



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

2nd Dekad, 11th to 20th January, 2009

Issue No. 2/2009, Season: DJF

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 2nd Dekad i.e. 11th – 20th January 2009, light to moderate rainfall was experienced over the Central Highlands, Nairobi Area and its environs, South Eastern lowlands for two days i.e. 15th and 16th January 2009. Meru station recorded the highest Dekadal total of 130.9mm. Embu, Voi, Katumani, Makindu, Thika, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Wison Airport and Dagoretti recording Dekadal totals of 40.0, 45.9, 41.9, 29.3, 33.9, 31.9, 28.2, 19.0mm respectively. Slight improvement in rainfall was experienced over Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley Provinces with Kakamega, Kisumu, Kisii, and Nakuru recording Dekadal totals of 14.3, 1.3, 5.8, 3.3mm respectively. The rest of the country remained generally dry despite improvement in the cloud cover during the Dekad. (Fig 1&2)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively low over most parts of the country due to improvement in cloud cover during Dekad. (Fig1, 2&3)*
- *Night temperatures were relatively warmer over western and Central Rift Valley due to improvement in the cloud cover during Dekad with Nyahururu and Narok, and Eldoret Airport recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 7.4, 8.9, and 8.9 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig1, 2&3).*
- *In pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern, dry and sunny conditions prevailed resulting in acute water shortages for both human and animal use. Death of livestock has been reported in several regions due to the current drought and pastoralists are being advised to sell some of their livestock to avoid total loss. (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)*
- *Incidences of human/wildlife have been reported, causing serious damage on farms especially over areas bordering the game parks and game reserves. (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6).*

- *Famine and hunger was and is being experienced in many parts of the Country Eastern, Central, Coast, Northeastern, Nyanza and Rift Valley Provinces which experienced inadequate rainfall during the last “Short Rains” season. Worst hits are the Districts which had experienced poor rainfall performances during the last 2-3 consecutive seasons. Famine relief efforts should be under way to avert lose of human lives. (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW (11th to 20th January 2008)

Central Province and Nairobi area:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced on two consecutive days i.e. 15th and 16th January 2009, but these could not reverse the current crop conditions. However, dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad over most places in Central province, Nairobi area and its environs. The maize crop is at the maturity stages in very few places especially over the high ground areas, and continues wilting and withering. Famine/hunger is being experienced in the low lying areas of Muranga, Maragua, Thika, Nyeri- North and Kirinyaga Districts and stringent measures are urgently required to arrest the food situation. (Figs.1-6).

Eastern Province:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced on two consecutive days i.e. 15th and 16th January 2009, but these could not reverse the current crop conditions over most areas bordering Mt. Kenya. The maize crop is at the maturity stages in very few places especially over the high ground areas of Embu, and Meru Districts and continues wilting and withering. Famine/hunger is being experienced in the low lying areas of Mbeere District.. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

In the Southern Lowlands (Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi and Kitui districts) Light to moderate rainfall was experienced, but these could not reverse the current crop conditions. However, dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad resulting in total Seasonal crop failure. Famine and its related impacts are being experienced in most parts of these region, due to the last two consecutive seasonal crop failure, and food distribution to the most vulnerable livelihoods has been taking place. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

The current food situation has led to activities that are causing further land degradation such as chacoal burning, and use of roots as an alternative source of food thereby destroying the limited vegetation cover.

The poor rainfall performance, both in amounts and distribution in the region has led to impoverished pastures and inadequate water situation for human, livestock and wildlife use. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought and pastoralists are being advised to sell some of their livestock to avoid total loss. (Figs.1-6).

Coast Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were predominant in this region during the period under review. These conditions have resulted in total Seasonal crop failure. Famine and its related impacts are being experienced in most parts of these region. (Figs.1-6)

The current food situation has led to activities that are causing further land degradation such as chacoal burning, and use of roots as an alternative source of food thereby destroying the limited vegetation cover.

North Eastern Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced over this region during the Dekad resulting in depressed pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use and this may lead to death of livestock and wildlife. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought and pastoralists are being advised to sell some of their livestock to avoid total loss.

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is still being experienced in the region due to inadequate rainfall for the last three consecutive seasons and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Food distribution to the vulnerable livelihoods has been taking place. (Figs.1-6).

Western Province:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced during the Dekad over this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Harvesting of last season's maize crop is complete in Uasin Gishu and Tranzoia with normal to above normal yields being reported. (Figs.1,2,3 & 4).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Insignificant light rainfall was received over few places in this regions. In Nyanza maize crop is at the maturity stage and a majority of farmers have started harvesting, with below normal yields expected due to poor rainfall performance during the "Short rains" season. For Central Rift Valley crops are doing well and corresponding to normal growth. In areas around Kisii the maize is at the maturity stages with normal yields being expected. (Figs 1-6)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced in most places of the North Western Riftvalley regions during the dekad resulting in depressed pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use, and this has led to death of livestock and wildlife. Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. (Figs.1-6).

Famine relief efforts should be under way to avert lose of human lives.

In the Southern Rift Valley, sunny and dry conditions were experienced over this region during the Dekad resulting in depressed pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. (Figs.1-6).

Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought and pastoralists are being advised to sell some of their livestock to avoid total loss.

DEKADAL RAINFALL

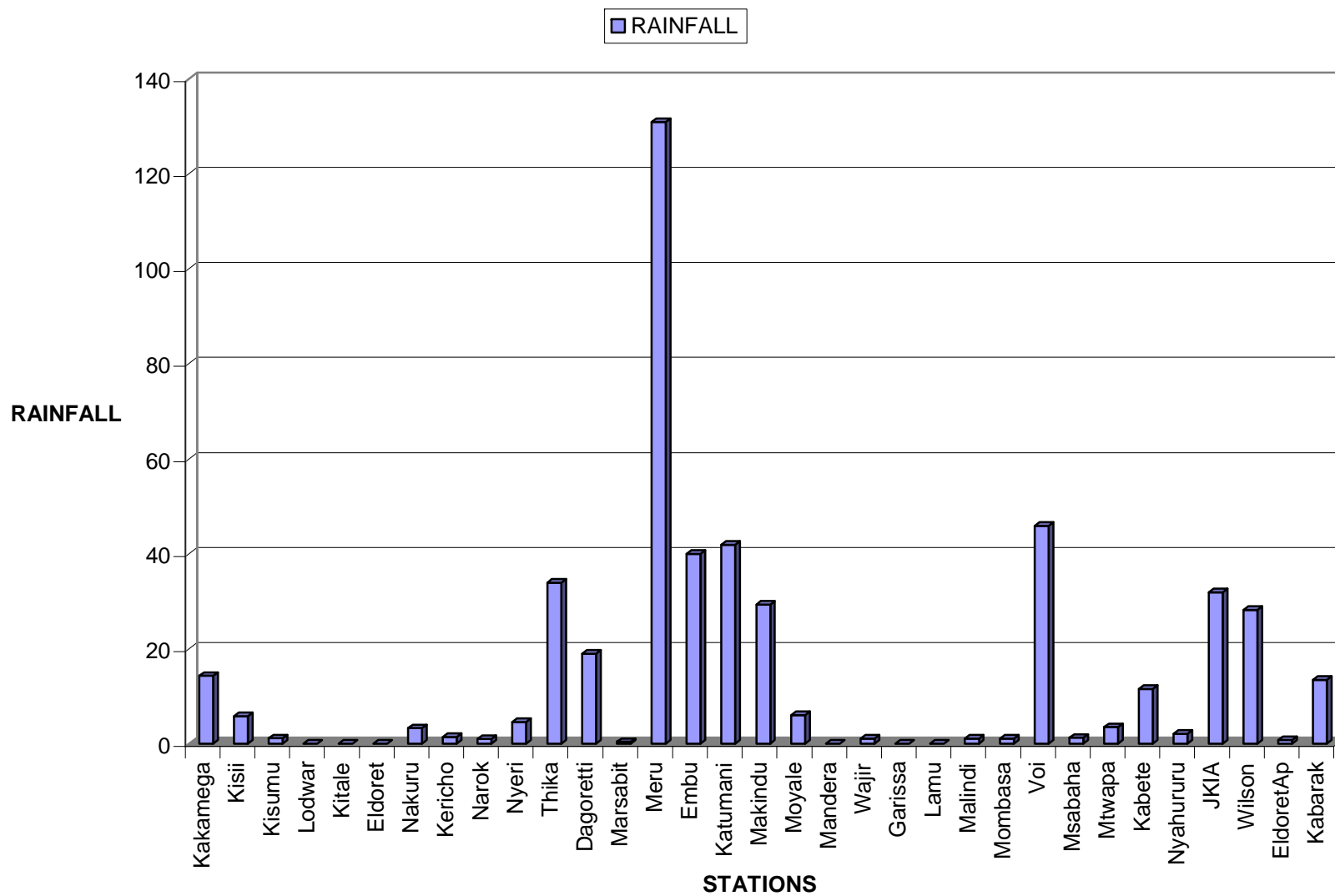


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (11th to 20th January, 2009) in mm

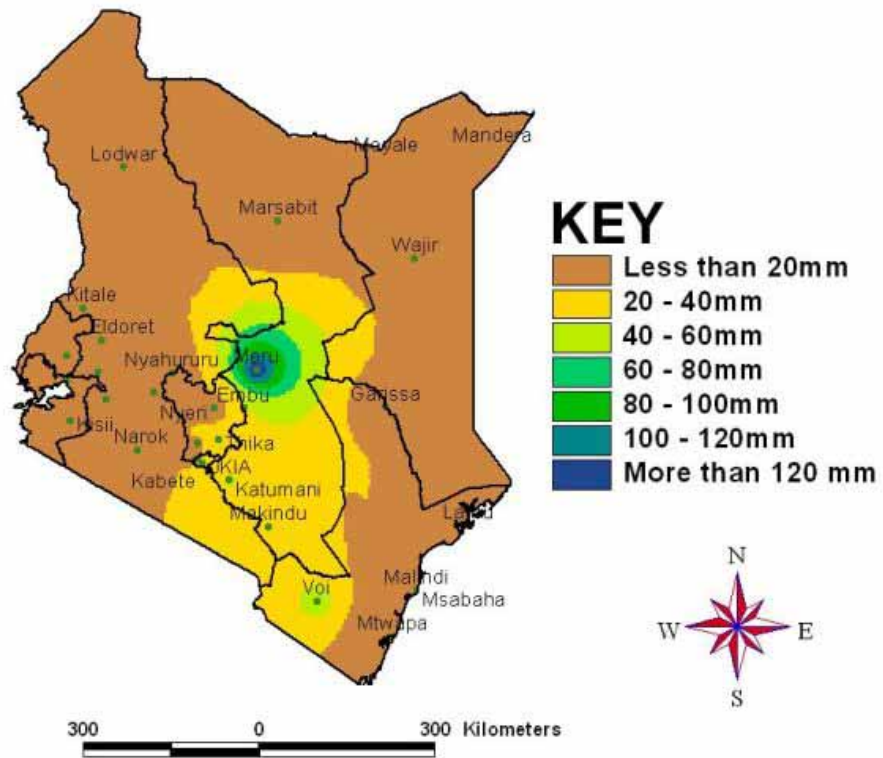


Fig. 2: Actual Rainfall (11th to 20th January, 2009) in mm

DEKADAL TEMPERATURES

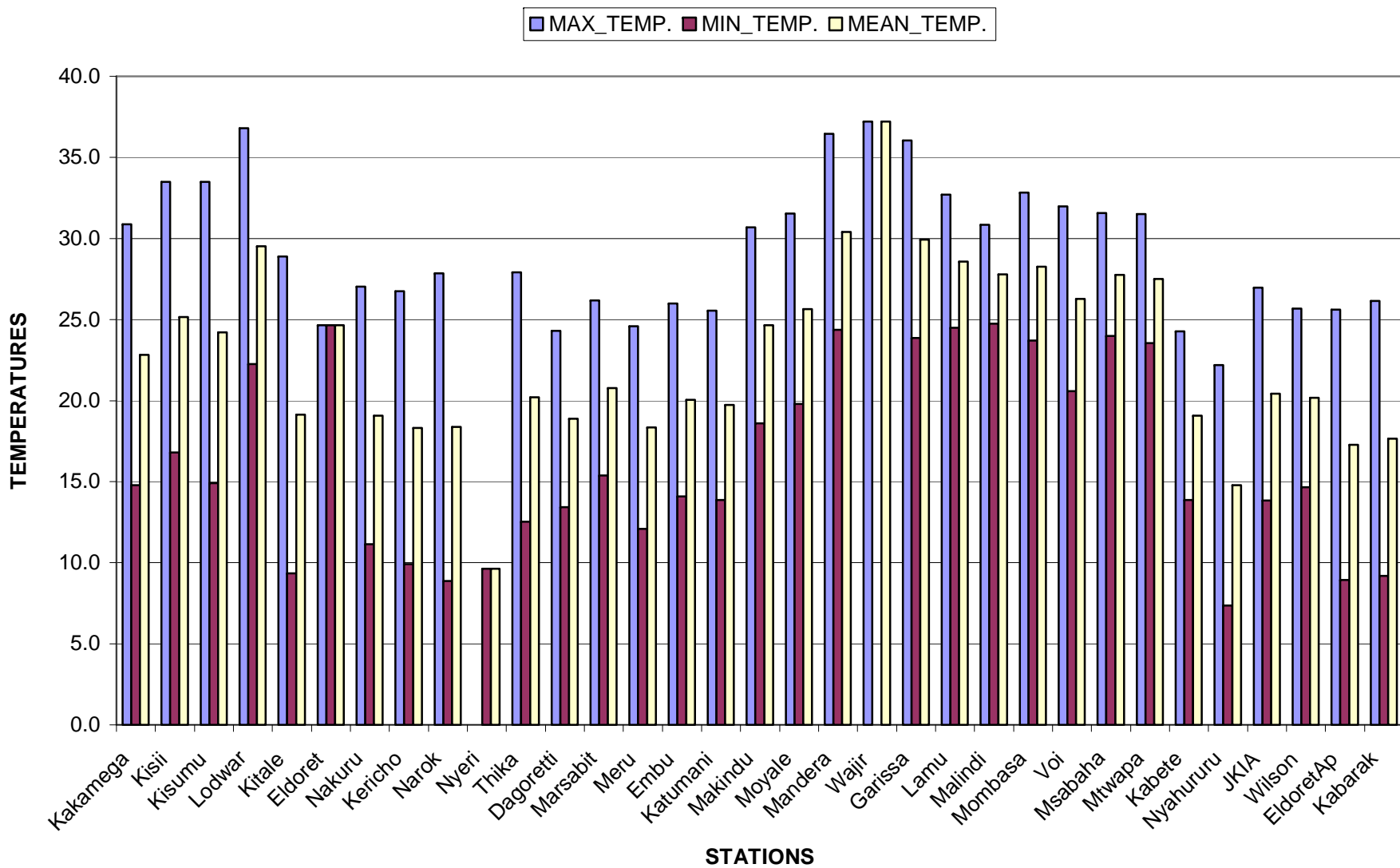


Fig 3: Mean Temperatures (11th to 20th January, 2009) deg. Celsius

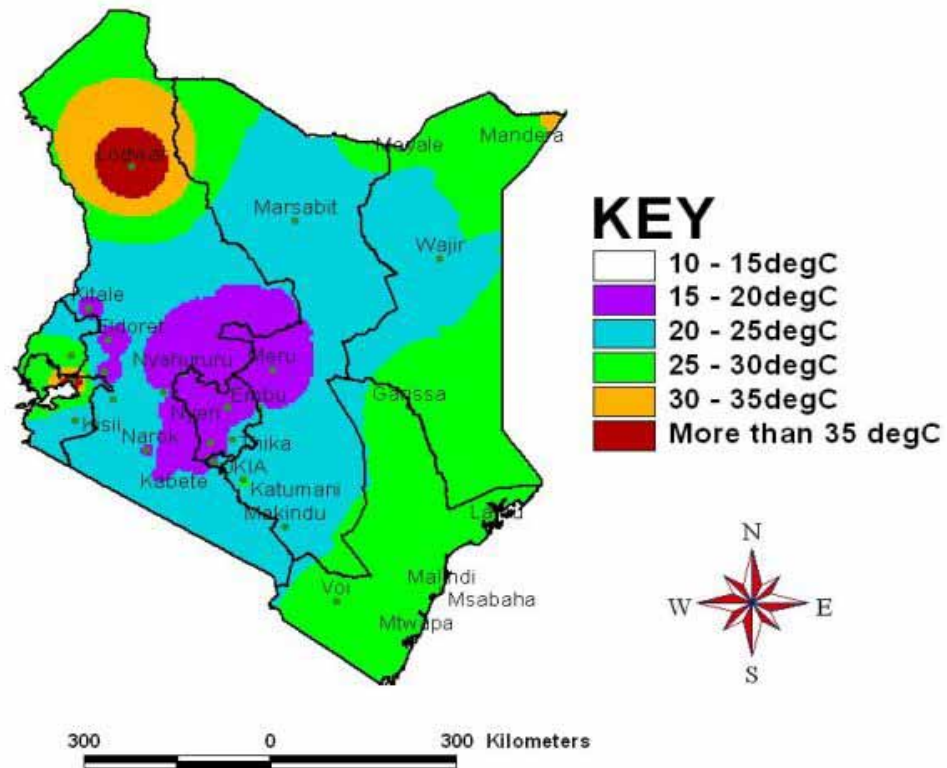


Fig 4: Mean Temperatures (11th to 20th January, 2009) deg. Celsius

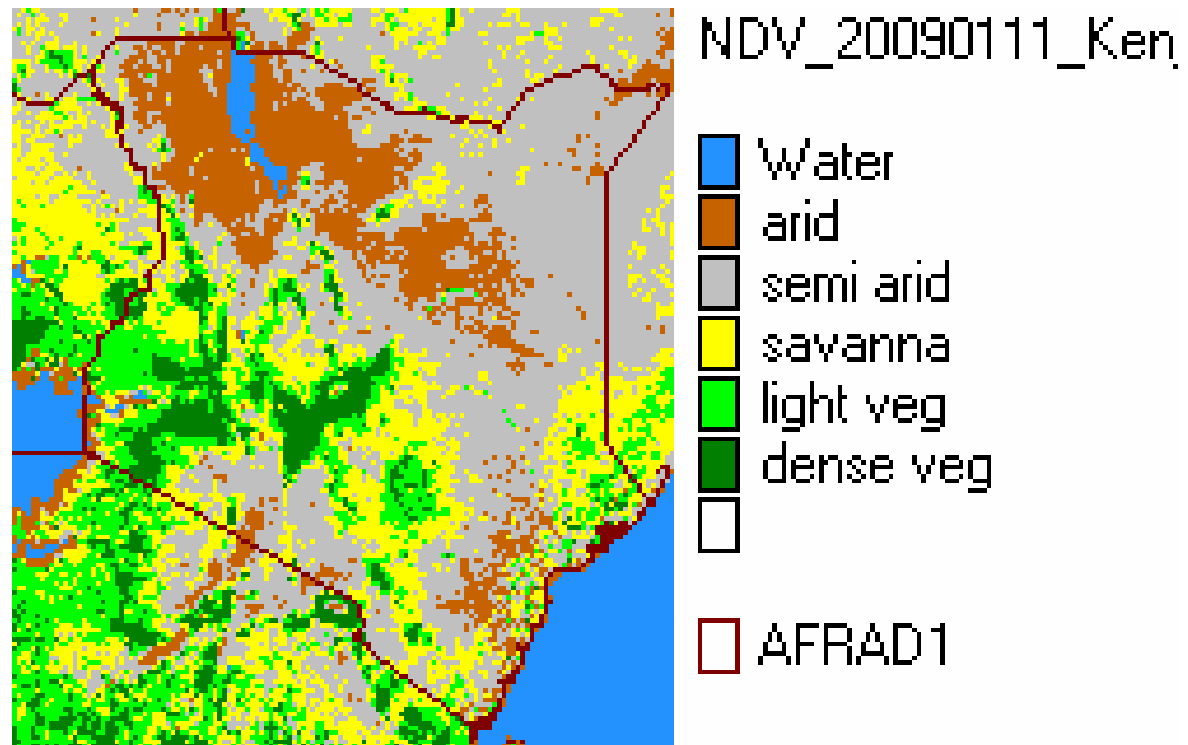


Fig. 5: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (11th to 20th January, 2009)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (21st –31st January, 2009).

During the next 10 days (21st - 31st January, 2009), Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience mainly sunny conditions in most places, with light rainfall over few places. Soils will have low soil moisture levels and therefore crops performances are expected to be below normal in terms of dry matter production.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to experience generally sunny and dry conditions in most places with light rains over a few places. Poor crop conditions are expected to continue over the high ground areas, whereas at the low lying areas seasonal crop failure is expected.

In Eastern Province regions of Embu and Meru districts, bordering Mt Kenya, are expected to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions in most places. Poor crop conditions are expected to continue over the high ground areas, whereas at the low lying areas seasonal crop failure is expected.

In South-Eastern lowlands, sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of this region. Food insecurity is expected to continue. The prolonged dry spells are expected to deplete pastures and water sources for human, livestock and wildlife use and may lead to death of livestock.

The Coastal region is expected to experience light rainfall but generally sunny conditions will prevail during the Dekad. Food insecurity is expected to continue. The prolonged dry spells are expected to deplete pastures and water sources for human, livestock and wildlife use and may lead to death of livestock.

In the pastoral regions of Northwestern, Northeastern and South Rift Valley districts sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail resulting in depressed pastures and inadequate water sources for human and animal/wildlife use. The pastoralists are advised to sell off some of their livestock to minimize losses through death.

In summary generally sunny conditions will prevail in most parts of the country as the “Short Rains” Season comes to an end. Poor crop performances are expected to continue.

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

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