



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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[WEATHER REVIEW FOR JANUARY 2018 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2018](#)

1. SUMMARY

Most parts of the country experienced sunny and dry weather conditions for most of January 2018. Several areas in western and central highlands including Nairobi, however, received some significant amounts of rainfall especially at the end of the month.

February is normally a dry month over most parts of the country (see **figure 2**). The forecast for February 2018 indicates that the better part of the country will still be generally sunny and dry throughout the month. A few areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, highlands west of the Rift Valley and Central Rift Valley are likely to experience rainfall that will occasionally spread to the central highlands including Nairobi.

2. WEATHER REVIEW FOR JANUARY 2018

2.1 RAINFALL REVIEW

Sunny, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed over most parts of the country in January 2018. However, some areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, highlands west of the Rift Valley, Central Rift Valley and central highlands including Nairobi received some significant amounts of rainfall towards the end of the month. A few stations recorded heavy rainfall (20mm to 50mm in 24hrs) especially towards the end of the month.

By the end of the month Narok Meteorological Station recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 137.1mm compared to its January Long-Term Mean (LTM) rainfall of 37.3mm. The amount received in January was therefore 367.8% of its LTM. This was largely attributed to the ITCZ being south of the country. Other stations that had January 2018 rainfall in excess of 60mm were; Eldoret (72.6mm), Kericho (67.3mm), Kakamega (61.7mm), Kisii (61.6mm) and Kisumu (57.1mm). The rest of the stations recorded rainfall that was less than 50mm. **Figure 1** below highlights the comparison of the monthly totals to the LTMS.

2.2 REVIEW OF THE SYNOPTIC PATTERNS IN JANUARY 2018

The rain bearing Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) lingered southwards and eventually migrated to Tanzania leaving most parts of Kenya under sunny and dry weather conditions as reminiscent at this time of the year.

3. EXPERIENCED IMPACTS

- Water stress persisted across the majority of pastoral areas especial the northern parts of the country leading to diminished pasture for livestock
- Crops in marginal agricultural areas of central and eastern parts like Meru, Embu, Taita Taveta, and Makueni continued to experience moisture stress that affected their development
- Water levels in the dams within the central parts of the country remained low for most of the period

4. CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2018

February is normally a dry month over most parts of the country. The outlook for February 2018 is based on the expected evolution of global Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) patterns and average performance of rainfall during previous years when the December-January SSTs behavior was similar to the current trend.

The outlook for February 2018 (**Figure 2**) indicates that most parts of the country are likely to remain generally sunny and dry. A few areas within the Lake Victoria Basin, Central Rift Valley and Western highlands are, however, expected to experience some rainfall during the month. The rainfall will occasionally spread to the central region including Nairobi. The specific outlooks for individual areas are as follows:

The Lake Basin (Kisii, Kisumu, Busia), parts of Highlands west of the Rift Valley (Kericho, Kakamega) and South Rift Valley (Narok) are expected to be sunny and dry for much of the month but will occasionally receive some rainfall.

The Central Highlands including Nairobi (Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Nyahururu, Murang'a, Dagoretti, Wilson, JKIA) are expected to be mainly sunny and dry for most of the month. However, occasional light to moderate rainfall emanating from the western region is expected to occur over some areas.

The North-western (Lodwar, Lokichoggio), North-eastern Kenya (Moyale, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa), South-eastern (Makindu, Voi, Machakos) and the Coastal Strip (Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Tana River) are expected to be mainly sunny and dry throughout the month.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- The dry conditions are conducive for wild fires especially in areas with dry vegetation and strong winds;
- Formation of dust devils will be common in various parts of the country where the temperatures are quite high;
- Reduced visibility may occur in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands due to dusty conditions
- Proper time for Land preparation in readiness for planting for the "Long Rains" season in the agricultural areas

N.B: This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily 24-hour and the weekly forecasts issued by this Department.

MR. PETER G. AMBENJE
DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA WITH
WMO

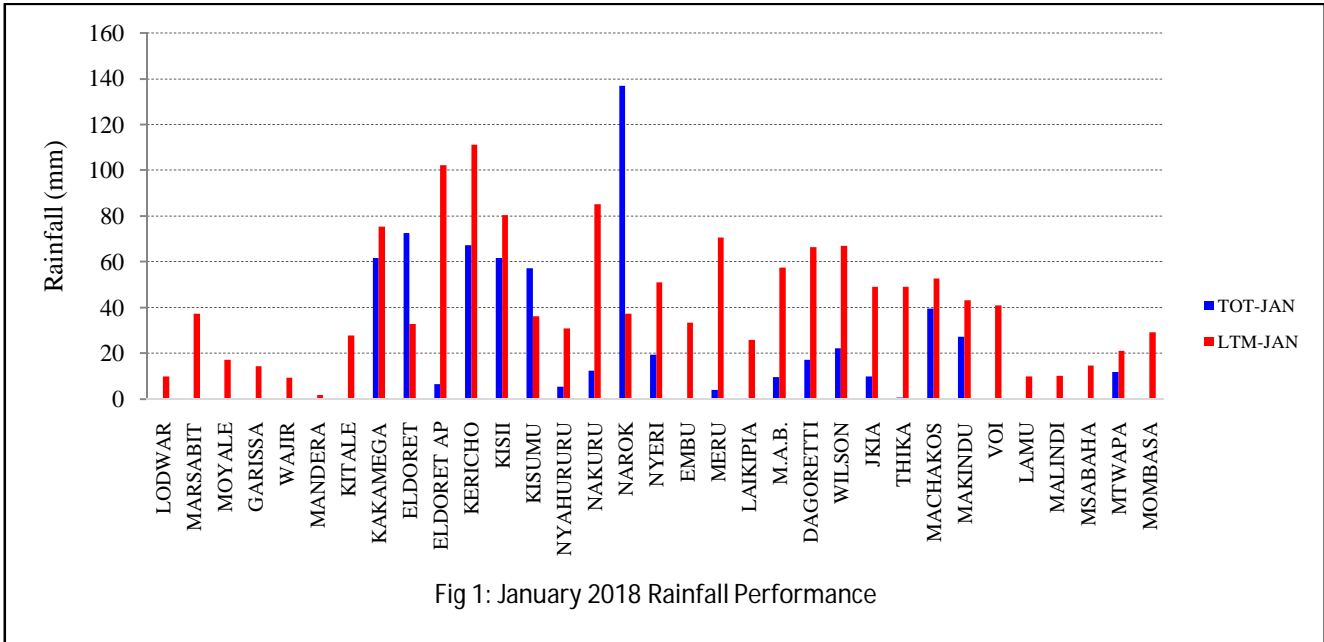


Fig 1: January 2018 Rainfall Performance

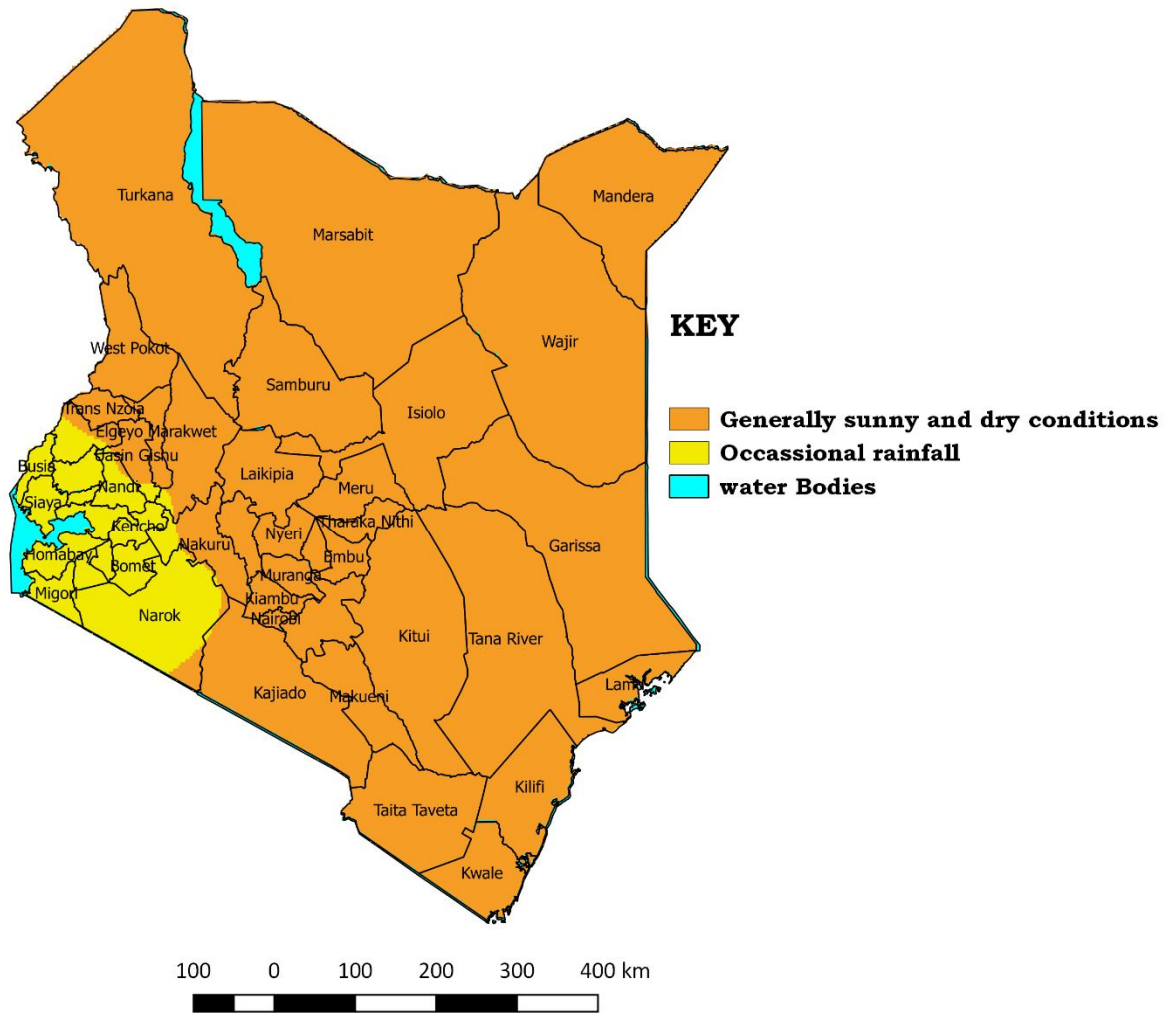


Fig 2: February 2018 forecast