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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTRY  
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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**WEATHER REVIEW DURING JUNE AND THE FORECAST FOR JULY 2018**

**1. HIGHLIGHTS**

**WEATHER REVIEW FOR JUNE 2018**

*The analysis of rainfall performance for June 2018 indicates that several parts of the country remained generally dry during the month. Several meteorological stations in Western and parts of Central Kenya and the Coastal strip, however, recorded substantial amounts of rainfall that was well enhanced at Eldoret.*

*Occasional cool and cloudy conditions were recorded over the central parts of the country during the month. The daytime temperatures were cooler than average with maximum temperatures occasionally dropping below 20°C.*

**THE FORECAST FOR JULY 2018**

*The outlook for July 2018 indicates that the better part of the country will continue to experience generally dry conditions. However, the western parts of Kenya (Kericho, Kisumu, Kakamega, Kisii, Kitale, Eldoret) and parts of Central Rift Valley (Nakuru, Nyahururu) are likely to receive near-average rainfall with a tendency to above average. It is worth to note that places like Eldoret in the western highlands observe their highest rainfall peak during this month of July.*

*The entire Coastal strip (Mombasa, Mtwapa, Kilifi, Malindi, Msabaha, Lamu) is also expected to experience near-average rainfall. Some areas in the region are, however, likely to remain generally dry for most of the month.*

*Cool/cold and cloudy/foggy conditions with occasional light rains/drizzles are expected to dominate over the central highlands (Meru, Nyeri, Embu, Murang'a, Kiambu) of the country and Nairobi area. Daytime temperatures are expected to be warmer than average during the month.*

**2. REVIEW OF THE WEATHER DURING JUNE 2018**

**2.a Rainfall Analysis**

The analysis of rainfall performance for June 2018 indicates that several parts of the country remained generally dry during the month. This was more so over northwestern, northeastern and southeastern Kenya where various stations recorded monthly rainfall totals of less than 5mm. Stations like Wajir, Mandera, Makindu and Voi recorded no rainfall at all throughout the month. Several meteorological stations in western Kenya, however, recorded above-average rainfall. Nakuru and Eldoret stations, for example, recorded more than twice the amount normally recorded at the stations while Kitale and Kakamega stations recorded more than 150 percent of their Long-Term Means (LTMs). Elsewhere, below-average rainfall was recorded at most stations along the Coastal strip of Kenya. Near-average rainfall was, however, received at Lamu and Mombasa stations.

Kakamega station in western Kenya recorded the highest monthly total of 254.4mm (151% of its LTM). Eldoret (Kapsoya), Nakuru, Eldoret Airport, Kericho, Kitale, Lamu, Nyahururu, Kisii and Msabaha stations recorded 245.0mm (215%), 197.5mm (251%), 184.9mm (142%), 182.7mm (107%), 179.8mm (171%), 145.4mm (93%), 118.3mm (112%), 118.0mm (66%) and 116.9mm (76%) respectively. Mtwapa, Mombasa, Msabaha, Laikipia Airbase, Embu, Nyeri, Malindi and Kisumu stations recorded between 50 and 100mm while the rest of the stations recorded less than 50mm as seen in **figures 1a and 1b**.

## **2b. Temperature Analysis**

The central parts of the country experienced occasional cool and cloudy conditions during the month. Daytime temperatures were cooler than average at most stations. Nyahururu station, for example, recorded a maximum temperature of 15.6°C on 6<sup>th</sup> June while Ngong station recorded a maximum temperature of 14.2°C on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Further analysis of the June temperatures indicates that the minimum (night-time) temperatures were warmer than average over most parts of the country. The lowest minimum (night-time) temperature of 3.4°C was recorded at Nyahururu on 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

## **3. PREVAILING SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS**

During the month of June, neutral Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) prevailed over much of the Indian Ocean and more so the Western side. Warmer than average SSTs were observed over the eastern parts of the equatorial Atlantic Ocean. Warmer than average SSTs were also observed over the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean (the Niño areas) while cooler than average SSTs were observed to the East of the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The Mascarene region was characterized by moderate to weak pressures which led to depressed rainfall over the Coast. Pressures over the Arabian region were also generally weak for most of the month. The Zonal (east-west) arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over the North in Ethiopia for most of the period. The Meridional (North-South) arm of the ITCZ was mainly over Congo and Uganda occasionally shifting to the western parts of Kenya.

The Mascarene high-pressure system and the Eastern Africa high-pressure ridge were moderate for most of the month. This led to the cooler than average temperatures over some parts of the country.

## **4. OUTLOOK FOR JULY 2018**

During the month of July, rainfall is mainly concentrated over the Western and the Coastal regions of the country. The rainfall forecast for July 2018 is based on regression of Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) and SST gradients on rainfall over selected stations in Western Kenya and the Coastal strip while climatology was applied elsewhere. The forecast indicates that most parts of the country will still remain generally dry during the month. However, near-average rainfall with a tendency to above-average (slightly enhanced rainfall) is expected over the western and some parts of North Western Kenya (areas bordering Sudan and Uganda). The entire Coastal strip is expected to receive near-average to below-average rainfall as seen in **figure 2**. The specific outlook for individual areas is as follows:

**The Highlands West of the Rift Valley (Kitale, Kericho, Nandi, Eldoret, Kakamega), Lake Basin (Kisumu, Kisii, Busia), parts of Central Rift Valley (Nakuru, Nyahururu, Aberdares region) and parts of Northwestern Kenya (Lokichoggio, Lokitaung)** are likely to receive near normal rainfall with a tendency to above normal (slightly enhanced rainfall).

**The Coastal strip (Mombasa, Mtwapa, Kilifi, Lamu, Malindi, Msabaha)** is expected to receive near-average to below-average rainfall. Some areas are likely to remain generally dry for most of the month.

**The Highlands East of the Rift Valley (Nyeri, Muranga, Kiambu, Embu, Meru) and Nairobi area (Dagoretti, Wilson, Eastleigh)** will experience cool/cold and cloudy/foggy conditions with occasional light rains / drizzles. A few days may turn out to be extremely cold and chilly with maximum (daytime) temperatures falling below 18°C and minimum (night-time) temperatures falling below 10°C. However, the temperatures are likely to be slightly warmer than average during the month.

**Northeastern Kenya (Marsabit, Garbatulla, Wajir, Mandera, Moyale), Southeastern Kenya (Machakos, Makindu, Voi) and parts of central and south Rift Valley (Narok, Magadi, Kajiado)** are likely to remain generally sunny and dry throughout the month. The southeastern areas as well as the central and southern Rift Valley regions that border the central highlands may occasionally experience cool and cloudy conditions.

#### **4. POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- The slightly enhanced rainfall expected in western Kenya will be beneficial in terms of crop performance, particularly in the north Rift Valley. The light rains expected over the central regions will also be beneficial to farmers whose crops are yet to mature after the cessation of the March-May 2018 “long-rains” season.
- Poor visibility may result from the expected foggy conditions in the central highlands, especially along Limuru-Naivasha Road. Drivers in such regions are advised to exercise extra care to avoid accidents.
- The foggy conditions may also impact on air transport at Jomo Kenyatta Airport, especially during landing and taking off.
- Cases of respiratory diseases like asthma, pneumonia and common colds may be on the increase due to the expected chilly weather conditions. People are therefore advised to wear the appropriate clothing to combat such diseases. People are also advised not to use charcoal “Jikos” in houses without good ventilation in order to avoid inhaling dangerous Carbon monoxide.

**NB: This forecast should be used in conjunction with regular updates issued by this Department.**

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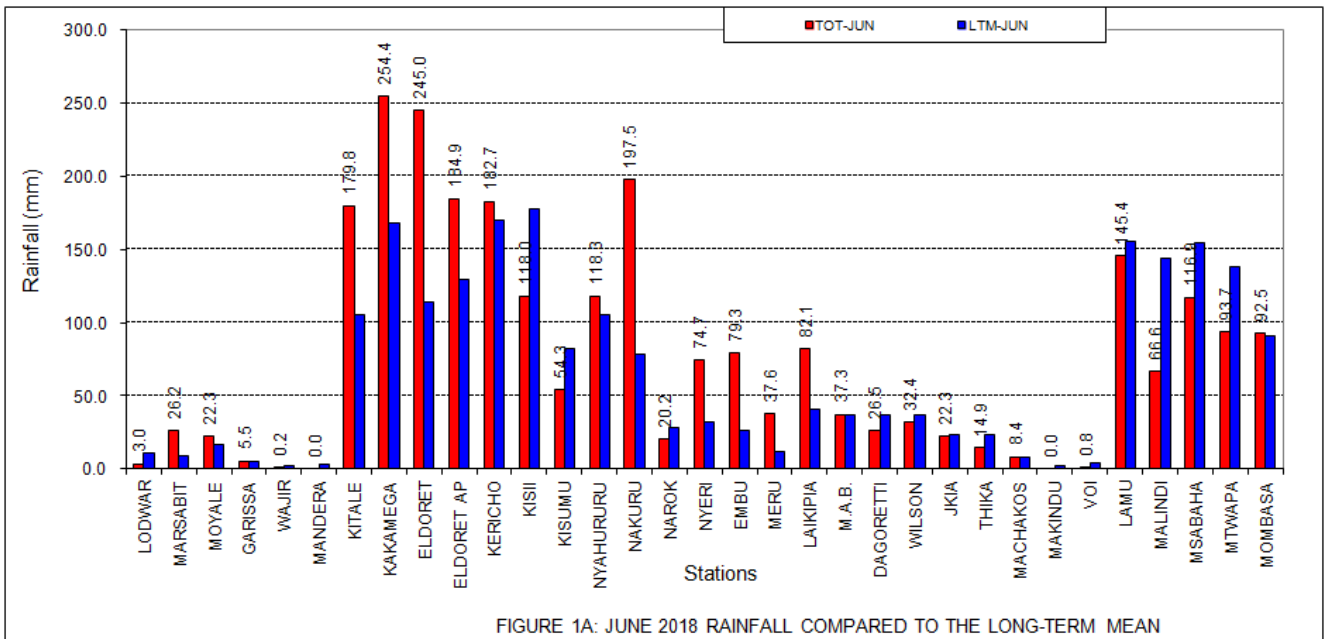


FIGURE 1A: JUNE 2018 RAINFALL COMPARED TO THE LONG-TERM MEAN

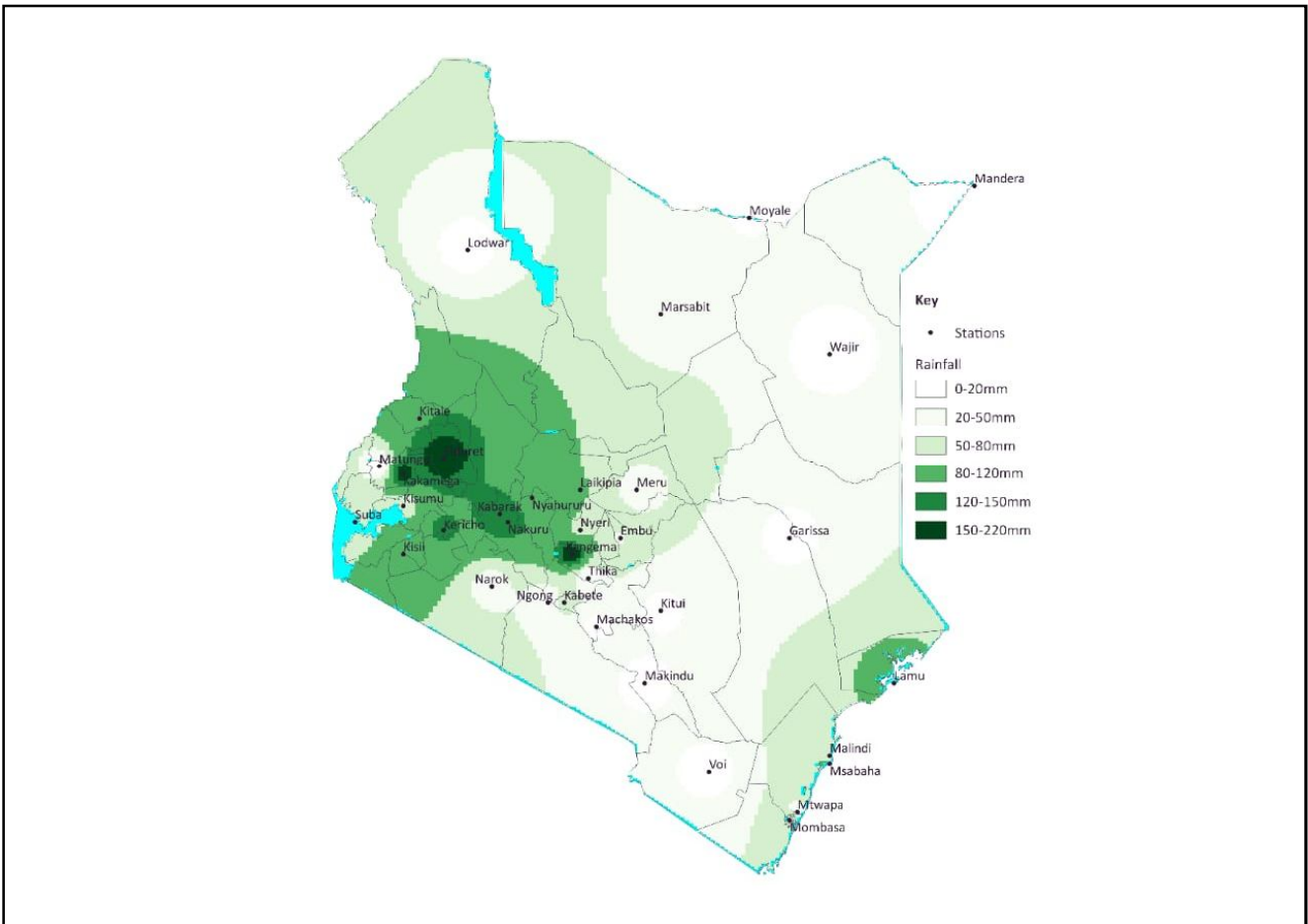
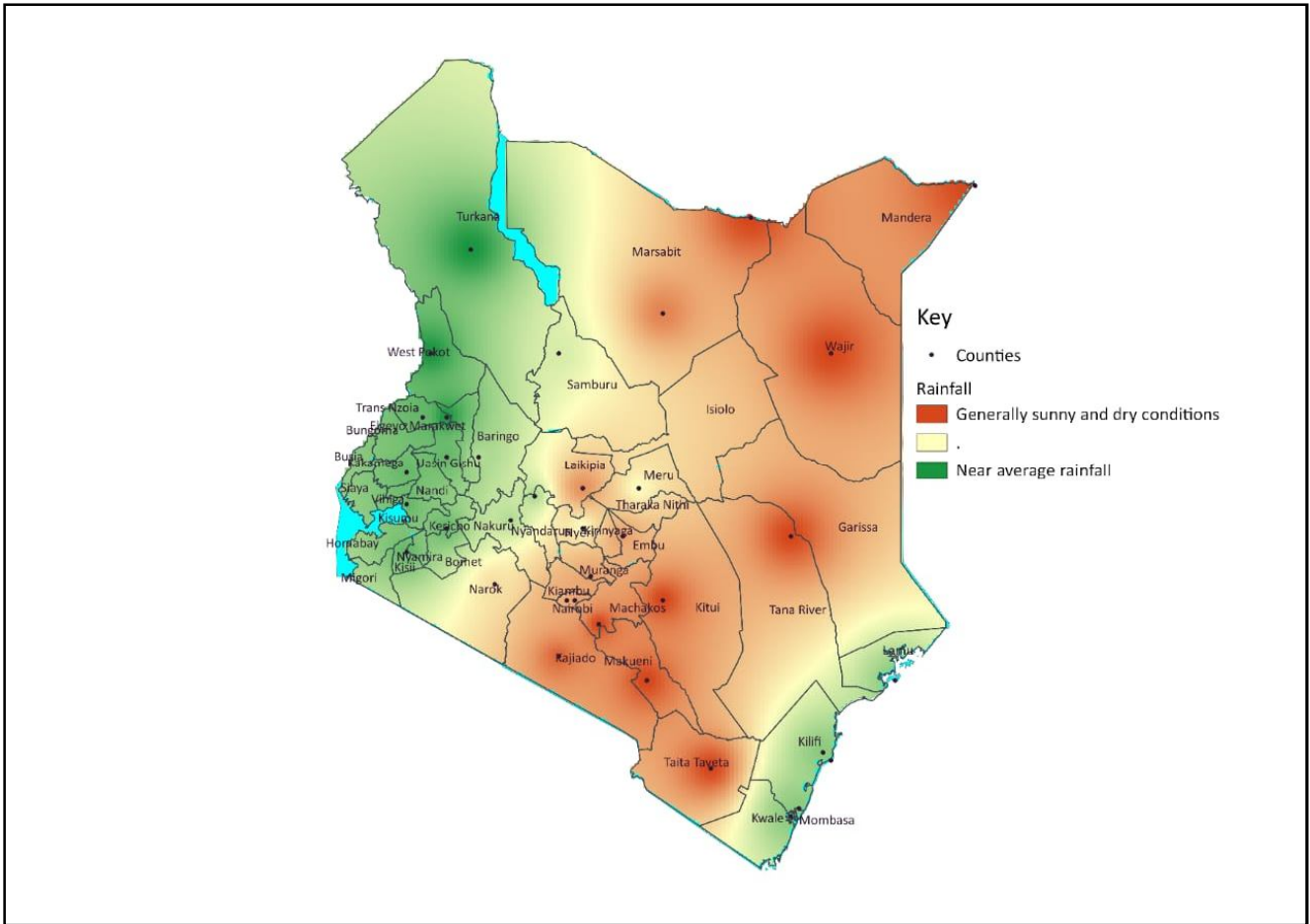


FIGURE 1B: SPATIAL RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN JUNE 2018



**FIGURE 2: WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR JULY 2018**