



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

3rd Dekad, 21st to 31st January, 2009

Issue No. 2/2009, Season: JFM

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 3rd Dekad i.e. 21st – 31st January 2009, light to moderate rainfall were experienced over most parts of the country except, in the Southeastern Lowlands which experienced generally dry conditions. Western, Central and Northeastern Districts experienced moderately heavy rainfall during the Dekad. Dekadal rainfall totals for Kakamega, Kisumu, Kisii, Kericho, Moyale, Dagoretti, Embu and Msabaha, 146.1, 110.7, 88.5, 104.5, 62.5, 45.5, 76.9, and 11.6mm respectively. (Fig 1&2)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively low over most parts of the country due to improvement in cloud cover during Dekad, with Mandera, Wajir, Lodwar, Makindu and Mombasa recording a Dekadal Mean day Maximum of 36.9, 36.2, 36.4, 30.5 and 32.7 respectively . (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, Narok, and Eldoret Airport recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 8.7, 11.5, and 9.1 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 pastoral 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 conflict over food and water 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 especially in 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 successive 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 (21st to 31st January 2009)

Central Province and Nairobi Area:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced during the Dekad, 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 stunted and is at the maturity stages in very few places especially over the high ground areas, 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:

Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced during the Dekad, but these could not reverse the current crop conditions over most areas bordering Mt. Kenya. The maize crop is stunted and is at the maturity stages in very few places especially over the high ground areas of Embu, and Meru Districts. 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) dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad continuous dry conditions has resulted 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 as a source of income, hunting 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:

Moderately heavy rainfall was experienced during the Dekad over this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Land preparation for the Long Rain Season is underway. (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 and pastoralists are being advised to sell off some of their livestock to avoid total loss. (Figs.1-6).

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Famine relief efforts should be under way to avert lose of human lives.

In the Southern Rift Valley, light rains were received in this region but, generally sunny and dry conditions were predominant 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 off some of their livestock to avoid total loss.

DEKADAL RAINFALL

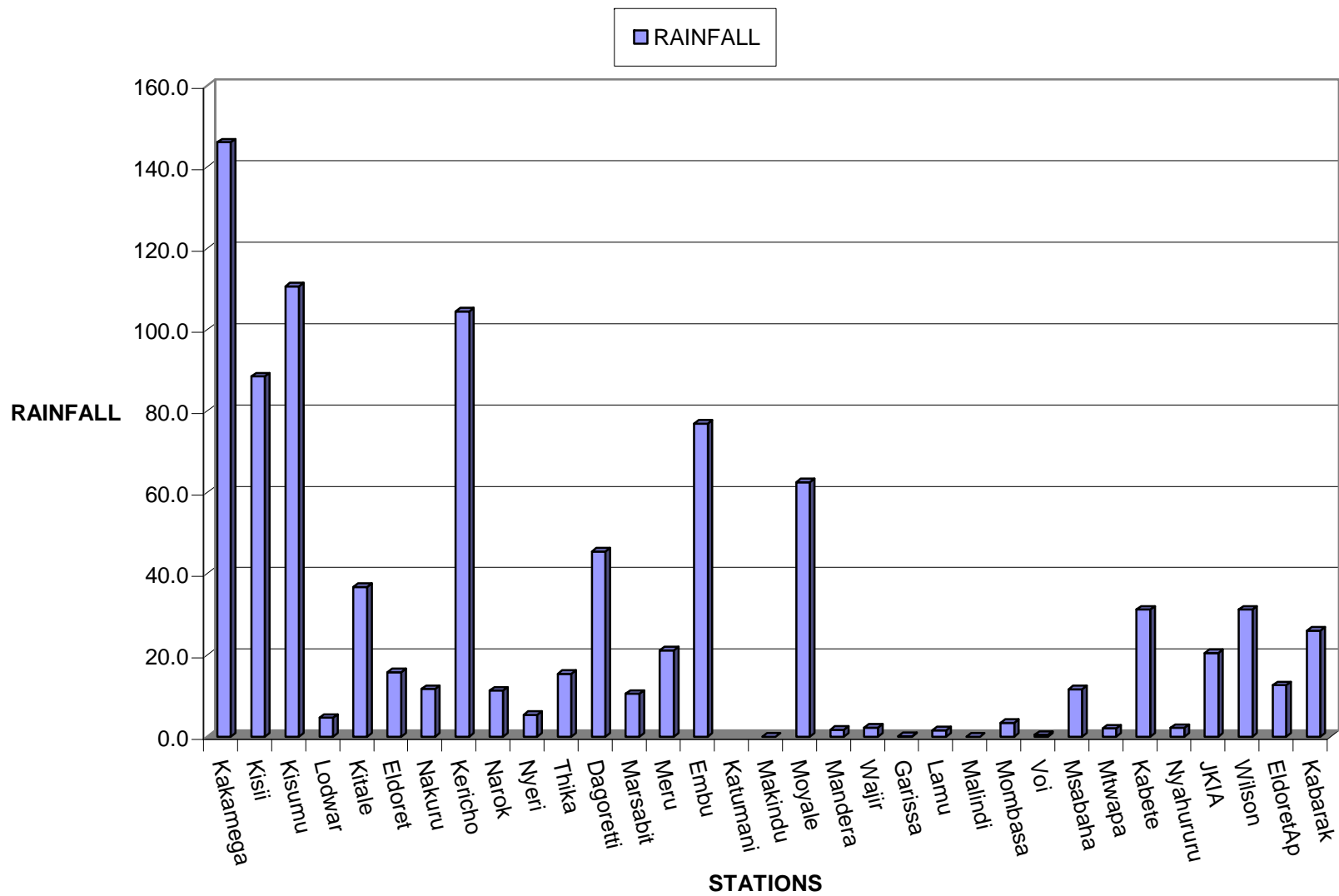


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (21st to 31st January, 2009) in mm

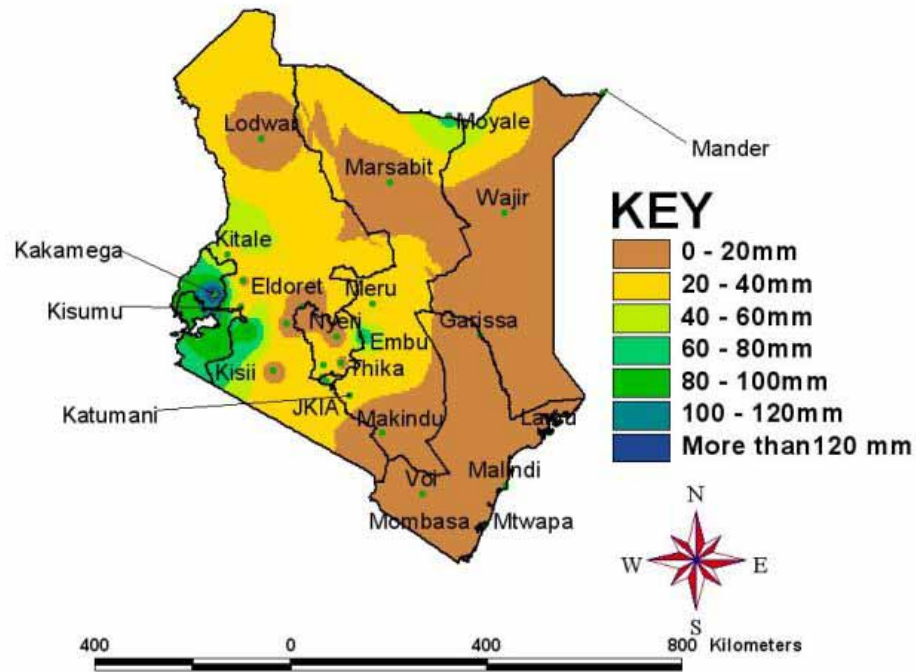


Fig. 2: Actual Rainfall (21st to 31st January, 2009) in mm

DEKADAL TEMPERATURES

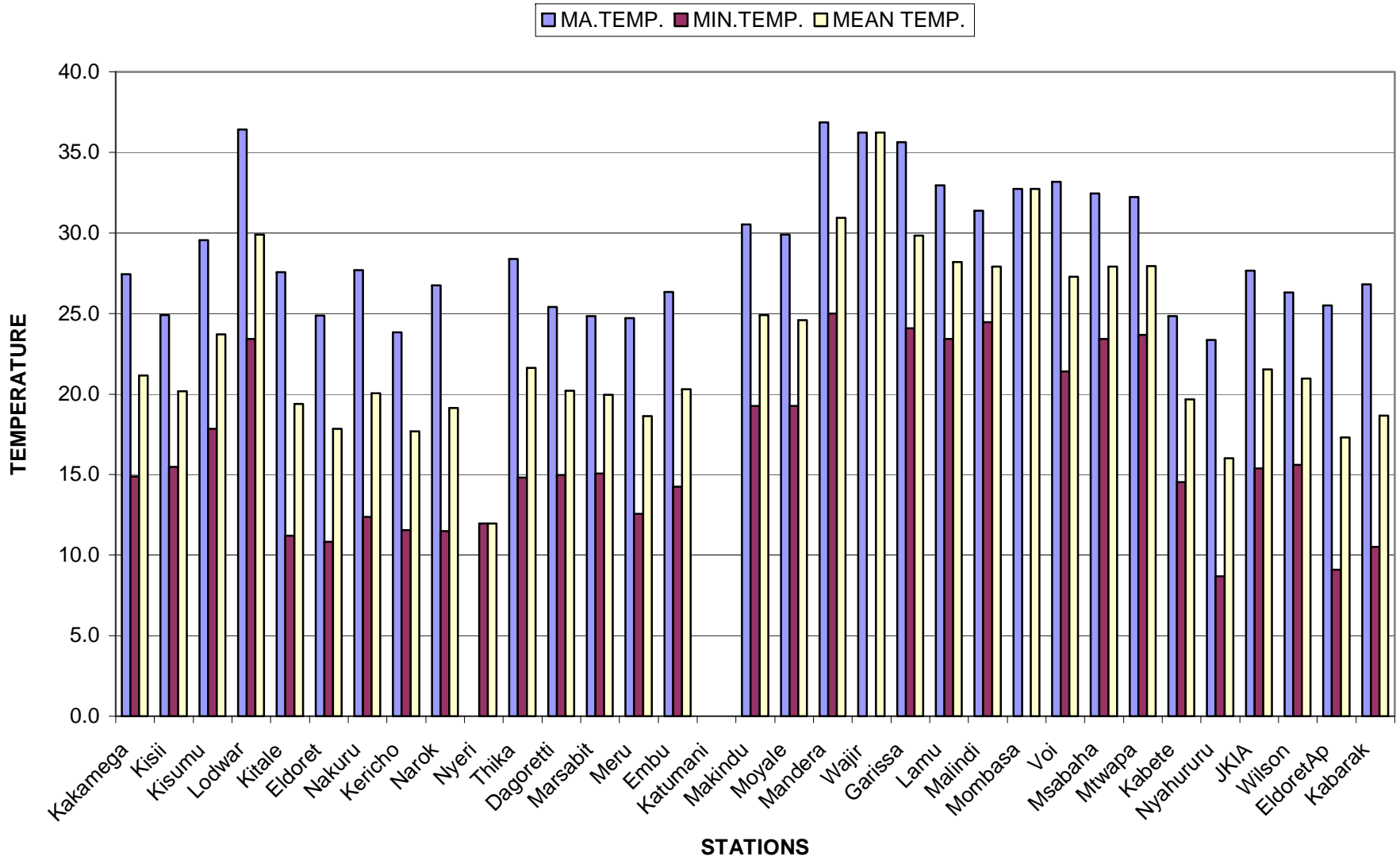


Fig 3: Mean Temperatures (21st to 31st January, 2009) deg. Celsius

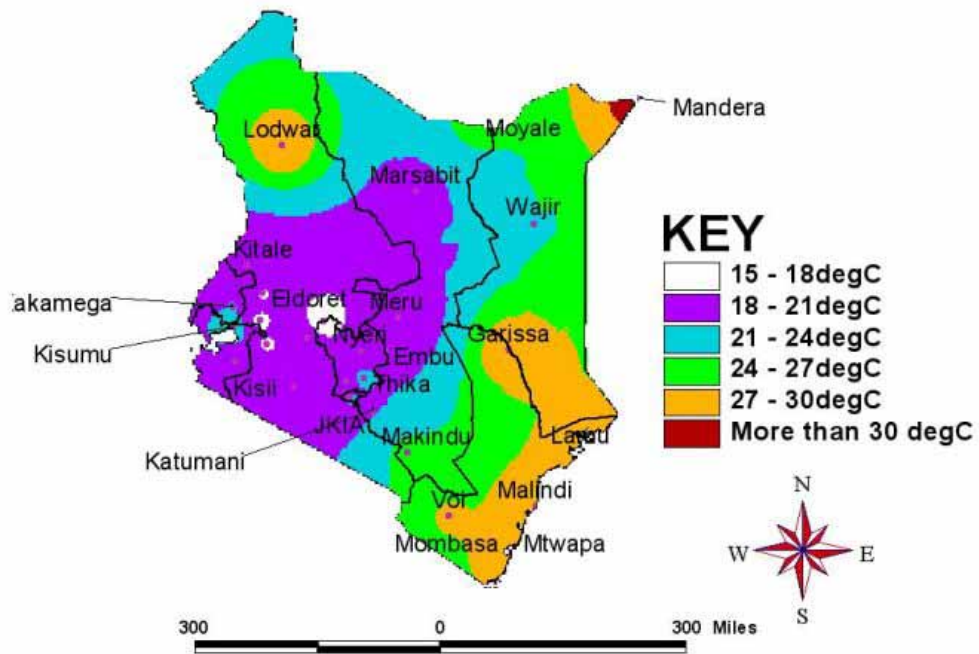


Fig 4: Mean Temperatures (21st to 31st January, 2009) deg. Celsius

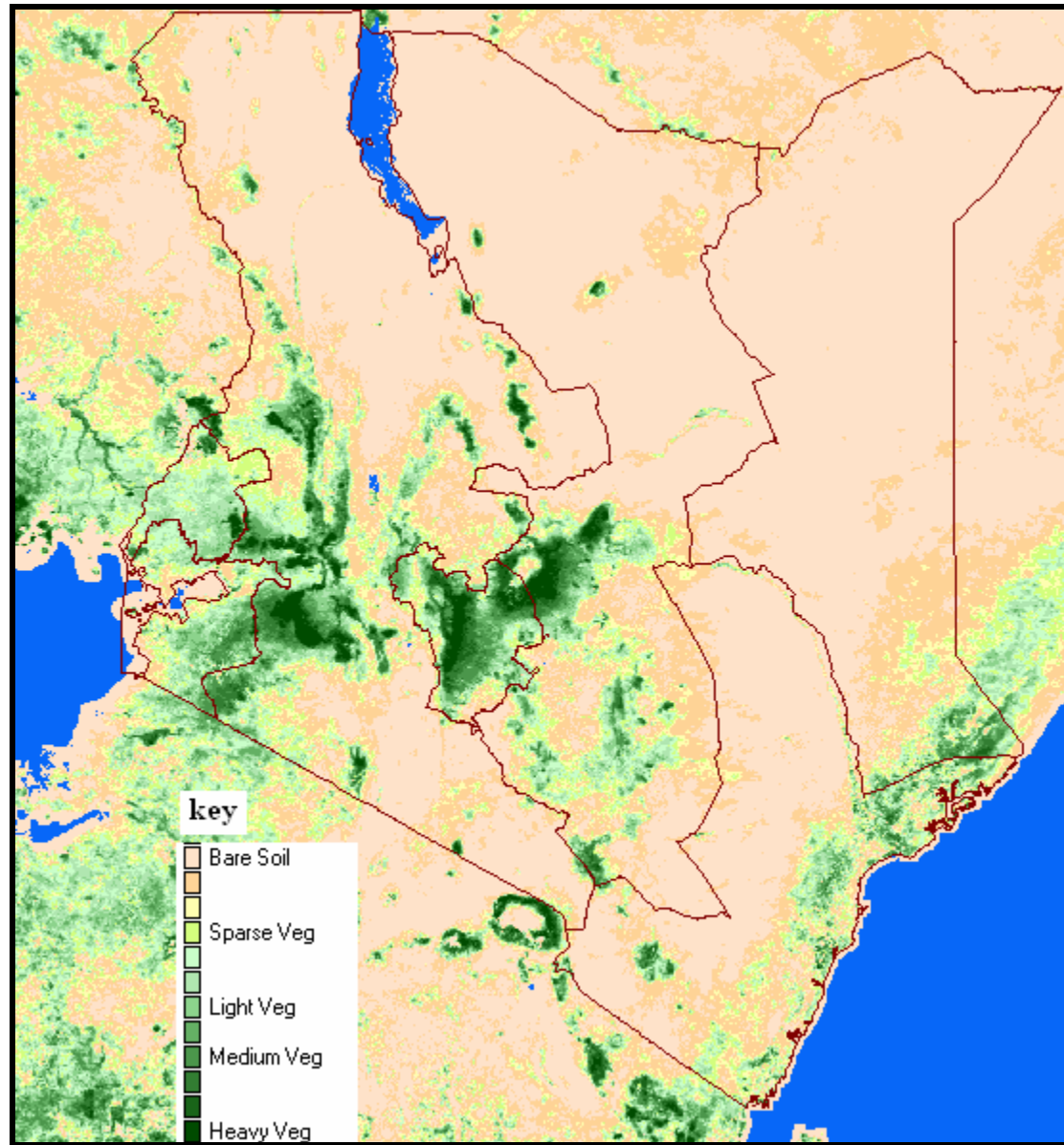


Fig. 5: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (21st to 31st January, 2009)

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

During the next 10 days (1st - 10th February, 2009), Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall over few places. Land preparations in readiness for the Long Rains Season are expected to commence.

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, and seasonal crop failure at the low lying areas.

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, and seasonal crop failure at the low lying areas.

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 and poor crop performances are expected to continue in the Central districts.

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

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