



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

15th Dekad, 21st to 31st May 2008

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HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 15th Dekad i.e. 21st to 31st May 2008 moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over the western and the coastal region. Central, Nairobi area and its environs and parts of Eastern province bordering Mt. Kenya and North Eastern Provinces experienced light to moderate rainfall with Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Kericho, Eldoret, Nyeri, Dagoretti, Msabaha, Malindi, Lamu, Mombasa, Mtwapa, Mandera and Moyale recording 81.4,42.0, 51.6,52.7,38.5, 23.5, 29.2, 219.3, 202.2, 183.5, 78.7, 96.5, 42.1, and 6.8mm respectively*
- *Northwestern districts and South Eastern Lowlands remained generally sunny and dry during the review period.*
- *Maximum (daytime) temperatures remained relatively high 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 4.7 deg. Celsius on 26th May 2008 with a Dekadal mean of 5.7 deg Celsius. (Fig.2)*
- *The pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern lowlands, experienced light rainfall or no rains at all and this resulted in poor pastures and inadequate water sources with incidences of human and animal conflict being reported. (Figs.1 & 3).*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

(21st to 31st May 2008)

Central Province and Nairobi area:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced over most parts of Central province, Nairobi area and its environs. First weeding is complete in several parts of these regions. Maize crop is at the flowering stage in most places while beans are at the maturity stage. Crops in some parts of these region are experiencing water stress especially in the lowland areas due to insufficient rainfall. Army worm invasion which was earlier reported in parts of Kirinyaga, Murang'a and Maragwa districts caused extensive crop damage.

Eastern Province:

Light rainfall was received in parts of this region bordering Mt. Kenya. Weeding is almost complete in most places. Maize crop is at the flowering stage in most places while beans are at the maturity stage. Crops in some parts of these region are experiencing water stress especially in the lowland areas due to insufficient rainfall. Army worm invasion which was earlier reported in parts of Embu, Mbeere and Masinga districts caused extensive crop damage.

To the south (Machakos, Mwingi and Kitui), hot and dry conditions dominated this region and weeding is almost complete in several parts. During the period under review the only adverse effect reported was too much sun and insufficient rainfall causing severe water stress to crops.

Coast Province:

Heavy rainfall was received in this region during the review period. Weeding is taking place but being hampered by the heavy rainfall in most areas. Maize crop is at the flowering stage, however due to the increased rainfall received over this region excessive weeds growth has been reported resulting in unfair competition of nutrients with the crops.

North Eastern Province:

Light rainfall or no rains at all was experienced in most parts of the province, resulting in poor pastures and inadequate water sources for both domestic and animal use. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

Western Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was received in several places in this region (Kakamega, Bungoma and Busia). Weeding is almost complete in most parts of this region and crops are corresponding to normal growth and the bean crop is at the flowering stage. (Fig.1).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Light to Moderate rainfall was received in several places in this region. Weeding is complete in most parts of these regions and crops are corresponding to normal growth. Light hail was reported in Nyahururu causing slight leaf damage. (Figs 1)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Hot and dry conditions dominated in the Southern Rift and North Western regions resulting in inadequate pastures and water sources for both domestic and animal use. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

DEKADAL RAINFALL

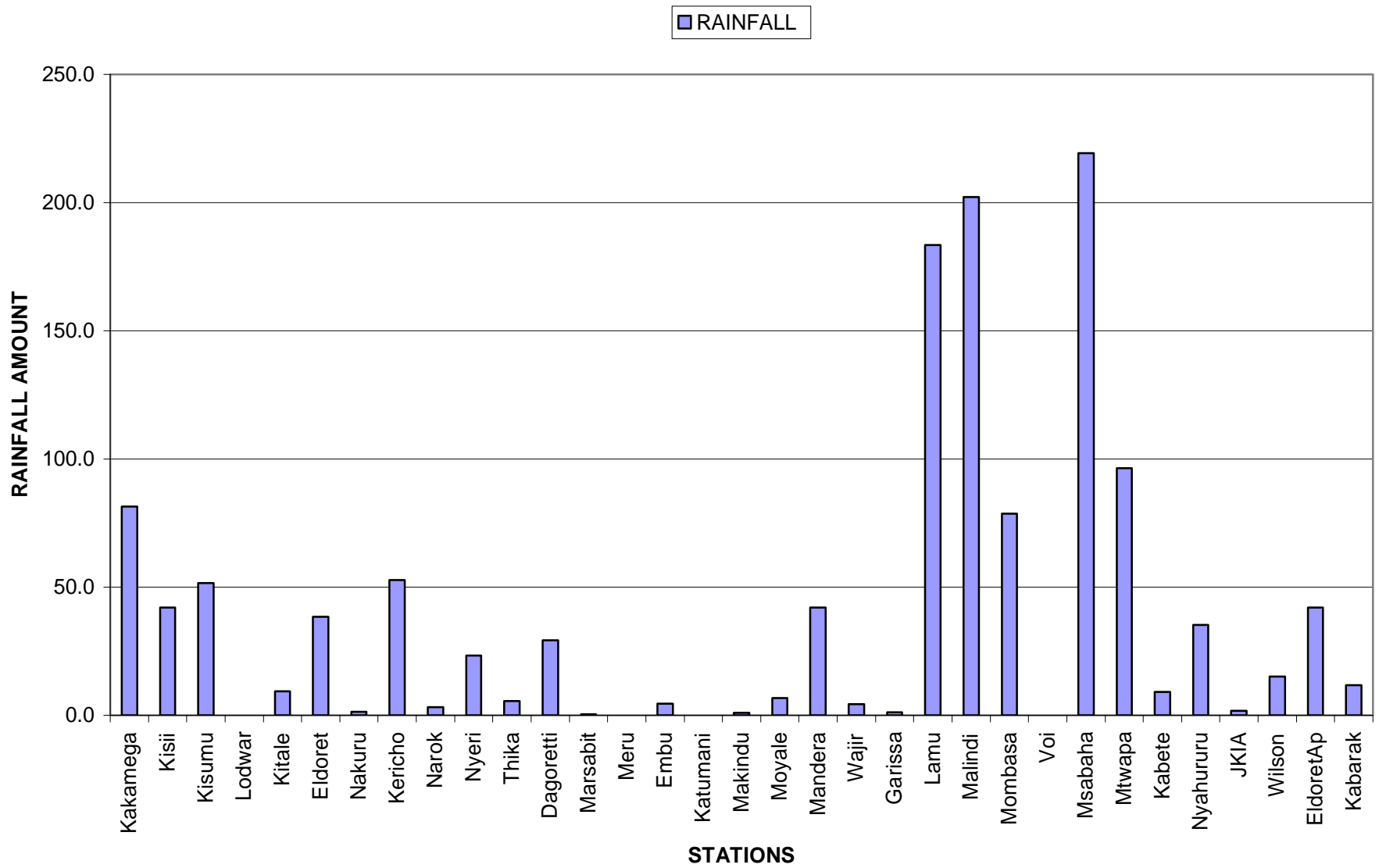


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (21st to 31st May 2008)

DEKADAL TEMPERATURES

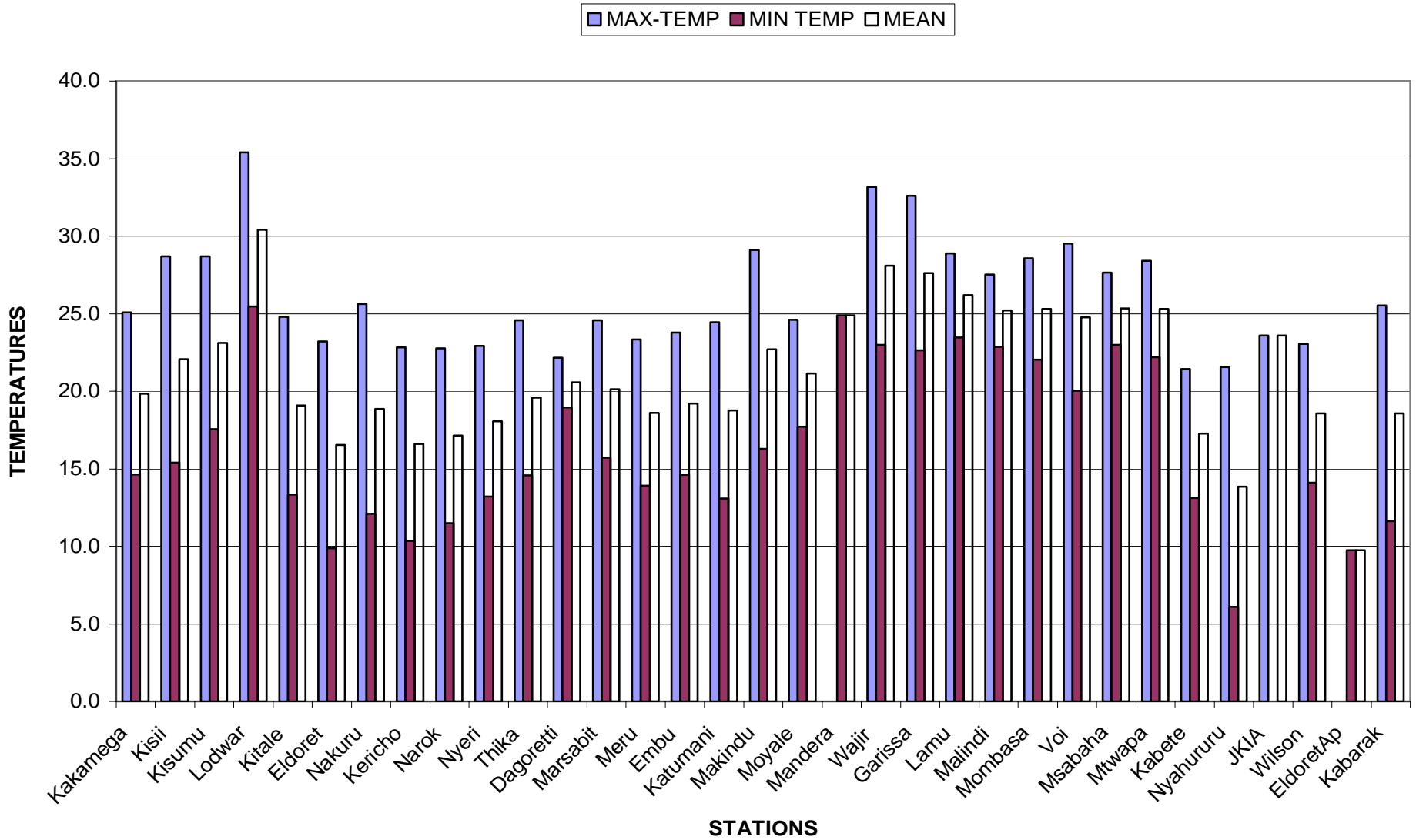


Fig 2: Mean Temperatures (21st to 31st May 2008)

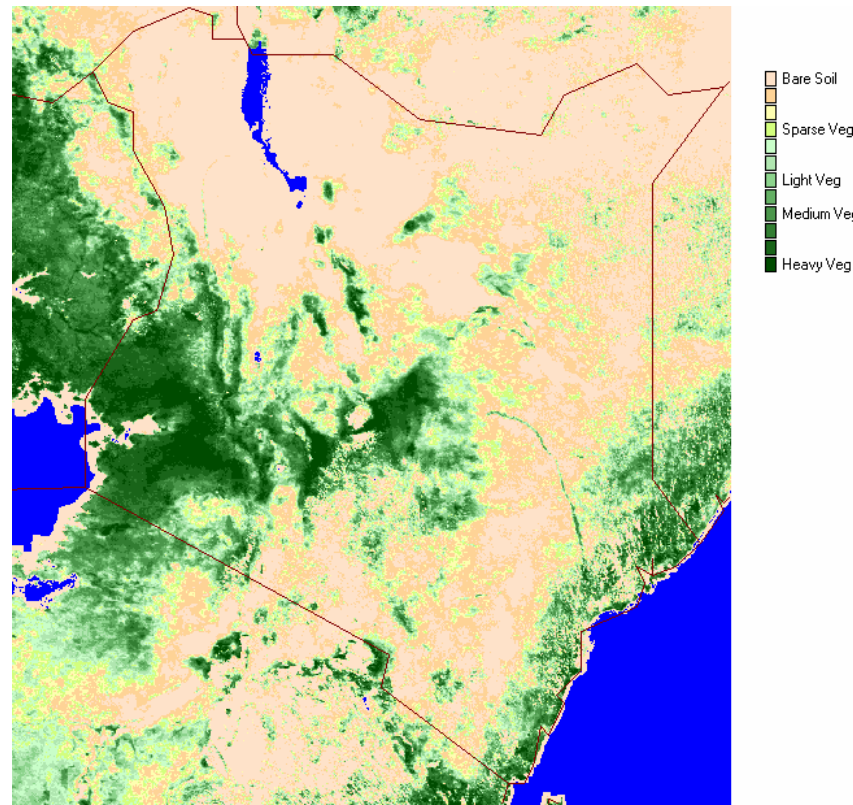


Fig. 3: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (21st to 31st May 2008)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (1st –10th June 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 be complete in most places.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to receive light to moderate rainfall in few places. Most crops are 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 be completed in all places.

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 to heavy rainfall. Weeding is expected to continue in at a low pace due to the excessive weed growth rate caused by the heavy rainfall.

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 be complete in several parts of the country. Crops are at the vegetative stage in most places and are expected to continue doing well. For parts of Central and Eastern Provinces where inadequate rainfall has been experienced crops are expected to experience water-stress, and for the regions where Army worms caused crop damage accompanied by insufficient rainfall chances of crop recovery looks slim.

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

Contact information

Kenya Meteorological Department

Agrometeorological Division

Dagoretti Corner, Ngong Road,

P.O. Box 30259, 00100 GPO, Nairobi

Tel: +254 (0)20 3867880-7/3876957/3873682

Fax: +254 (0)20 3876955

E-mail: director@meteo.go.ke

Website: www.meteo.go.ke

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