



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

8th Dekad, 11th to 20th March 2008

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HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 8th Dekad i.e. 11th to 20th March 2008 several parts of the country received some moderate to heavy rainfall, except North Eastern Province where light or no rains were reported. Heavy to moderate rainfall was experienced over the Western, Central Rift Valley, marking the onset of the Long rains Season with Kakamega, Kisii, Kericho, Eldoret and Narok recording a Dekadal rainfall total of 65.5, 109.2, 44.2, 35.2 and 47.2mm respectively. Central Highlands, Nairobi Area and its environs, Southeastern lowlands and the Coastal Regions experienced moderate rainfall with Meru, Nyeri, Dagoretti, JKIA, Makindu, Voi and Mombasa recording a Dekadal total of 3.5, 15.8, 24.7, 65.5, 17.8, 33.5 and 25.5mm respectively. North Western and North Eastern regions remained generally dry during the reporting period.*
- *Mean daily temperatures were relatively high over most parts of the country with Northern and North Eastern regions of the country recording maximum day temperature of above 38 deg Celsius. Low night temperatures were recorded over some parts of Central Rift Valley with Nyahururu recording a Dekadal minimum mean of 6.7 deg Celsius. (Fig.2)*
- *The pastoral regions and game parks of Northern and Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern lowlands, experienced light or no rains at all during the entire period resulting in inadequate pastures and water. Incidences of human animal conflict over food and water have been reported in some areas bordering Game Parks and Game reserves of Rift Valley, Eastern and North Eastern provinces (Figs.1 & 3).*

- *The long rains season has started over the Western, parts of Rift Valley, Central Rift Valley, Central Highlands and parts of Southeastern Lowlands and Coast regions during the second Dekad of March and is expected to be realized in the rest parts of the country during the third Dekad of March and first Dekad of April.*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW **(11th to 20th March 2008)**

Central Province and Nairobi area:

Moderate rainfall was received over Central province, Nairobi area and its environs.

Land preparations and planting is on going in these regions in readinees for the Long rain season which is expected to start at the third Dekad of march.

Eastern Province:

Light to moderate rainfall were received over these region during the Dekad. Land preparations and planting are ongoing in most areas readiness for the long rains.

To the south (Machakos, Mwingi and Kitui), light to moderate rainfall were received in some areas and this was a relief for pastures (Normally refered to as “grass rains”) ahead of the long awaited Long Rains Season. Land preparations are ongoing several areas in readiness for the long rains expected to start during the third Dekad of March.

Coast Province:

Light to moderate rainfall were received in several areas in the region during the review period. Land preparations and planting have started in readiness for the long rains which are expected to start during the first Dekad of April.

North Eastern Province:

Hot and dry conditions continued to be experienced over this region resulting in poor pastures and inadequate water sources for both domestic and animal use. This poses risk of human and animal conflicts and pastoralists may be forced to migrate to other regions in search of pasture and water and at times are received with hostilities by other communities resulting into inter-clan clashes. The long rains are expected to start during the first Dekad of April. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

Western Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was received in this region (Kakamega, Bungoma and Busia). Land preparations/planting is in progress in readiness for the long rain season which have already started. (Fig.1).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Moderate rainfall was received in some parts of this region. Land preparations and planting are on going as we enter the long rain season. (Figs 1)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Light rains were received in the Southern Rift Valley regions which was a relief for pastures regeneration and water ahead of the long rains (Normally referred to as “grass rains”). The Northern Rift Valley remained hot and dry during the review period. The long rains season is expected to start during the third Dekad of March. (Figs.1, 2, 3)

DEKADAL RAINFALL

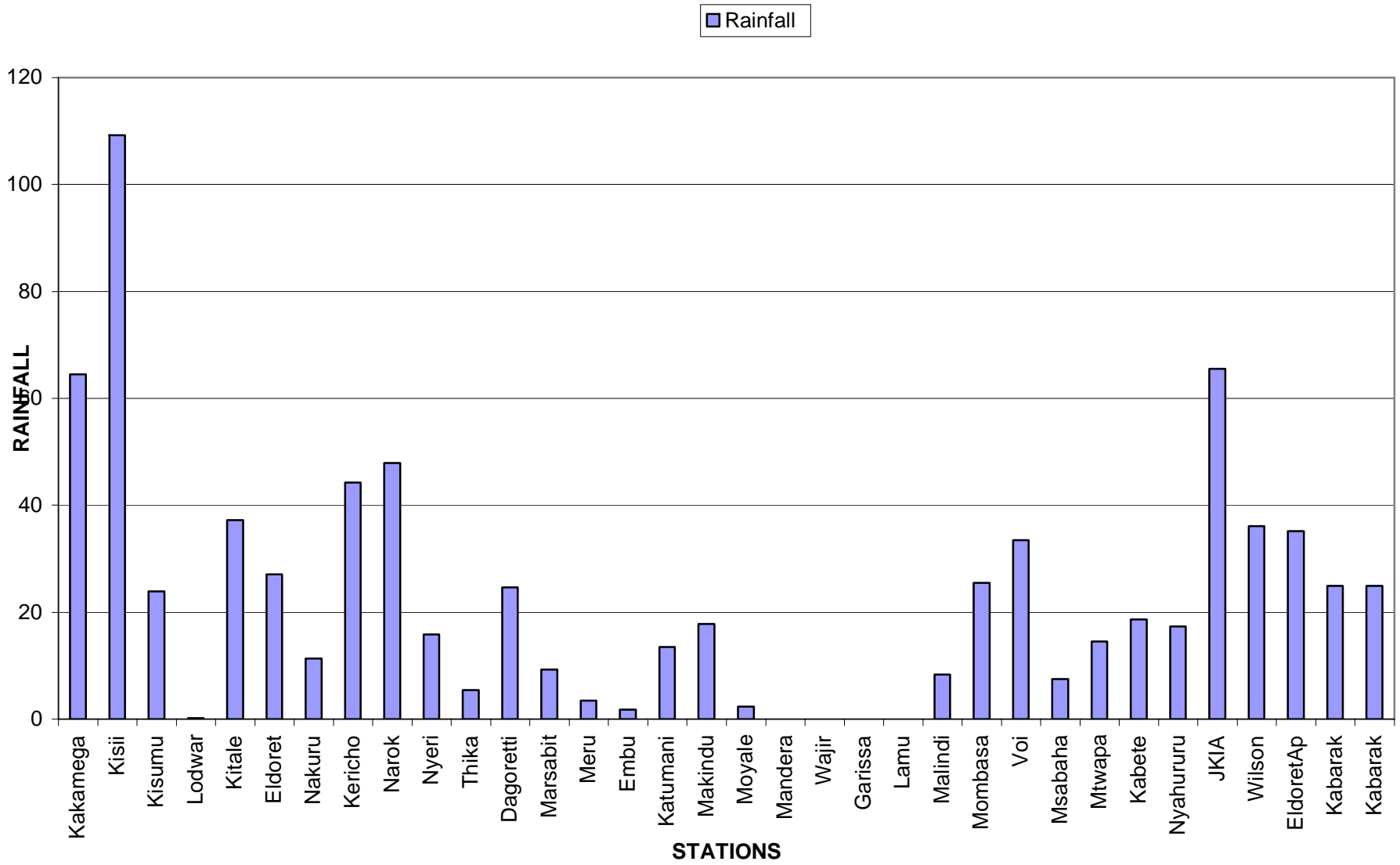


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (11th to 20th March 2008)

DEKADAL TEMPERATURE

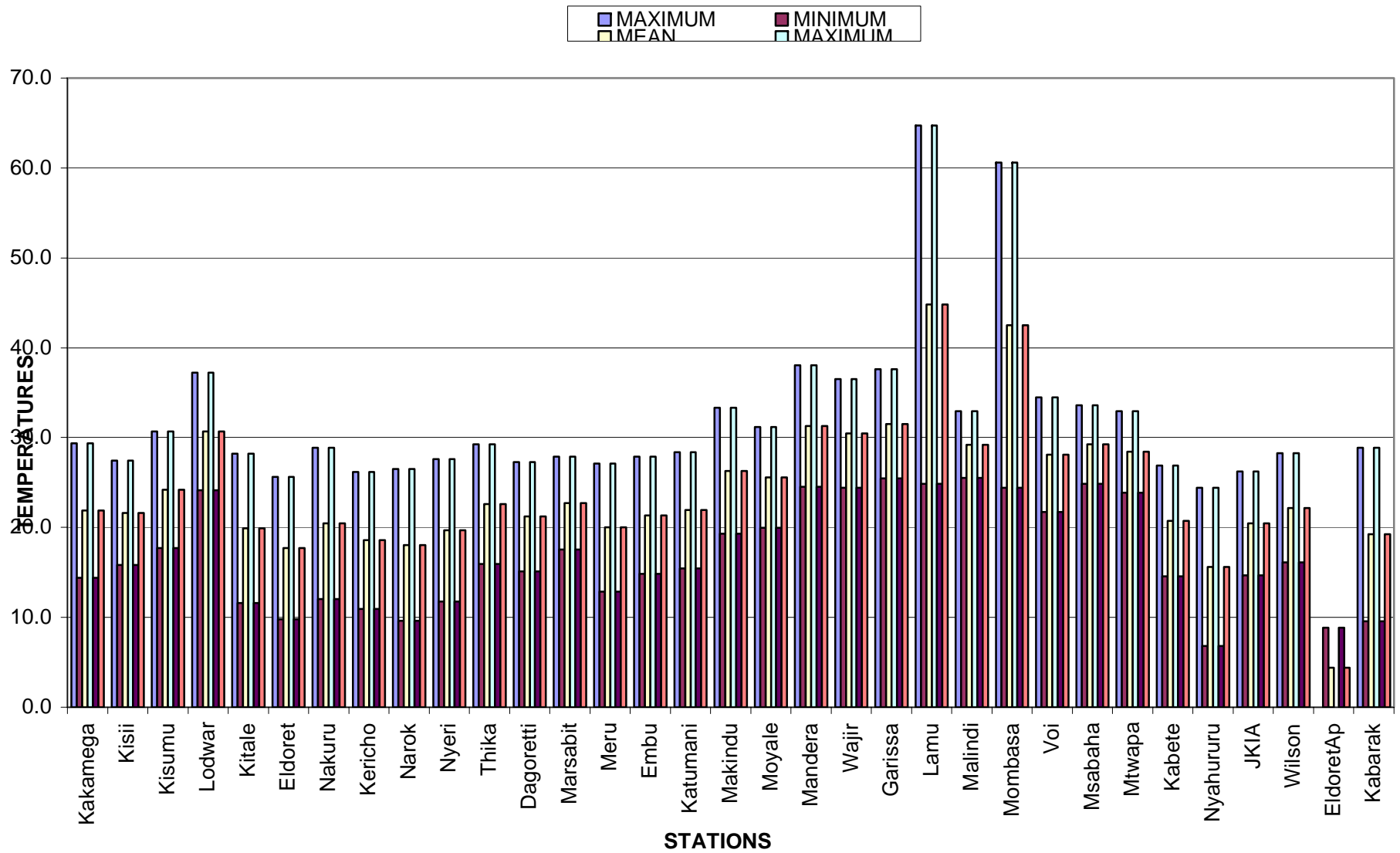


Fig 2: Mean Temperatures (11th to 20th March 2008)

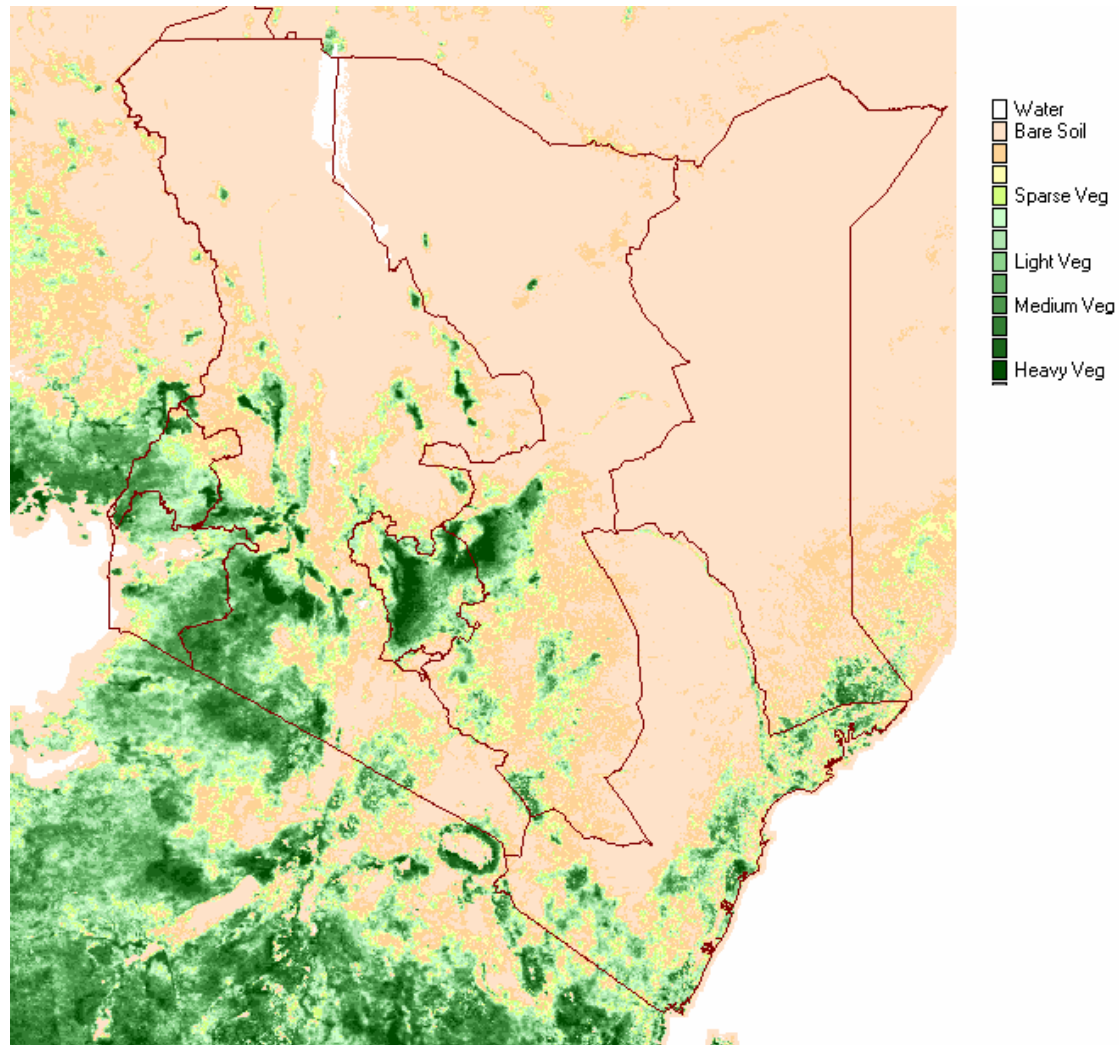


Fig. 3: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (11th to 20th March 2008)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (21st –31st March 2008).

During the next 10 days Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience moderately heavy rainfall over several places. Land preparations and planting are expected to continue since the long season has started

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to receive moderate rainfall in several places as we approach the long rains season. Land preparations and planning are expected to continue in several places in readiness for the long rains.

In South Eastern lowlands, moderate rainfall is expected we approach the rain season. Land preparations and planting are expected to commence in several places in readiness for the long rains.

In the pastoral regions of North Eastern and North Western including Southern Rift Valley light rains are expected over few places, but generally dry and hot conditions are expected prevail resulting in poor pastures and scarce water sources for domestic, wildlife and animal use posing a risk of human and animal conflict in search of food and water.

In summary land preparations and planting are expected to continue over most regions of the country in readiness of the long rains season.

In the pastoral regions and game parks dry and hot conditions are expected to prevail resulting in inadequate pastures and water for both domestic and animal use.

This product should be used in conjunction with the daily 24-hour forecast issued by the Department.

This product should be used in conjunction with KMD weather forecasts

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