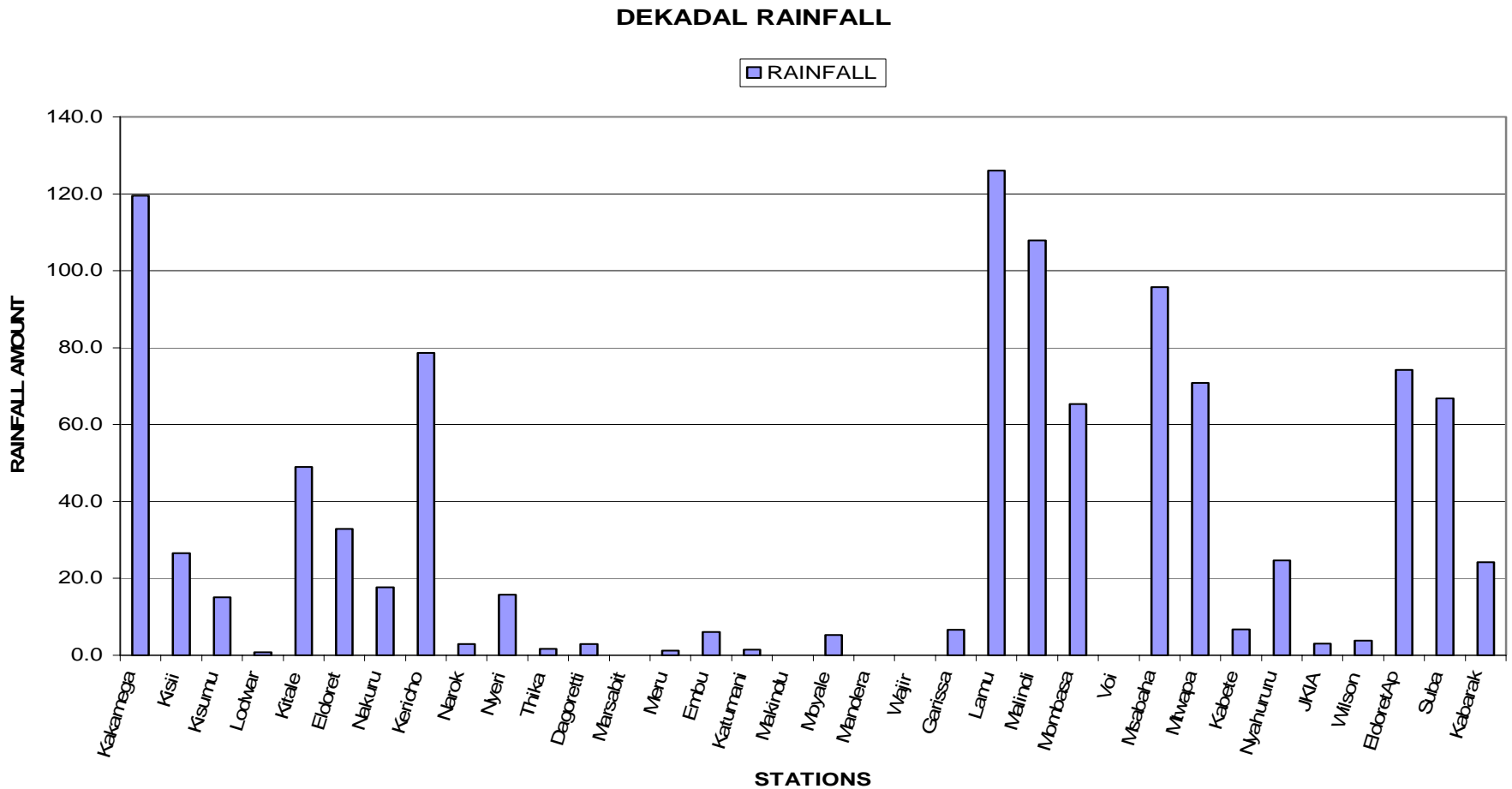


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (11th to 20th May 2008)

DEKADAL TEMPERATURES

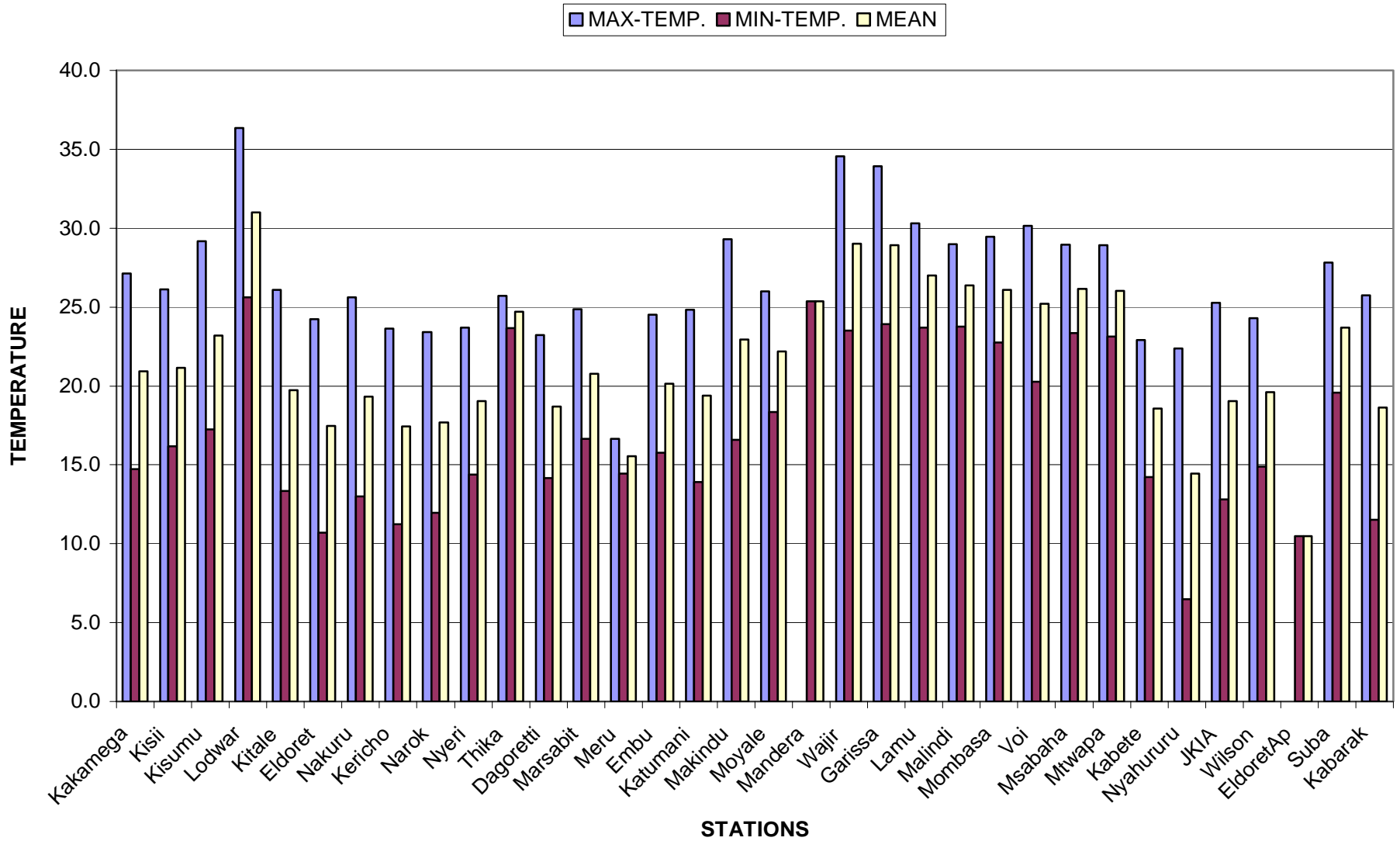


Fig 2: Mean Temperatures (11th to 20th May 2008)

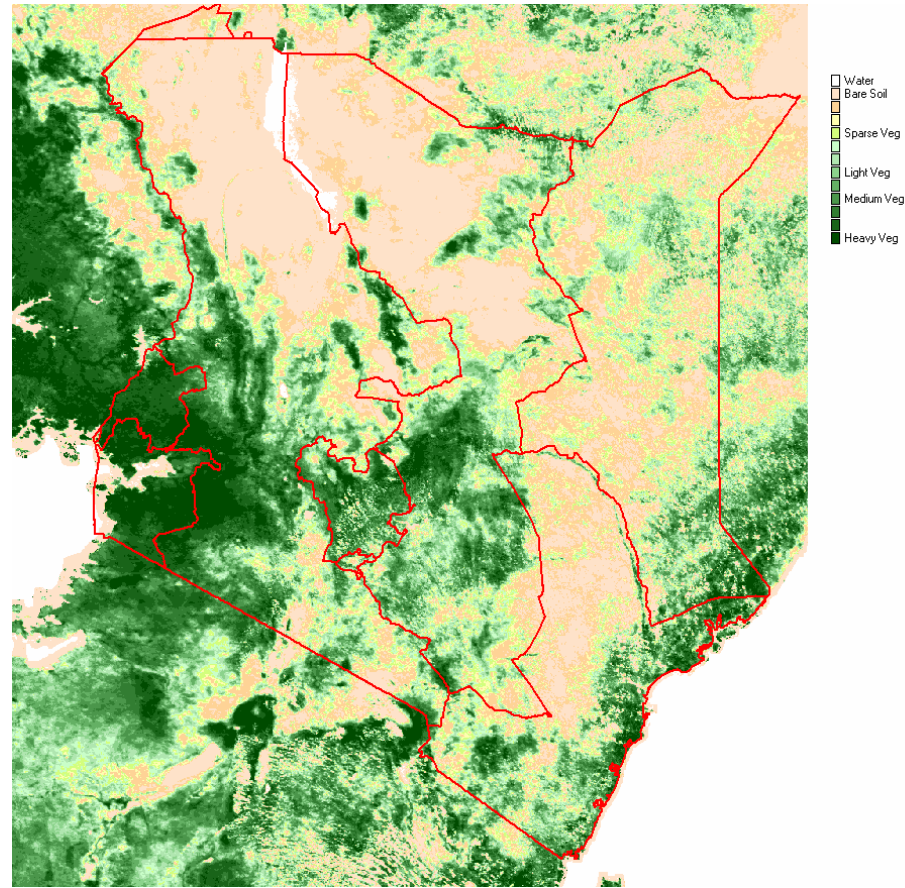


Fig. 3: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (11th to 20th May 2008)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (21st –31st May 2008).

During the next 10 days Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience moderate rainfall over several places. Crops are expected to continue doing well. Weeding and top dressing is also expected to continue.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to receive light to moderate rainfall in few places. Most crops are at the shooting stage and are expected to continue experiencing water stress especially in the lowland areas. For the highland

areas crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth. Weeding and top dressing is also expected to continue.

In Eastern Province regions bordering Mt Kenya are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall. Crops are expected to continue doing well. In South-Eastern lowlands, light or no rainfall at all is expected over several places. Crops are expected to continue experiencing water stress due to insufficient rainfall.

The coastal regions are expected to experience moderate rainfall. Weeding is expected to continue in several places.

In the pastoral regions of Northwestern, Northeastern and South Rift Valley districts hot and dry conditions are expected to prevail, resulting in poor pastures and inadequate drinking water for both human and animal use.

In summary weeding is expected to continue in most parts of the country. Crops are at the vegetative stage in most places and are expected to continue doing well except for parts of Central and Eastern Provinces where inadequate rainfall and army worm invasion is expected to cause damage to crops.

In the pastoral regions and game parks inadequate pastures and water sources are expected.

This product should be used in conjunction with Kenya Meteorological Department weather forecasts

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