

Summary

The Bulletin contains a brief review of the performance of last rainfall season, evolution of the climate systems and outlook for the September to December 2008 rainfall season. The October to December 2008 rainfall season (Vuli) is more significant for the northern sector of the country (northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and northern coast) and the season is expected to be normal to above normal. This Outlook is relevant only for seasonal time scales and over relatively large areas and month-to-month variations may occur. It should be noted that heavy and short duration episodic events are common even in below normal rainfall conditions

SUMMARY MARCH-MAY 2008 SEASON

Most parts of the country received normal to below normal rainfall during March to May 2008 rainfall season with the exception of northern coast, north-eastern and south-western highlands which recorded above normal rainfall. March to May (Masika) rains are more significant over bimodal rainfall pattern areas (Lake Victoria basin, northern Kigoma, northeastern highlands, northern coast and islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) as a result more rainfall amounts were reported in those areas than over unimodal rainfall pattern where the season ends normally in April (Figure 1).

remain near neutral conditions during the coming season. Currently there is a slight warming over southwest Indian Ocean, however SSTs are projected to be near neutral conditions over the Indian and tropical eastern Atlantic oceans.

Seasonal Outlook

Short Rains (Vuli)

The October to December rainfall season (Vuli) is more significant for the Northern sector of the country (Northeastern Highlands, Lake Victoria basin and Northern coast). The short rains (Vuli) season in the northern (bimodal rainfall) sector of Tanzania is due to commence from fourth week of September 2008.

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Mara, Mwanza and northern Shinyanga regions): Rains are expected to start during the 4th week of September 2008 in Kagera region gradually spreading to other areas (Mwanza, northern Shinyanga and Mara regions) including Northern Kigoma (Kibondo). These areas are likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall.

Northern coastal areas and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast, and north Morogoro regions and isles of Zanzibar and Pemba): The rains are expected to commence in the second week of October 2008 with most parts likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall.

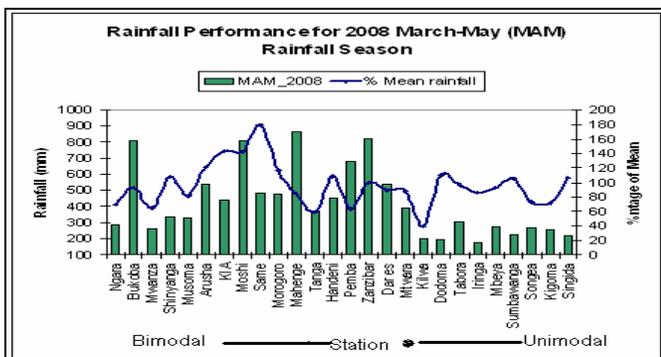


Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall and its percentage against long-term mean

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CLIMATE SYSTEMS DURING SEPT- DEC 2008

The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific Ocean are neutral and are likely to

Northeastern highlands: (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): The onset is expected during the third week of October 2008. These areas are expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall in most parts.

Seasonal Rains

Seasonal rains pertain to areas with only one rainfall season and these are:

The western areas: (Tabora, Rukwa and Kigoma regions): The seasonal rains are likely to set in during the 3rd week of November 2008. These rains are expected to be mainly normal to below normal.

Central, Eastern Tabora, Southern Central regions: (Singida, Dodoma and southern Shinyanga regions): Onset of the seasonal rains over these areas is expected in the third to fourth week of November 2008, with a likelihood of being normal to below normal rainfall.

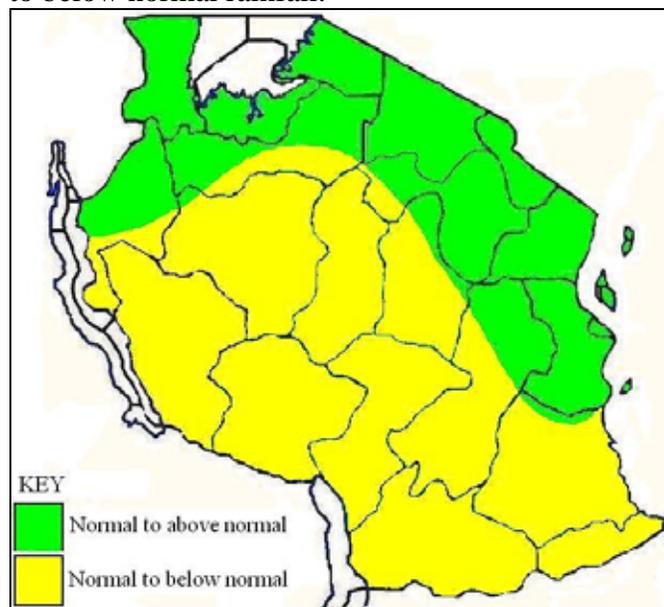


Figure 2: Rainfall forecast for 2008 September-December (SOND) season

Southwestern highlands, Southern region, southern Morogoro and southern coast: (Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Lindi and Mahenge): Onset of the seasonal rains over these areas is

expected in the third week of November 2008, with a likelihood of being normal to below normal rainfall.

Advisory

Short Rains

In order to take full advantage of the anticipated good rainfall situation, farmers over Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern Shinyanga and northern coastal belt regions are advised to finalize land preparations, and acquisition of farm inputs and plant early for a normal cropping season.

Seasonal Rains

Farmers over the western regions (Kigoma, Tabora and Rukwa) and southwestern highlands (Mbeya region, Iringa and southern Morogoro), central (Singida, Dodoma and southern Shinyanga) and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) are advised to continue with land preparations and acquisition of farm inputs and plant as soon as the rains start.

Pastures and Water for Livestock

The condition of pastures and water availability for livestock is anticipated to improve earlier over places that receive *vuli* rains, followed by regions that experience seasonal rains.

Water Levels in dams and Lakes

Water levels in the dams and lakes, and river discharges will improve over the Northern sector but decline over the Southern sector of the country until the start of the seasonal rains. It is thus important to manage water reserves sparingly over the country to be able to sustain livelihood and meet the demand for electric energy production.

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