

HIGHLIGHT

- Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over most parts of bimodal areas during the Masika, 2024
- Enhanced rainfall activities are expected during March 2024
- The Masika rains are expected to start during the fourth week of February 2024 over most areas and cease in the third and fourth weeks of May 2024
- Water levels in the rivers and dams are likely to increase
- Outbreak of diseases such as vector and waterborne diseases are anticipated due to water contamination
- Periods of excessive soil moisture may occur and affect crop and agricultural activities

CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK DURING MAM, 2024

Warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected over the western tropical Indian Ocean (off the east African coast) compared to the eastern tropical Indian Ocean. In addition, slightly cooler than average SSTs are expected south of Madagascar. These conditions are expected to strengthen the rainfall-making mechanism through enhanced influx of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the country especially over the northern coast and northeastern highlands.

On the other hand, slightly cooler than average SSTs are likely over the eastern coast of the Atlantic Ocean (off Angola coast), a condition that is expected to enhance the influx of moisture from the Congo Forest to the country, especially over the Lake Victoria Basin, northern Kigoma, and extending to the northeastern highlands. However, the El-Niño condition over the central equatorial Pacific is expected to weaken as we progress toward the end of the MAM, 2024 season.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK DURING MAM, 2024

The Masika rainfall season is specific to the northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Isles), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba isles), Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region.

Based on the expected climate systems, generally, Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over most parts of bimodal areas during Masika, 2024 rainfall season with periods of enhanced rainfall during March 2024. Details of the rainfall season are as follows: -

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region (Kakonko and Kibondo districts)

The Masika rains are expected to be Normal to Above Normal over most parts of the Lake Victoria Basin and the northern part of Kigoma. The ongoing off-seasonal rains are expected to continue through Masika 2024. Cessation is expected during the third and fourth week of May 2024.

Northern Coast area and its Hinterlands: (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Isles), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba isles)

Rains are expected to be Normal to Above Normal over most parts of the northern coast. The rains are expected to start during the fourth week of February 2024 and cease in the third and fourth weeks of May 2024.

Northeastern highlands: (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions)

Normal to Above Normal rains are expected in these regions and are anticipated to start during the fourth week of February 2024. Rains are expected to cease during the second and third weeks of May 2024

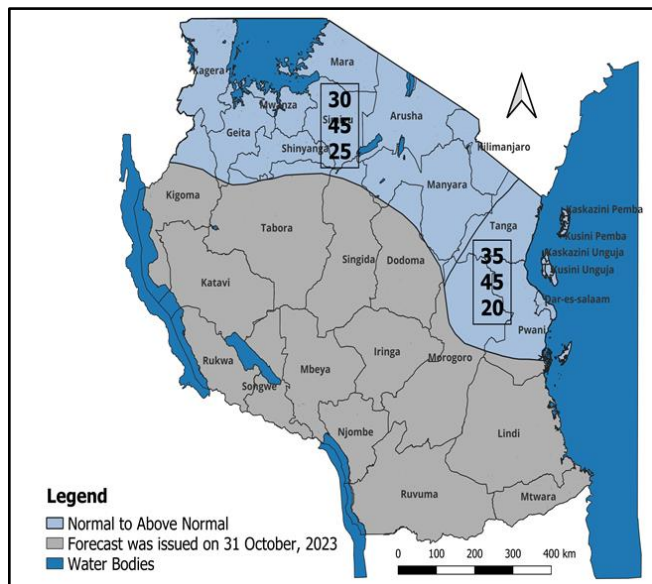


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for March to May 2024.

Note 1:

It should be noted that heavy rainfall events may occur during Masika, 2024 rainy season.

EXPECTED IMPACTS AND ADVISORY DURING MAM, 2024

Agriculture, Fishery, Livestock and Wildlife Production

Periods of excessive soil moisture and flooding may occur and affect crop and farm management. Diseases such as fungus are expected to increase and affect crops such as tomatoes, sesame, beans, and root crops. However, normal agricultural practices are anticipated in most areas.

Farmers are advised to prepare their fields, plant, implement weeding, and use relevant farm inputs in a timely, and are further advised to use the best methods and technologies to prevent water stagnation in the field, erosion, and loss of soil fertility; and choose the right seeds and crops for this Masika season. In addition, it is recommended to strengthen the agricultural infrastructure, particularly in low-lying areas, and control crop pests and diseases timely to reduce potential impacts. In addition, suppliers of agricultural inputs are advised to ensure agricultural inputs are timely available.

Livestock keepers and fishers are likely to benefit from the availability of pasture and food for fish. However, outbreaks of livestock diseases such as rift valley fever and breeding of vector-borne insects may occur. Also, increased incidences of seaweed diseases and a decline in seaweed production due to a decrease in seawater salinity are expected. Livestock keepers are advised to practice good animal husbandry to conserve pasture and harvest rainwater for future use.

The community is advised to put in place a good plan for the use and conservation of water and animal feeds.

Seaweed farmers are advised to cultivate in deep water to get rid of the effects of rainwater entering the sea. In addition, pastoralists and fishers are advised to use weather forecast updates and adhere to the advice provided by extension officers to minimize possible adverse impacts and capitalize on expected favorable conditions during the season.

NOTE 2:

The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for the prediction of spatial and temporal averages over a large scale and may not fully account for all physical and dynamic factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day, and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).