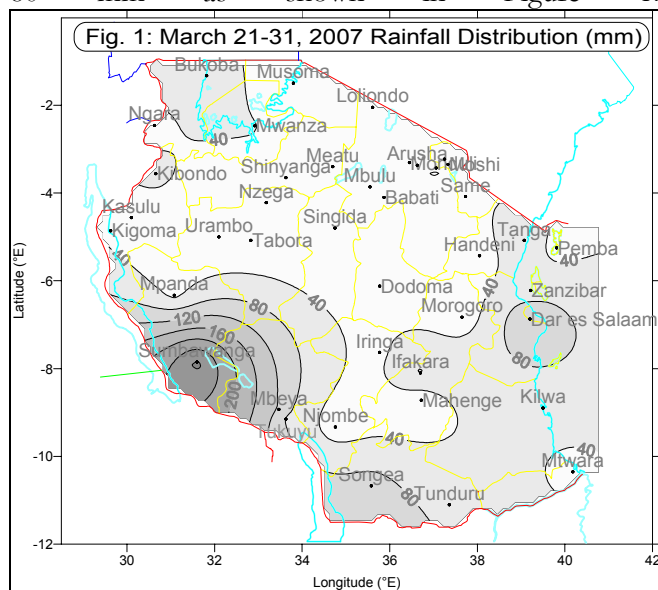


SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21 to 31st March, the northern hemisphere systems, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones relaxed and allowed the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move northwards. The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge intensified and allowed the zonal arm of ITCZ to retreat northwards. A southeasterly flow in the low level dominated over both northern and southern coast.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

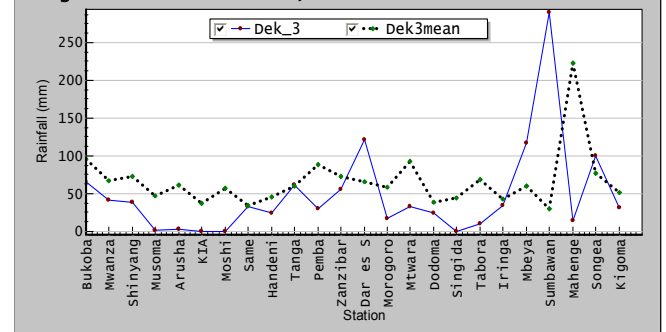
During the dekad, much of the country reported rainfall amounts less than 40 mm, except for few pocket areas in the southwestern highlands, southern and northern coast where reported rainfall exceeded 80 mm as shown in Figure 1.



The third dekad (Dek_3) rains were also below

normal (dek3_mean) over many areas as shown in Figure 2. The highest rainfall recorded was 289.2 mm at Sumbawanga followed by Dar es Salaam that recorded 121.5 mm, and Songea 100.1 mm. The long rains (*Masika*) started early during the first dekad of the month although its spatial distribution was generally poor over most bimodal rainfall pattern areas (the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast). Most of the eastern Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands has experienced a late start of *Masika* rains. On the other hand a decrease in seasonal rains over unimodal rainfall regime of the southwestern, central and western areas was anticipated as the season draws near to the end.

Figure 2: March 21-31, 2007 Rainfall Performance



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture supply during this dekad was sufficient across the country although over some areas the levels were excessive. These included parts of southern lowlands of Morogoro and Ifakara where the maize crop was still at emergence stage and paddy at flowering stage in moderate to poor state. Decreased soil moisture levels were observed in a few areas of Sumbawanga district in southwestern highlands where maize crop that was at earing stage experienced decreased soil moisture supply. In other

parts in the unimodal sector, maize crop was between vegetative and ripeness growth stages, the crop condition ranged between moderate to poor due to excessive soil moisture supply during early growth stages.

Over bimodal rainfall regime areas planting of long-rains (*Masika*) crops and weeding of early planted crops continued mainly over parts of Arusha, Manyara, Tanga, Pwani, Mwanza and Mara regions. Second planting of beans crop was carried out over most areas of the country including Kasulu, Kibondo, Mpanda, and Ngara districts where the crop was at vegetative growth stage.

Paddy was at various growth stages ranging from land preparation to near ripeness and in moderate state, while cassava was also at various growth stages, and in good state.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock were very good across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams are good over much of the country.

Environmental

The country experienced generally warm temperatures and comfortable conditions except for some humid conditions along the coast during daytime.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 01 – 10, 2007

During this dekad the tropical cyclone *Jaya* will move westwards towards the Madagascar coast, hence eroding the pressure systems over the south, which will result in rainfall reduction over the northern coast and northeastern highlands. The anti-cyclonic wind flow over the northwestern Indian Ocean will weaken; allowing the southerly flow to dominate over the entire coast, hence a reduction in rainfall over most parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 01 – 10, 2007

Southern coast, southern region, southwestern highlands, central and western regions are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with rainshowers over few areas and sunny periods. The Lake Victoria basin will have partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers mainly over the western side. Northeastern highlands and northern coast and its hinterlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas and sunny periods.

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

3rd, 4th & 10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.

P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 - (0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet_tz@meteo.go.tz

Dar-es-Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA