



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

12th Dekad, 21st to 30th April, 2009

Issue No. 12/2009, Season: AMJ

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 12th Dekad i.e. 21st – 30th April 2009, most parts of the country experienced significant rainfall. Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over western and Nyanza Provinces and Central Rift Valley, with Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Kericho, Kitale, Eldoret, Nakuru, and Narok recording 105.1, 35.5, 63.0, 56.5, 38.8, 5.0, 31.9, and 5.3 mm respectively. Central Province, areas bordering Mt Kenya, Nairobi Area and its environs experienced moderate to heavy rainfall with the following records; Nyeri-79.1mm, Embu-61.3mm, Meru-96.2mm, JKIA-52.3mm, Dagoretti-25.5mm and Kabete-29.8mm. The Southeastern Lowlands of Eastern Province experienced moderate to heavy rainfall with Katumani and Makindu recording 90.1 and 23.2mm. The Coastal region experienced light rainfall with Mombasa, Mtwapa, Mshabaha, Malindi and Lamu recording, 27.0, 19.0, 6.1, 2.9 and 2.5mm respectively. Northeastern Province experienced light rainfall with Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Moyale recording Dekadal total of 15.9, 7.2, 11.7 and 20.2mm respectively. Northwestern region remained sunny and dry. (Fig 1)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively high over most parts of the country with Lodwar, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Makindu, Dagoretti and Mombasa recording a Dekadal Mean day Maximum of, 37.4, 34.9, 36.8, 36.8, 31.2, , 26.9 and 31.5 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig1, 2, 3)*
- *Night temperatures were relatively warm over western and Central Rift Valley due also to increase in cloud cover during the Dekad with Nyahururu, Narok, and Eldoret Airport recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 8.3, 13.1, and 10.5 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig1, 2&3).*

- *The pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern, South Eastern Lowlands and the Coastal regions, experienced light to moderate rainfall which was a relief to the previous acute water shortages for both human and animal use. Despite the rains pasture regeneration remained generally poor. (Figs. 1- 3)*
- *Incidences of human/wildlife conflict over food and water have been reported due the recent drought facing the country. (Figs. 1- 3)*
- *Famine and hunger was and is still being experienced in many parts of the Country. Malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly in Eastern, Central, Coast, Northeastern, Nyanza and Northern and Southern Rift Valley Provinces. (Figs. 1- 4).*
- *Some activities of concern such as chacoal burning as a source of income and use of wildroots and wild fruits as an alternative source of food are causing both health concern as some of these wild roots and fruits are poisonous. Charcol burning and roots removal poses further damage of change in biodiversity and land degradation.*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

(21st to 30th April 2009)

Central Province and Nairobi Area:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over most places in Central province, Nairobi area and its environs during the Dekad. Maize and beans are at emergence stages and are doing well. Famine/hunger is still being experienced in many parts of Muranga, Maragua, Thika, Nyeri- North, Kiambu and Kirinyaga Districts and famine relief efforts are still in place to improve the food situation. (Figs.1-4).

Eastern Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over most places bordering Mt. Kenya during the Dekad. Maize and beans are at emergence stages and are doing well. Famine/hunger is still being experienced in many parts of Moyale, Isiolo, Tharaka, and Mbeere Districts. (Figs.1-3).

In the Southern Lowlands of the Eastern Province (Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi and Kitui districts), Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over most places. Most crops planted earlier before the onset of the long rain season had withered, but the remains ones are stunted due to insufficient rainfall in the initial stages. Replanting

was taking place, but for the maize and beans crops planted late or re-planted are at emergence stages and are doing well.

Coast Province:

Light to moderate rainfall was experienced over few places during the Dekad. Maize and beans crops are at emergence stages and are doing well. (Figs.1-3)

North Eastern Province:

Sunny and dry conditions dominated the Dekad with light rains being reported over few places. There was a sigh of relief to water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Despite the the light rains pastures remained poor and death of livestock and wildlife has been reported in several areas of this region due to the recent severe drought. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4)

Famine/hunger is still being experienced in most places.

Western Province:

Moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over several places, during the Dekad over most places of this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Maize and beans are at emergence stages and are corresponding to normal growth. The only adverse effects reported on crops was insufficient rainfall in most places around Eldoret (Figs.1-3).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over several places, during the Dekad over several places in this regions. Maize and beans are at emergence stages and are doing well and corresponding to normal growth. However, too much rainfall is adversely affecting crops. Weeding and top dressing is taking place. In areas around Kisii maize and bean crops are at the emergence stage and weeding is taking place. (Figs 1-4)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Northerwestern Rift Valley experienced generally sunny and dry conditions with light rains over few places during the Dekad this has resulted in poor pastures regeneration and inadequate water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. This has led to death of livestock and wildlife. (Figs.1-4).

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high

Southern Rift Valley experienced light to moderate rainfall, which was a sigh of relief to water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Planting are complete in most places. Crops are at the emergence stages and are doing well and corresponding to normal growth.

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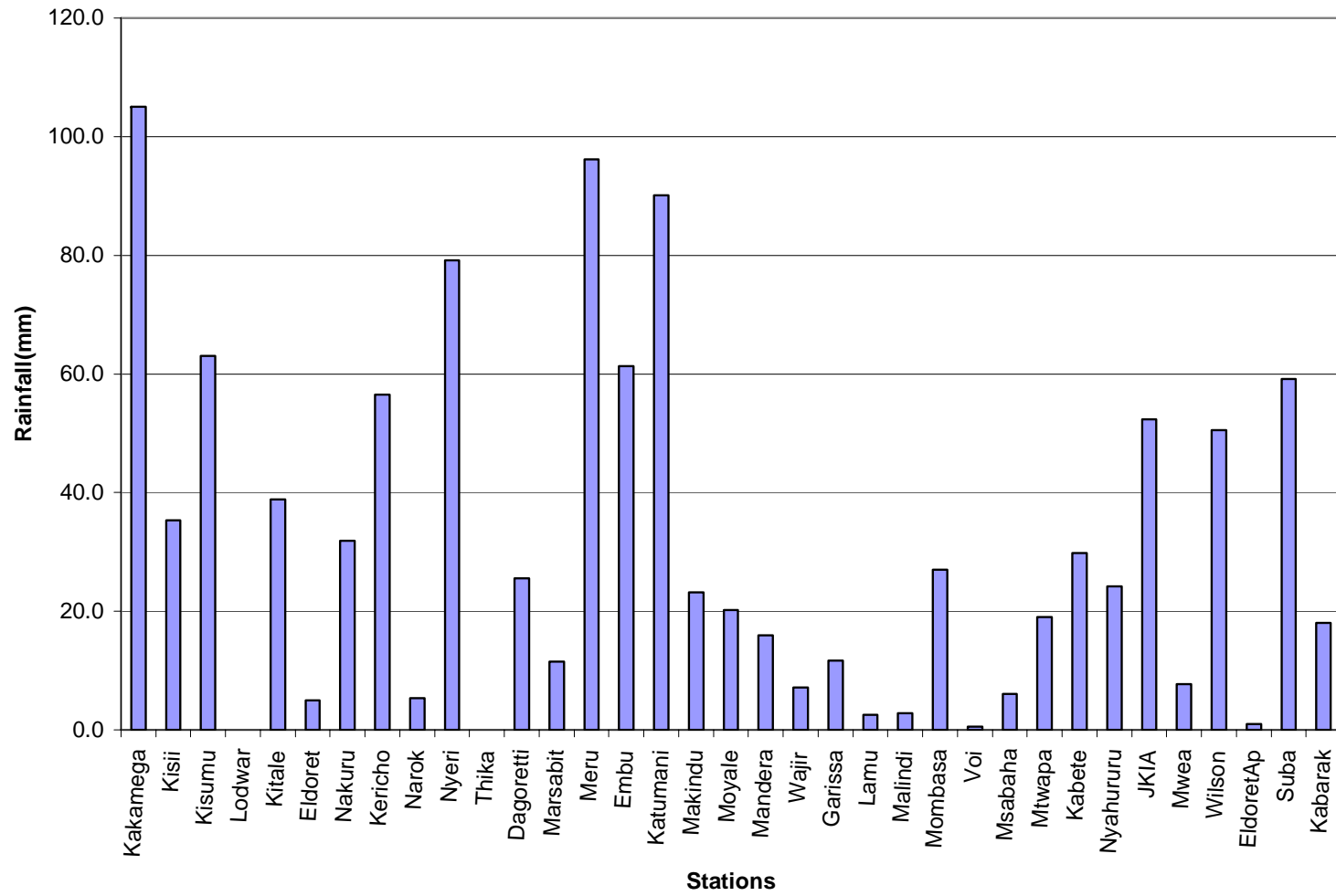


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (21st to 30th April, 2009) in mm

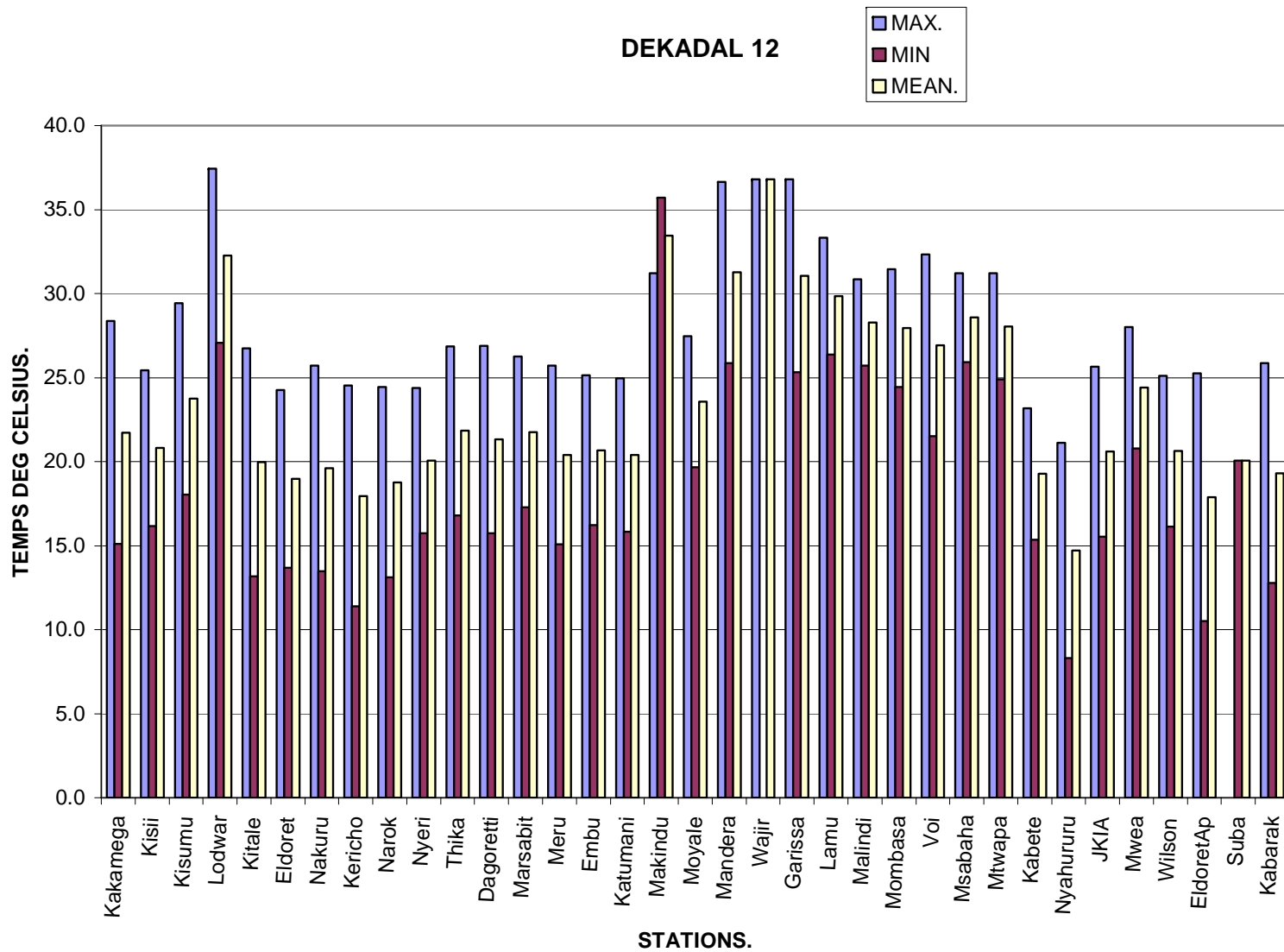


Fig 2: Mean Temperatures (21st to 30th April, 2009) deg. Celsius

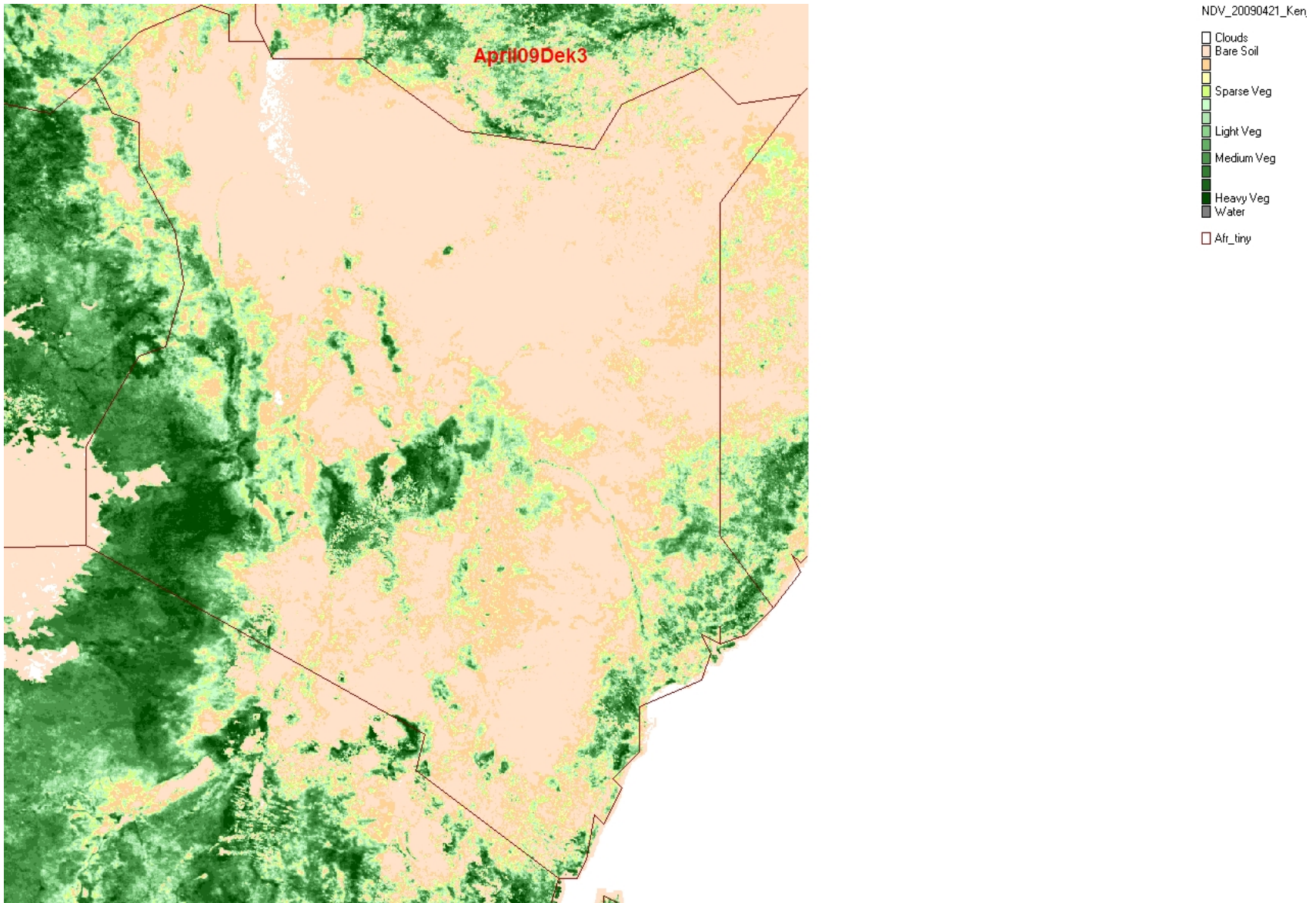


Fig. 3: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (21st to 30th April, 2009)

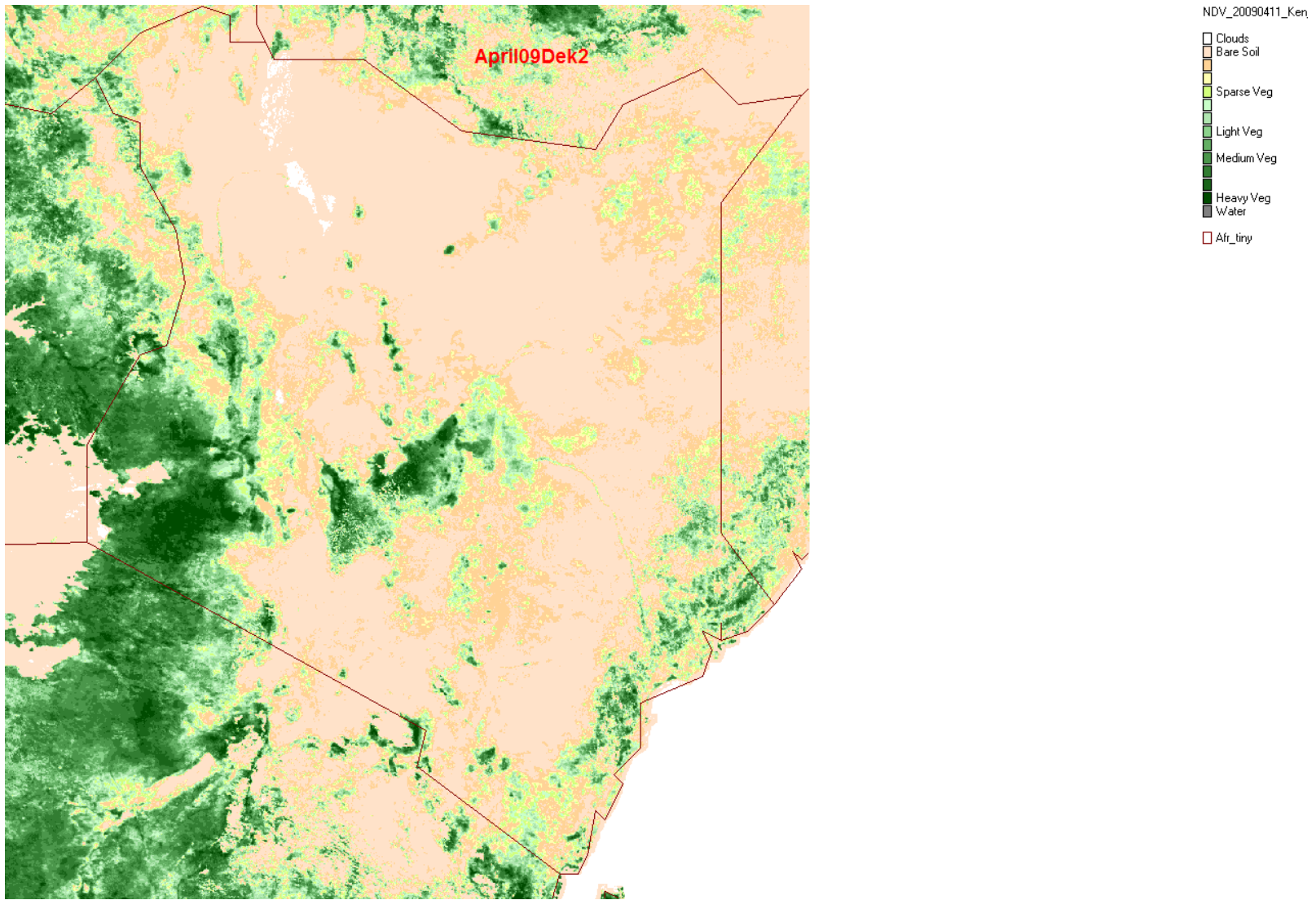


Fig. 4: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (11th to 20th April, 2009)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (1st –10th May 2009).

During the next 10 days (1st – 10th May) Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience moderate to heavy rainfall over several places and crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to experience moderate to heavy rainfall over several places and crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth.

In Eastern Province regions of Embu and Meru districts, bordering Mt Kenya, are expected to experience moderate to heavy rainfall in several places and crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth.

In South-Eastern lowlands, light to moderate rainfall are expected over several places of this region. Poor crop performance is are expected due to insufficient rainfall during initial stages.

The Coastal region is expected to experience light to moderate rainfall during the Dekad. Poor crop performance is are expected due to insufficient rainfall during initial stages.

In the pastoral regions and game parks/reserve of Northwestern, Northeastern, Northern Rift Valley districts sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail, with light rainfall expected over few places. Inadequate pastures and water sources for human and animal/wildlife use is expected to persist. Death of livestock and game is expected to continue. Southern Rift Valley is expected to experience light to moderate rainfall which will boost the water sources and improve pastures regeneration.

In summary, wet conditions are expected over several places of the country. Crops are expected to continue doing well and correspond to normal growth in most regions of the country. Despite the onset of the rainy season, drought impacts are expected to persist and famine relief efforts expected to continue.

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

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