



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

10th Dekad, 1st to 10th April, 2009

Issue No. 10/2009, Season: MAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 10th Dekad i.e. 1st – 10th April 2009, most parts of the country experienced significant rainfall except the Southeastern Lowlands during the early stages of “the long rains season”. Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over western and Nyanza Provinces and Central Rift Valley, with Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Kericho, Kitale, Eldoret and Nakuru, recording 39.7, 123.2, 49.2, 51.6, 75.9, 30.2 and 23.7mm respectively. Central Province, areas bordering Mt Kenya, Nairobi Area and its environs experienced light to moderate rainfall with Nyeri-2.2 mm Embu-23.4mm, Meru-32.1mm, Thika- 2.7mm, Dagoretti-20.8mm and Kabete-10.4mm. The rest of Eastern Province remained generally sunny and dry, except for moderate rainfall of 50.3mm received at Moyale. The Coast region experienced light to moderate rainfall, except Voi station recording the highest 10 day rainfall of 136.5mm. Lamu, Mshabaha and Mtwapa receiving, 30.5, 7.1 and 11.9mm respectively. Northeastern experienced light to moderate rainfall with Wajir, Mandera and Garissa recording 60.1, 14.9 and 8.0mm respectively. Northwestern part of the country remained generally sunny and dry. (Fig 1)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively lower over most parts of the country, due to the wet and cool conditions and also the increase in cloud cover during the Dekad with Lodwar, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Makindu, Dagoretti and Mombasa recording a Dekadal Mean day Maximum of, 38.4, 38.6, 37.1, 38.2, 33.3, 27.6 and 32.8 deg Celsius respectively . (Fig1, 2, 3)*

- *Night temperatures were relatively warmer over western and Central Rift Valley due also to the increase in cloud cover during the Dekad with Nyahururu, Narok, and Eldoret Airport recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 7.2, 11.7 and 8.9 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig1, 2&3).*
- *In pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern, South Eastern Lowlands and the Coastal regions, experienced light to moderate rainfall which was a relief to the previous acute water shortages for both human and animal use. Despite the rains pastures remained poor resulting in rise in the death of livestock and wildlife. (Figs. 1- 3)*
- *Incidences of human/wildlife conflict over food and water have been reported to be on the rise, due the current drought facing the country. (Figs. 1- 3)*
- *Famine and hunger was and is being experienced in many parts of the Country. Malnutrition levels are high and on the increase, especially among young children and the elderly in Eastern, Central, Coast, Northeastern, Nyanza and Northern and Southern Rift Valley Provinces. Worst hit are the Districts of Turkana, Pokot, Barigo, Samburu, Marlal, North and South Horr, Wajir, Garissa, Mandera, Tana, Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita-Taveta, Machakos, Kitui, Kajiado and Narok e.t.c, just to mention a few which had experienced poor rainfall performances during the last 2-3 successive seasons. Famine relief efforts has been taking place to avert lose of human lives. (Figs. 1- 4).*
- *The current food situation has led to various human and animal activities which include migration and settlement in other regions thereby adding more population pressure on other regions thereby degrading more lands.*
- *Some activities of concern such as chacoal burning as a source of income and use of wild roots as an alternative source of food are causing further land degradation exposing the soil to wind and water erosion.*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

(1st to 10th April 2009)

Central Province and Nairobi Area:

Light to moderate was experienced over most places in Central province, Nairobi area and its environs during the Dekad. Land preparation/panting are complete in most places. Maize and beans are at emergence stages. Famine/hunger is still being experienced in many parts of Muranga, Maragua, Thika, Nyeri- North, Kiambu and Kirinyaga Districts and famine relief efforts are in place to improve on the food situation. (Figs.1-4).

Eastern Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over most places bordering Mt. Kenya during the Dekad. Land preparation/panting are complete in most places. Maize and beans are at emergence stages. Famine/hunger is still being experienced in many parts of Moyale, Isiolo, Tharaka, and Mbeere Districts. (Figs.1-3).

In the Southern Lowlands of the Eastern Province (Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi and Kitui districts), dry and sunny conditions dominated the better part of the Dekad. Land preparation/planting is taking place. Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Famine relief efforts are in place to avert lose of human lives

Coast Province:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced over few places during the Dekad. Land preparation/planting is taking place. Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Famine relief efforts are in place to avert lose of human lives (Figs.1-3)

North Eastern Province:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced during the Dekad which was a sigh of relief to water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Despite the the rains pastures remained poor and death of livestock and wildlife has been reported to be on the rise in several areas of this region due to the current severe drought.

Famine/hunger is being experienced in most places. Malnutrition levels are high, especially among young children and the elderly. Food distribution/ vitamin suppliments has been taking place. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

Western Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over several places, during the Dekad over most places of this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Land preparation/planting is complete and Maize and beans are at emergence stages. (Figs.1-3).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over several places, during the Dekad over few places in this regions. Land preparation/planting is complete in several places and Maize and beans are at emergence stages.

In areas around Kisii planting is complete and the maize and bean crops are at the emergence stage and weeding is taking place. (Figs 1-4)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced in most places of the Northerwestern Rift Valley during the dekad resulting in inadequate pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. This has led to death of livestock and wildlife. (Figs.1-4).

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Famine reliefs efforts are in place to avert lose of human lives.

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced over Southern Rift Valley which was a sigh of relief to water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Land preparation/panting are complete in most places. Maize and beans are at the emergence stages.

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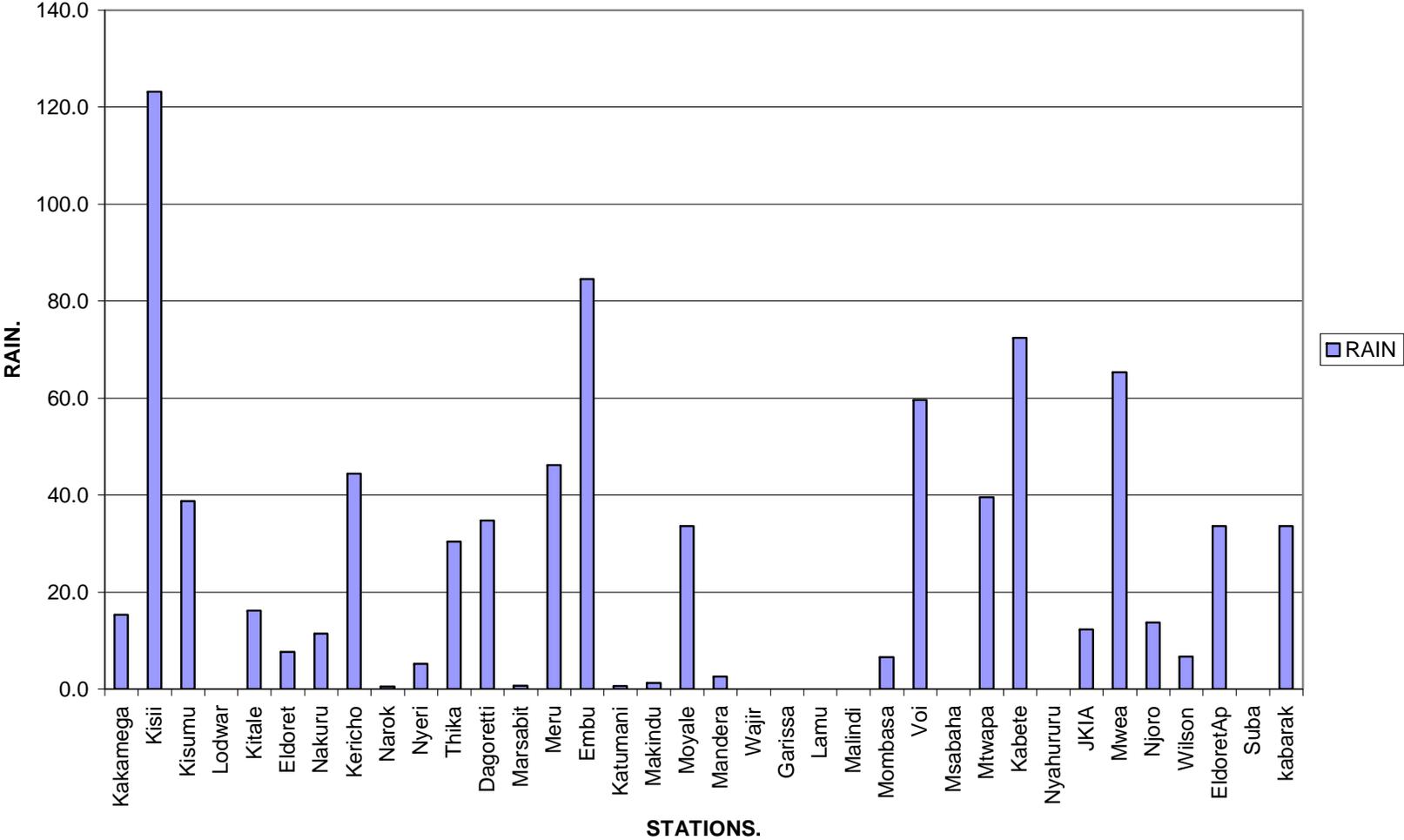


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (1st to 10th April, 2009) in mm

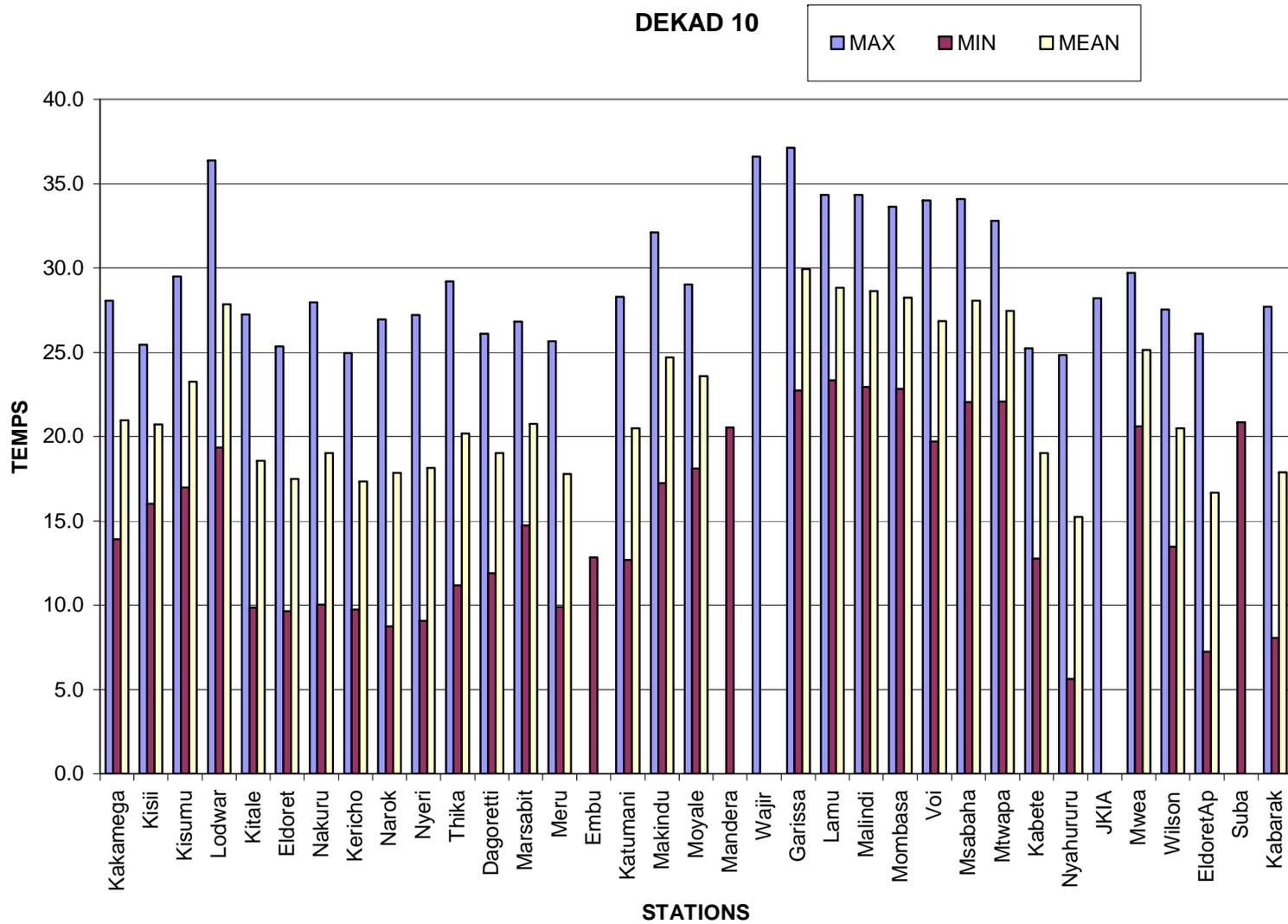


Fig 2: Mean Temperatures (1st to 10th April, 2009) deg. Celsius

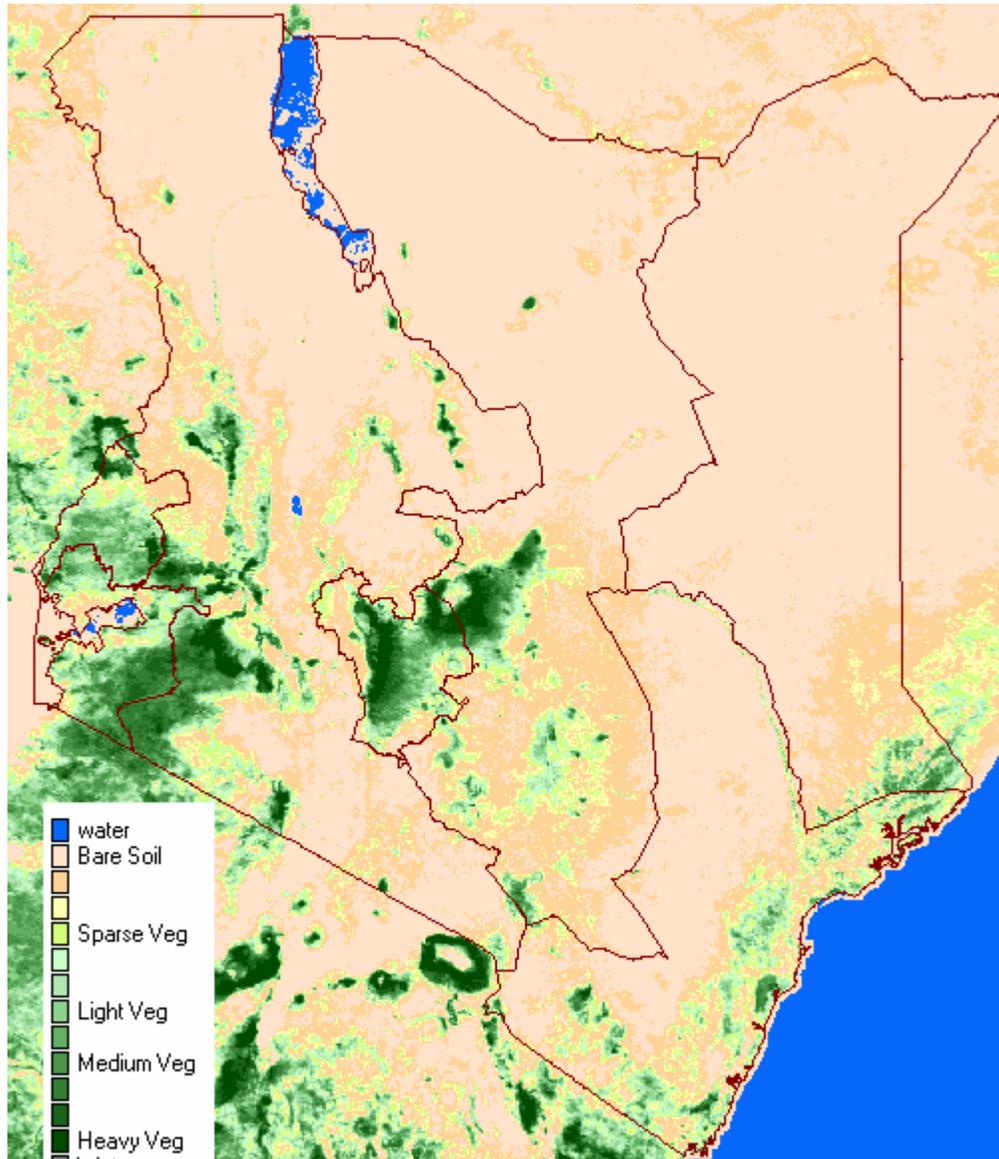


Fig. 3: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (21st to 31st March, 2009)

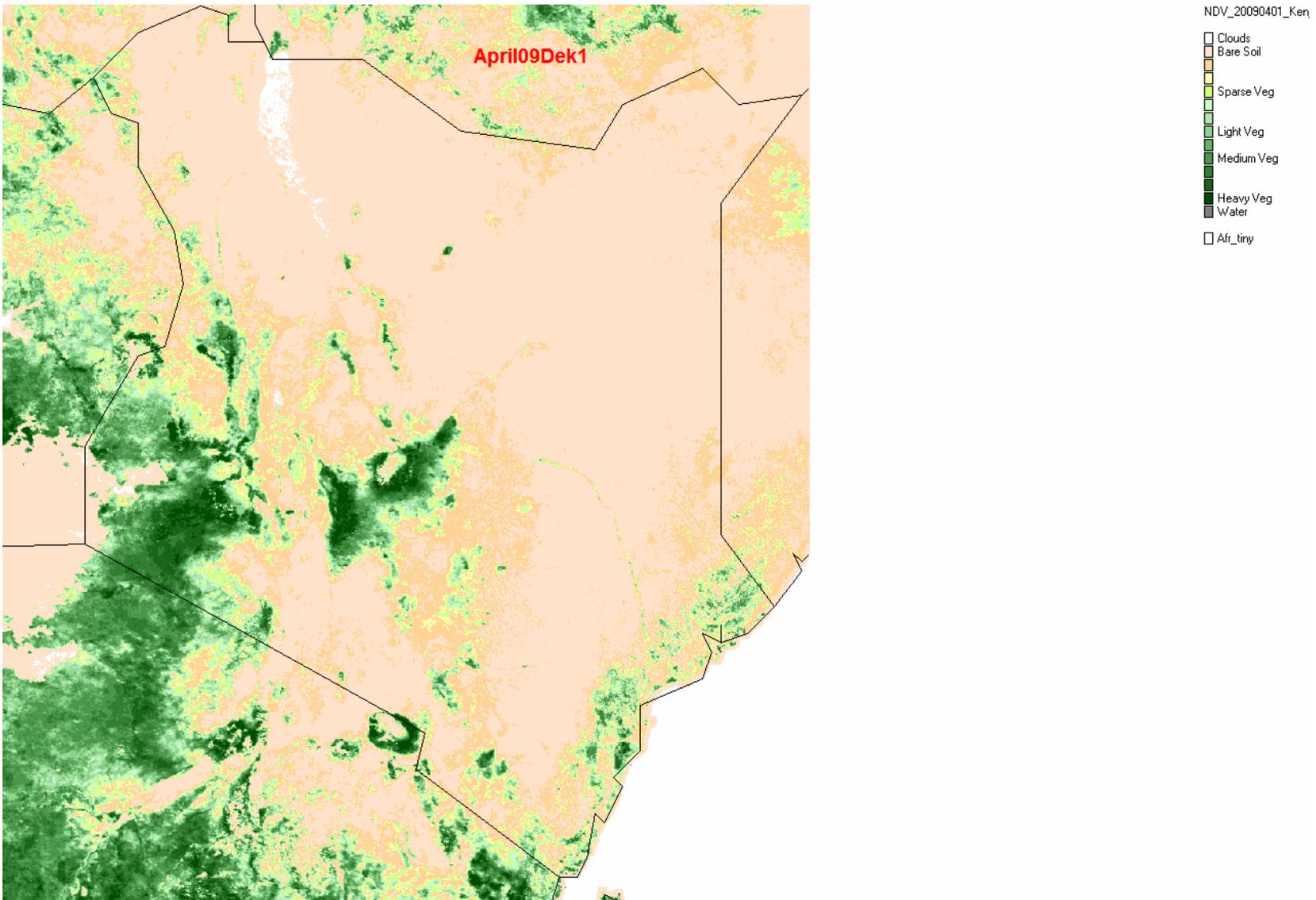


Fig. 4: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (1st to 10th April, 2009)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (11th –20th April 2009).

During the next 10 days (11th – 20th April) Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience moderate to heavy rainfall over several places and crops are expected to continue doing well.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall over few places and crops are expected to continue doing well.

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

In South-Eastern lowlands, light to moderate rainfall are expected over few places of this region. Land preparations/planting in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is expected to continue.

The Coastal region is expected to experience generally sunny conditions with light rains during the Dekad. Famine/hunger and its related impacts is expected to continue.

In the pastoral regions and game parks/reserve of Northwestern, Northeastern, Northern & Southern Rift Valley districts sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail, with light rainfall expected over few places. Inadequate pastures and water sources for human and animal/wildlife use is expected to persist. Death of livestock and game is expected to continue.

In summary, the long rain season has set and wet conditions are expected over several places of the country. Planting is expected to be complete in all arable regions of the country. Famine and hunger is expected to continue despite the onset of the rainy season. Famine relief efforts expected to continue as the drought severity continues.

This product should be used in conjunction with Kenya Meteorological Department weather forecasts. For more information, Contact

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