



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

34th Dekad, 1st to 10th December, 2008

Issue No. 34/2008, Season: NDJ

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 34th Dekad i.e. 1st to 10th November, 2008 sunny and dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the entire Country. Light to moderate rainfall were received over parts of, Central Rift Valley, Central, Eastern, and the Coast Provinces, with the following stations recording rainfall Dekadal totals of; Kakamega- 7.3 Kisumu- 19.3, Kisii-27.9, Kericho-26.2, Nakuru-6.5, Nyahururu-8.1, Kabete-5.3, Nyeri-8.3, Meru-29.5, Katumani-25.1 Mombasa-10.4, Msabaha-14.0 Mtwapa- 5.0mm. The rest of the Country remained generally dry. (Fig 1&2)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively high over most parts of the country due to prevailing sunny conditions.*
- *Night temperatures were relatively low over western and Central Rift Valley with Nyahururu and Narok, Kericho and Kitale recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 8.7, 8.4, 10.4 and 9.2 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig 2&3)*
- *In pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern, there has been some reduction in water sources for both human and animal use. (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW **(21st to 30th November 2008)**

Central Province and Nairobi area:

Light rainfall was experienced over few places of Central province, Nairobi area and its environs. The maize crop is at the emergence/vegetative stages (at 9th leave stage) and the bean crop is at the flowering stage. Both weeding and top dressing are complete in most places. However, the crops have started showing signs of water stress due to inadequate rainfall in some parts of these regions. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

Eastern Province:

Light to moderate rainfall were experienced over areas bordering Mt. Kenya. The maize crop is at the emergence/vegetative stages (at 9th leave stage) and the bean crop is at the flowering stage. Both weeding and top dressing are complete in most places. However, the crops have started showing signs of water stress due to insufficient rainfall in some parts of these region. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

In the Southern Lowlands (Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi and Kitui districts) experienced light to moderate rainfall during the Dekad. The maize and bean crops are at the emergence stage. However, signs of water stress on crops in some regions are being noted due to insufficient rainfall and its poor distribution. Famine and its related impacts is still being experienced in most parts of these region, due to last season crop failure, and food distribution to the most vulnerable livelihoods has been taking place to avert the current food situation.

The poor rainfall performance, both in amounts and distribution in the region has not significantly improved pastures and water situation resulting in poor pasture regeneration and inadequate water for human, livestock and wildlife use . (Figs.1, 2, 3,4,& 5).

Coast Province:

Light rainfall was received in this region during period under review. Planting is complete and the maize crop is at the emergence stages in the few farms under cultivation. Land is normally left furrow during the short rain season. (Figs.1, 2,3&4)

North Eastern Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced over this region during the Dekad resulting in depressed pasture regeneration and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Hunger and its related impacts is still being experienced in the region. (Figs.1, 2, 3,4& 5).

Western Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced during the Dekad over this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Harvesting of last season's maize crop is still taking place with normal yields being reported. In Kakamega this season's bean crop is at the maturity stage and is doing well with normal yields being expected. (Figs.1,2,3 & 4).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Light to moderate rainfall were received in this region. In Nyanza maize crop is at the flowering stage, second weeding is taking place. For Central Rift Valley crops are doing well and corresponding to normal growth with normal yeilds being expected. In areas around Kisii the maize is at the fowering stages and beans crop is at the maturity stage with normal yields being expected. (Figs 1,2,3 & 4)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Light or no rainfall at all were experienced in most places of the North Western Riftvalley regions during the dekad. Rainfall in the previous Dekad has slightly improved pastures and water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Despite the rains, hunger is still being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among youny children and the elderly. (Figs.1-5).

In the Southern Rift Valley, sunny and dry conditions were experienced over this region during the Dekad resulting in depressed pasture regeneration and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use.. (Figs.1-5).

DEKADAL RAINFALL

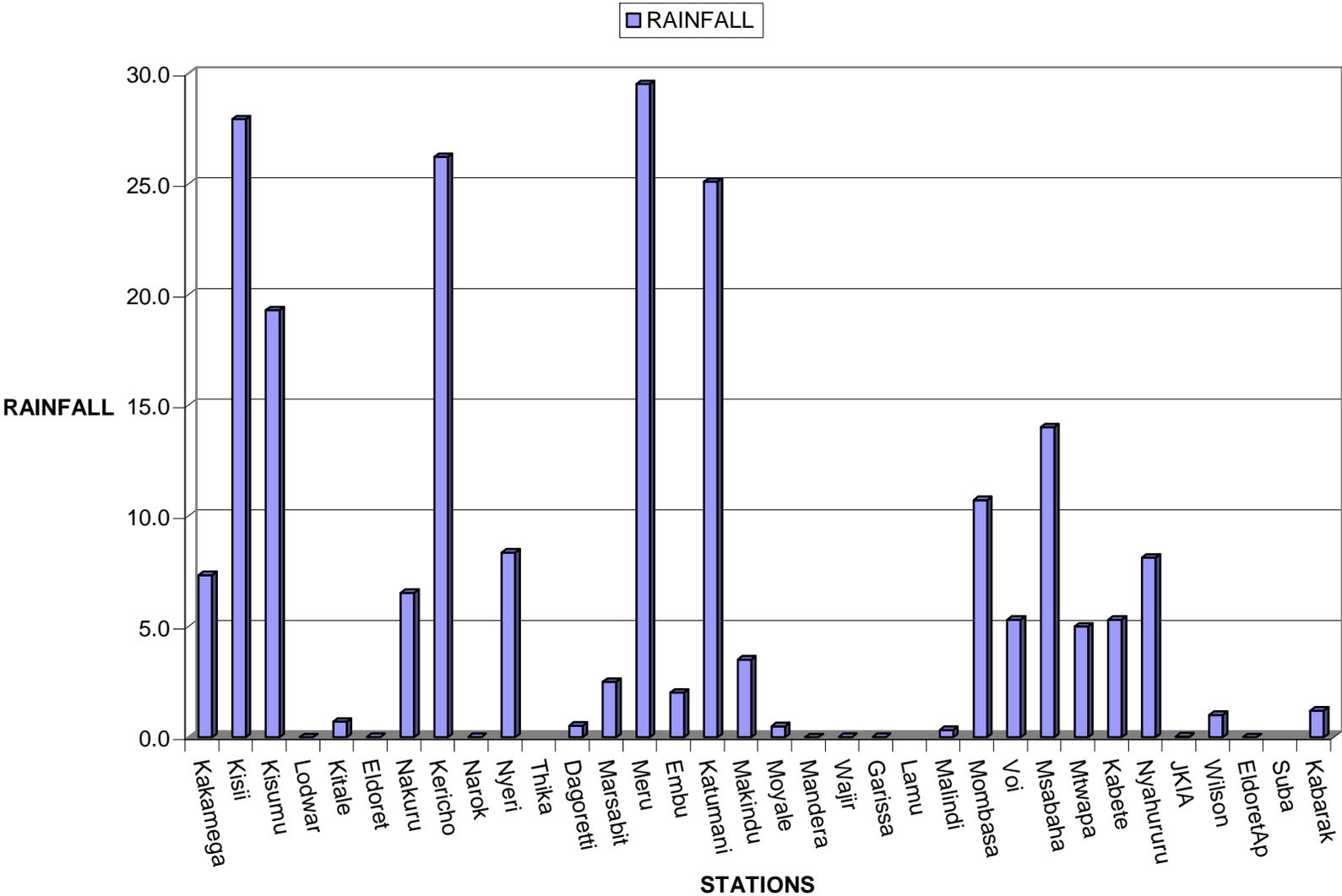


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (1st to 10th December 2008) in mm

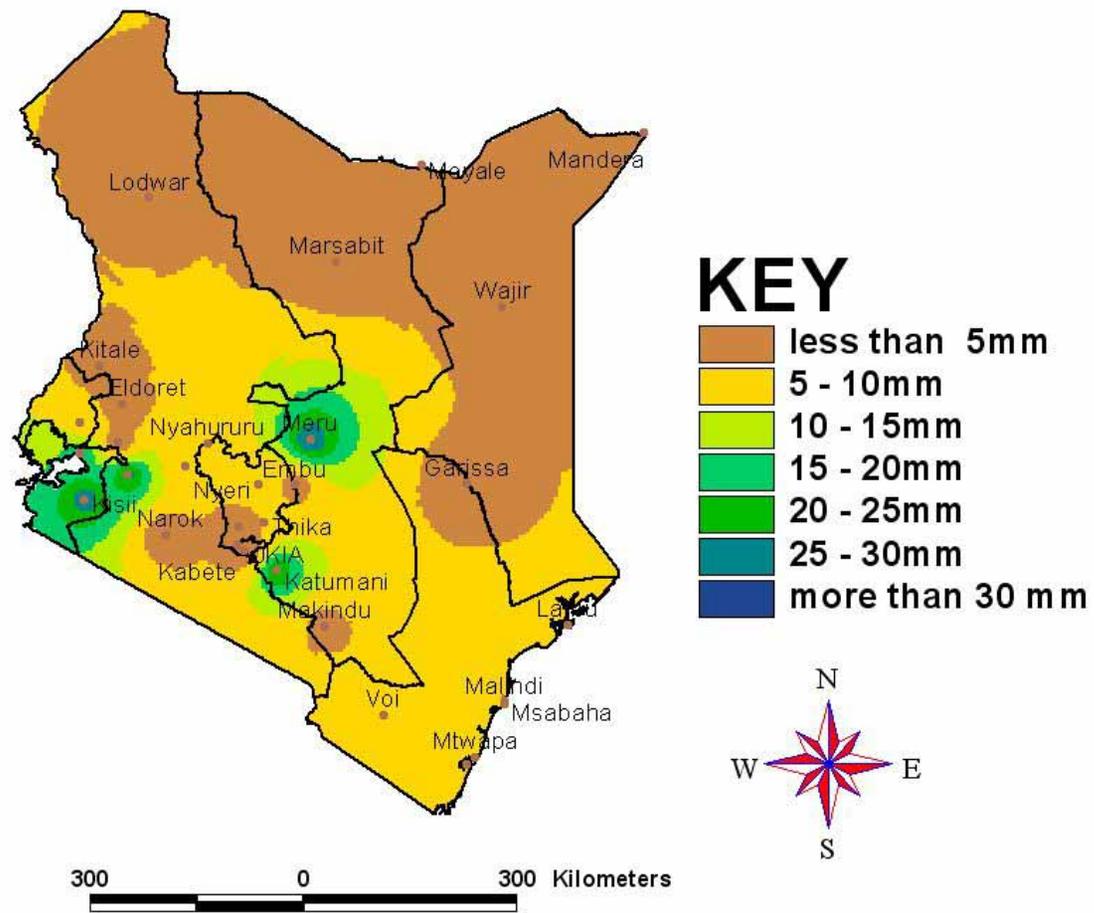


Fig. 2: Actual Rainfall (1st to 10th December 2008) in mm

DEKADAL TEMPERATURES

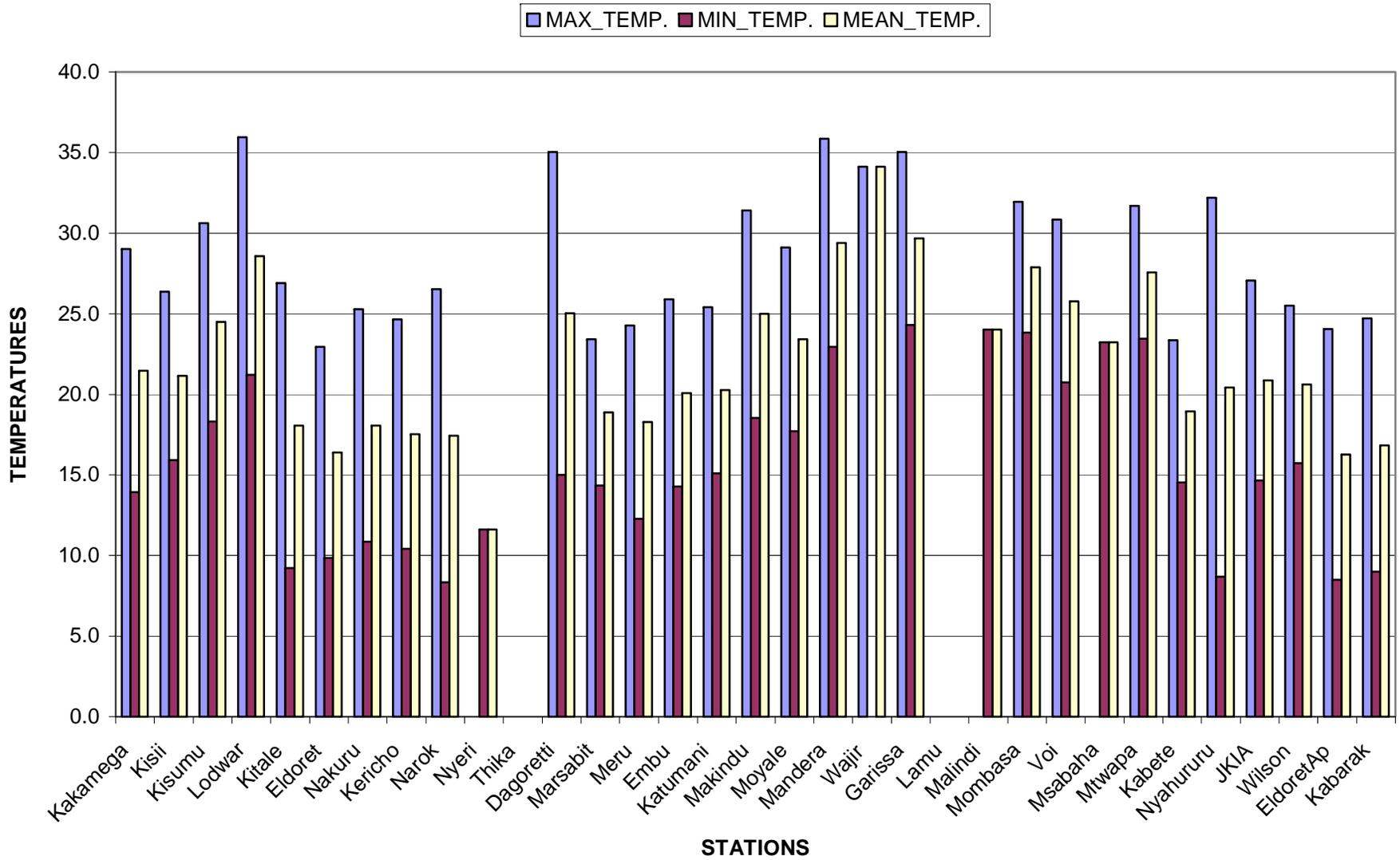


Fig 3: Mean Temperatures (1st to 10th December 2008) deg. Celsius

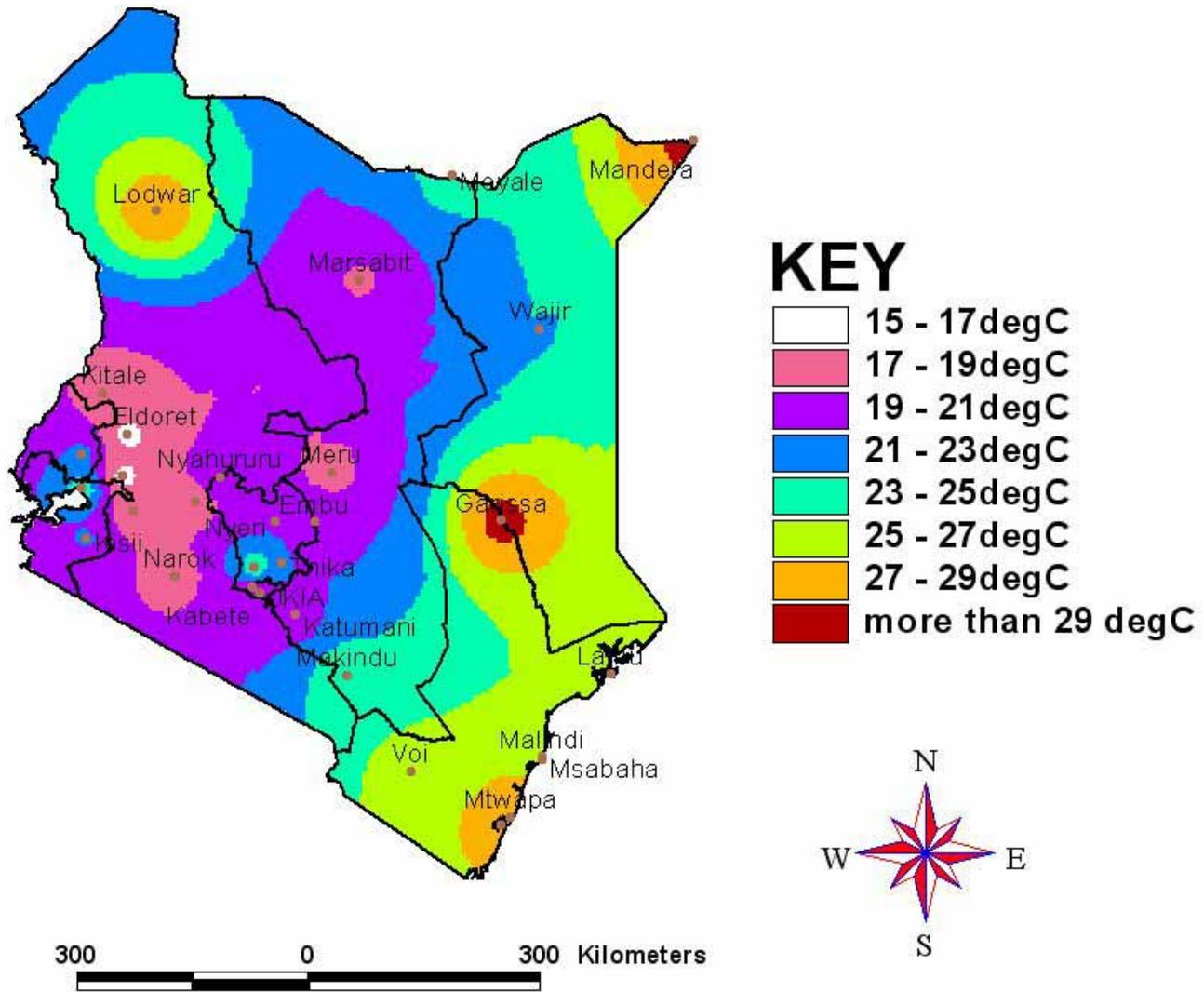


Fig 4: Mean Temperatures (1st to 10th December 2008) deg. Celsius

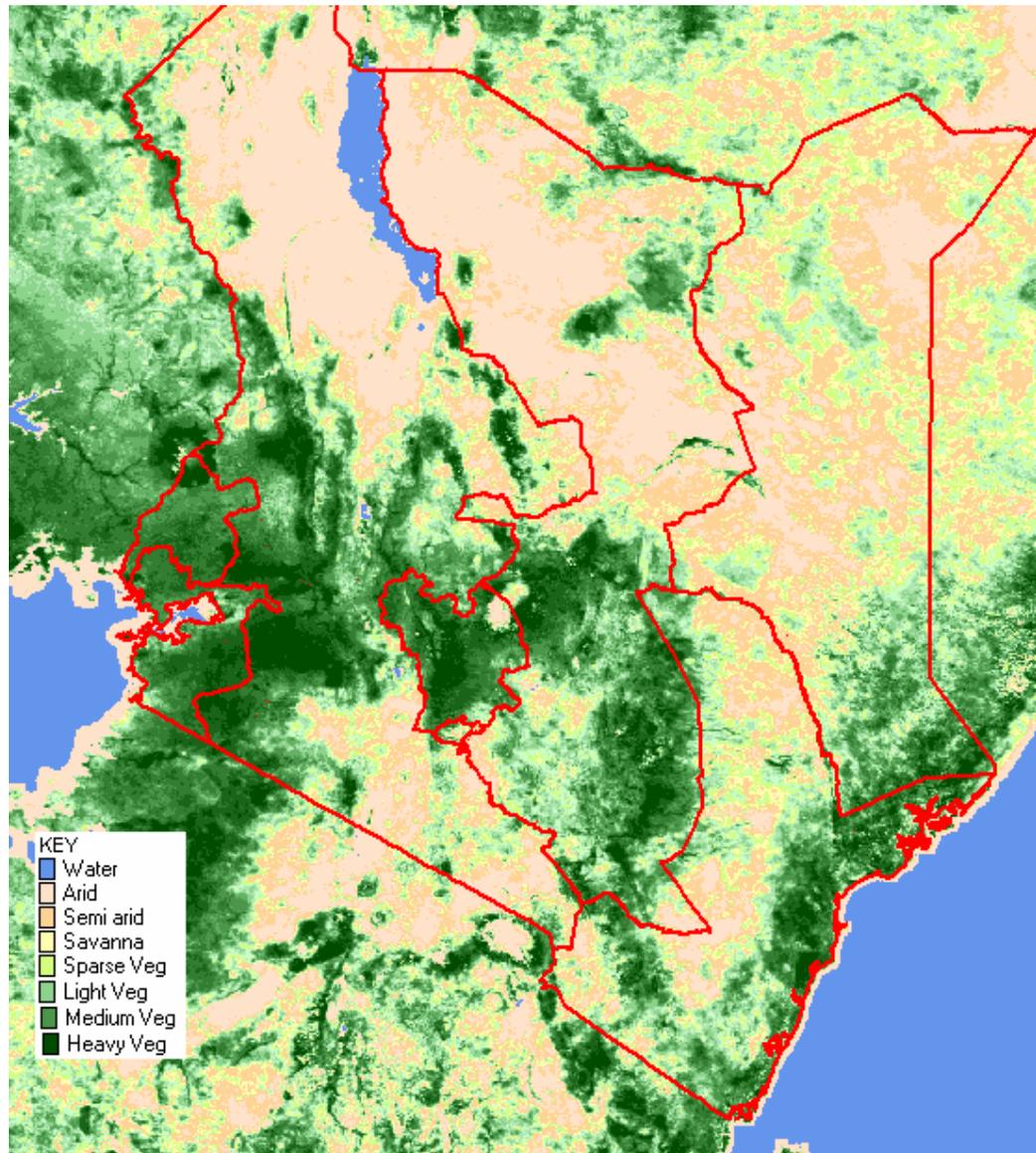


Fig.5: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (1st to 10th December 2008)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (11th –20th December 2008).

During the next 10 days (11th –20th December 2008), Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall over few places. Crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall in few places. Crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth at the high ground areas, whereas at the low lying areas crops are expected to continue experiencing water stress.

In Eastern Province regions of Embu and Meru districts, bordering Mt Kenya, are expected to experience light to moderate to rainfall in few places. Crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth.

In South-Eastern lowlands, are expected to experience light rainfall over few places but generally, dry conditions will prevail over most parts of this region. Crops are expected to continue experiencing water stress due to insufficient rainfall. The prolonged dry spells are expected to result in inadequate pastures and water sources for human, livestock and wildlife use.

The Coastal region is expected to experience light rainfall but generally sunny conditions will prevail during the Dekad. Crops are expected to start experiencing water stress due to inadequate rainfall.

In the pastoral regions of Northwestern, Northeastern and South Rift Valley districts light or no rains at all are expected resulting in depressed pastures regeneration and inadequate water sources for human and animal/wildlife use.

In summary few areas will experience wet conditions. In these areas crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth. Harvesting is expected to continue in Western Kenya around Kitale and Eldoret with normal yields being expected.

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

For more information, Contact:

The 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: agromet@meteo.go.ke

Website: www.meteo.go.ke

©2008 The Kenya Meteorological Department