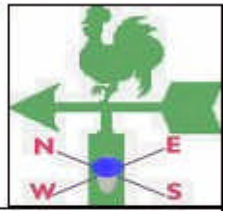




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



MONTHLY WEATHER BULLETIN

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AUGUST - HIGHLIGHTS

- Country-wide dry conditions dominated during the period as expected for the time of the year.

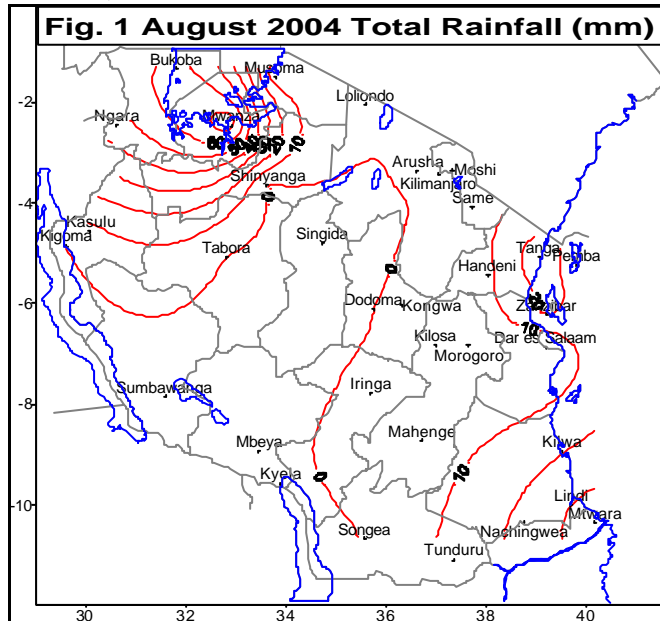
SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the month of August, the East African ridge was strong and maintained low level diffluent flow over the country. The Mascarene anticyclone and the St. Helena anticyclone were intense. The Azores anticyclone was weak.

WEATHER SUMMARY

RAINFALL

Dry conditions dominated during the month of August, a normal feature experienced during this time of the year. As shown in Fig.1 central, western and southwestern areas were

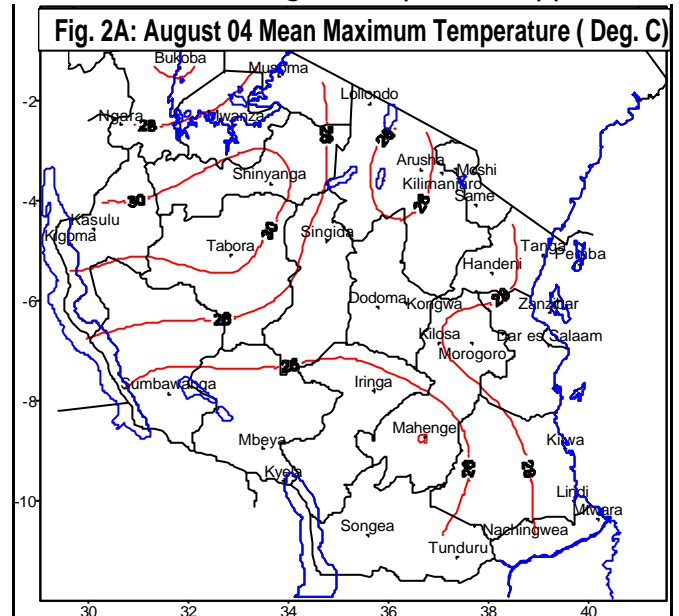


totally dry as depicted by the 0mm isohyet. On very few occasions stations recorded very

isolated showers over northern coastal strip and western Lake Victoria basin mostly because of the presence of large water bodies in their vicinity.

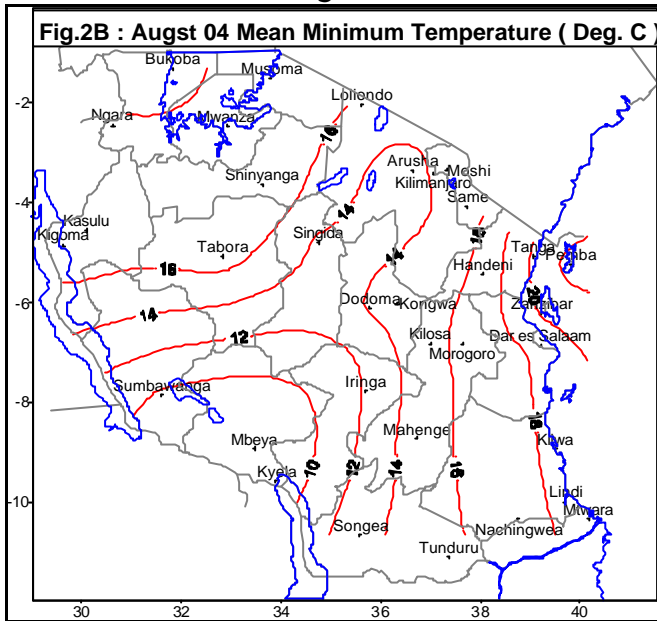
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Temperatures for the month of August depicting air mean maximum and minimum observations during the period appear in



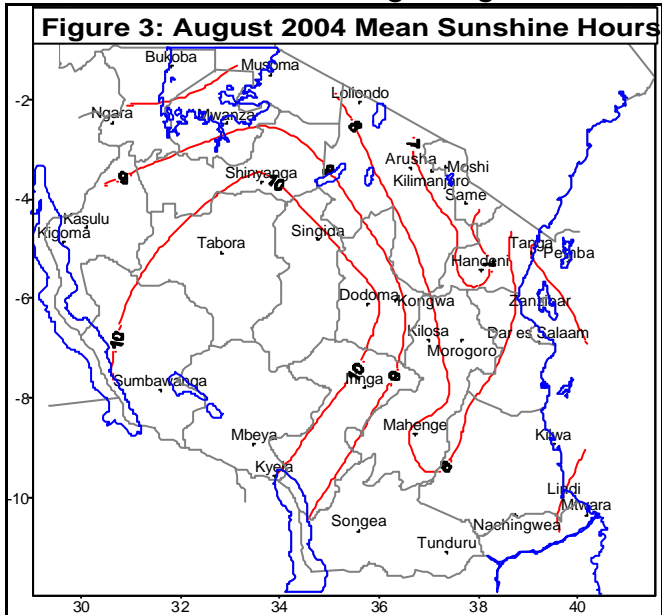
Figures 2A and 2B respectively. Mean maximum temperatures ranged between 30°C and 26°C, a rise of 2 degrees compared to the generally cooler situation observed during July. The extreme maximum temperature of 32.2°C was recorded inland during the third dekad at Shinyanga Met station. On the other hand, mean minimum air temperatures ranged from 7 to 22.6°C and the extreme minimum temperature of 5.4°C. was observed at Mbeya

Met Station during the first dekad.



SUNSHINE HOURS

Figure 3: below indicates the spread of mean sunshine hours during August across

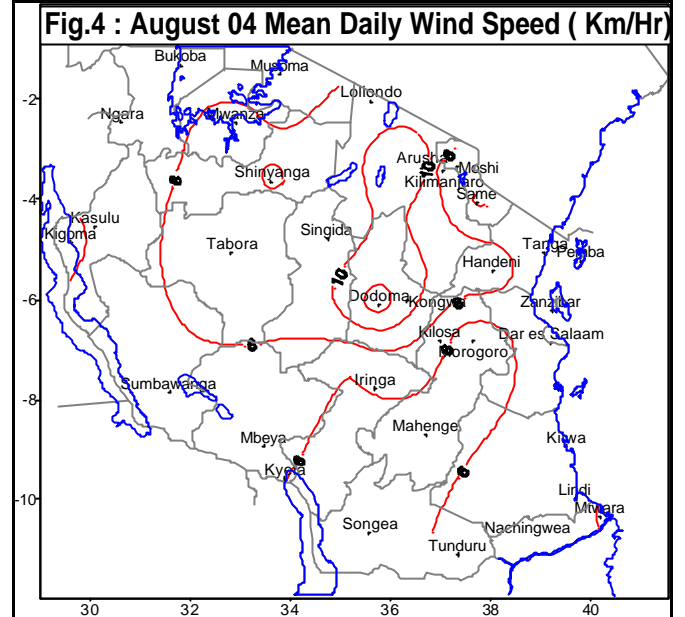


the country. As a result of the prevailing dry conditions, clear skies covered most of the country, accounting for longer durations of insolation. The duration of mean sunshine hours ranged from 7 to about 11 hours/day. Most of the country recorded longer direct sunshine hours with central and southwestern areas observing above 10 hours of bright sunshine. Lower durations were recorded over

northeastern areas but still longer durations than half-day length.

MEAN DAILY WINDSPEED

Mean wind run across the country during the month of August from observations at a height of about 1.5 meters ranged from 6km/hr

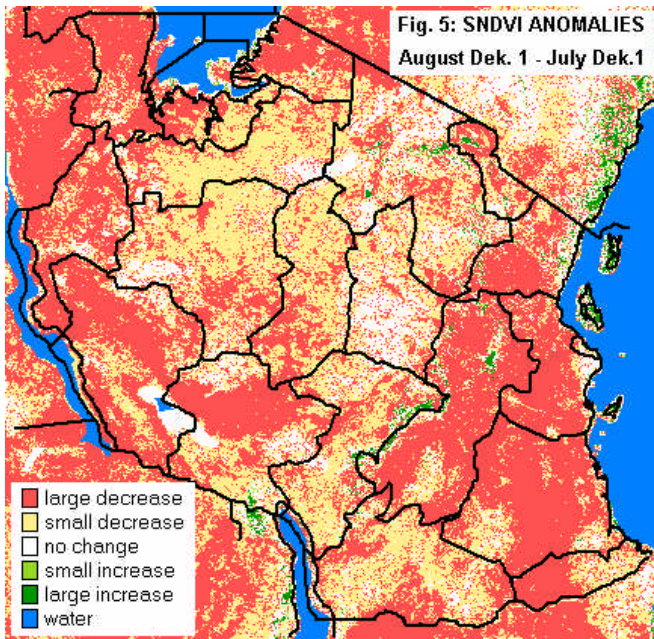


to a maximum of just above 12km/hr as shown in Figure 4. The core of maximum wind speed was oriented along the north - south axis over central and parts of northeastern areas of the country.

SATELLITE INFORMATION

Figure 5 depicts anomalies of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) from Spot satellite sensor indicating the change that occurred between the first dekad of July to that of the first dekad of August.

Large decreases in the greening index appear to cover most of the country as indicated by the spread of red and yellow coloring. The situation underscores the general trend during August because of the prevailing dry conditions most vegetation canopy were shedding their dried leaves thus exposing more bare ground.



HYDROMETEOROLOGY

Further decline in the water levels in rivers and water reservoirs has been recorded as the dry period continues. Nevertheless, electricity generation has been boosted by the use of natural gas reducing dependence on hydropower. Water for industrial and domestic purposes was increasingly difficult to get in many urban centers.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The windy and dry conditions across the country that prevailed during the month abetted prospects for diseases such as colds, coughs, pneumonia and asthma.

AGROMETEOROLOGY

Low soil moisture profile covering most of the country ties in with the dry season situation that dominated during the month of August. Reduced farm activities that had been mostly in the form of finalizing harvesting, during August created a relaxing environment to most farmers across the country. Overall the last growing season (2003/04) performance is gauged to exceed 2004/05 food requirements by 5 percent (*FEWS July Bulletin*). But localized pockets are in for a deficit situation especially over the northeastern areas where *masika* rainfall was not sufficient. Looking ahead, some farmers in a few areas in some parts of western Lake Victoria basin had by the end of August started preparation for the next growing season, which was to start in September.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS FOR SEPTEMBER

The St. Helena anticyclone and the Mascarene anticyclone will remain intense. The Azores anticyclone is expected to weaken. The meridional component of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (I.T.C.Z) will be active over the Lake Victoria basin.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER

The Lake Victoria basin will experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over a few areas and sunny periods. Northern coast and its hinterland, northeastern highlands and islands of Zanzibar and Pemba will have partly cloudy conditions with rains over a few areas and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands, western, central, southern coast and southern will have partly cloudy conditions with sunny periods.

Prepared by
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