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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES  
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## WEATHER REVIEW FOR AUGUST 2017 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

### 1. SUMMARY

Most parts of the country remained generally dry during the month of August 2017. Several stations in Western Kenya, however recorded significant amounts of rainfall that was in excess of their monthly LTMs. The rainfall occasionally spread to the central parts of the country including Nairobi area. Eldoret (Kapsoya) station had the highest rainfall amount of 248.4mm which was 157 percent of its monthly LTM.

Warm and sunny conditions were dominant in the Central highlands including Nairobi for most of the month. Both the daytime and nighttime temperatures were higher than average in most parts of the country including the central highlands.

The outlook for September 2017 indicates that several parts of the country will continue to be generally sunny and dry. The Western Highlands (Kericho, Kitale, Eldoret, Kakamega, Bungoma), Lake Victoria Basin (Kisumu, Kisii, Busia) and parts of Central Rift Valley (Nakuru, Nyahururu) are, however, likely to experience near-average rainfall. Occasional light morning showers are expected along the Coastal strip while the central highlands and Nairobi area are likely to experience occasional cool and cloudy conditions especially at the beginning of the month.

### 2. REVIEW OF THE WEATHER DURING AUGUST 2017

#### 2.1 Rainfall Review

Most parts of the country remained generally dry during the month of August 2017. The driest conditions were recorded over Northeastern, Northwestern and Southeastern Kenya as well as Nairobi area where most meteorological stations received very low rainfall amounts that barely exceeded 15mm. Wajir, Mandera and Garissa, for example, recorded just 1.2mm, 1.8mm and 1.9mm respectively while Lodwar station recorded no rainfall at all throughout the month. Several stations in Western Kenya, however, recorded significant rainfall amounts that were in excess of their August monthly LTMs. Eldoret (Kapsoya) station recorded the highest rainfall amount of 248.4mm which was 157% of its monthly LTM. Eldoret Airport, Kitale, Kisii, Kericho, Kakamega and Nyahururu stations recorded 230.7mm (100%), 217.4mm (144%), 213.5mm (120%), 195.8mm (103%), 147.3mm (67%) and 130.8mm (86%) respectively. The rest of the stations recorded less than 100mm as seen in **figure 1**.

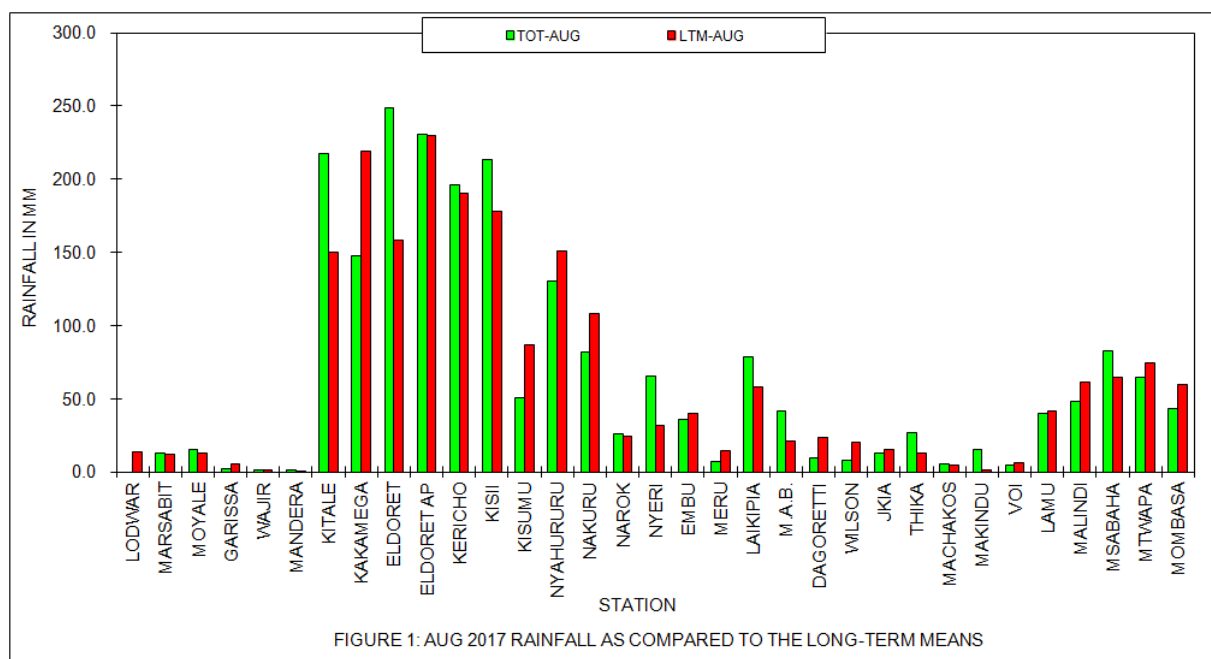


FIGURE 1: AUG 2017 RAINFALL AS COMPARED TO THE LONG-TERM MEANS

### 2.2 Temperature Review

During August 2017, most parts of central highlands observed cloudy mornings with occasional light rains. The better part of the country recorded higher than average day time (maximum) and night time (minimum) temperatures. Kisumu Meteorological station, however, recorded lower than average maximum temperature of 28.6°C compared to its long-term average (LTA) of 29°C. The lowest daily maximum temperature of 15.2°C was recorded at Ngong station on 2<sup>nd</sup> August while the highest maximum temperature of 37.1°C was recorded at Mandera station on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

In terms of monthly averages, the lowest maximum temperature of 21.2°C was recorded at Nyahururu station while the highest maximum temperature of 34.9°C was recorded at Lodwar. The lowest daily minimum temperature of 5.2°C was recorded at Nyahururu station on 20<sup>th</sup> August while the highest minimum temperature of 27.4°C was recorded at Lodwar on 26<sup>th</sup>. The lowest average minimum temperature of 8.1°C was recorded at Nyahururu while the highest average minimum temperature of 25.6°C was recorded at Lodwar.

### 2.3 Prevailing Synoptic Conditions during August 2017

During the month of August 2017, ENSO-neutral (absence of either El Niño or La Niña) conditions prevailed in the Pacific Ocean. The SSTs over the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean were, however, cooler than average. Slightly warmer than average Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) prevailed over western equatorial Indian Ocean (adjacent to the East African coast) while the SSTs over eastern equatorial Indian Ocean (adjacent to Australia) were cooler than average.

The St. Helena high-pressure system remained moderately strong for most of the month. The Eastern Africa high-pressure ridge also remained strong to moderate. This reduced moisture influx from the Indian Ocean into the country. The ridge was, however, weaker than average for most of the month and this led to the warmer than average temperatures over most parts of the country.

The Meridional (North-south) arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was mainly over the central parts of Africa and Uganda but occasionally shifted to the western parts of Kenya. The zonal arm was mainly situated in Ethiopia.

### **3. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER 2017**

On average, most parts of the country including western Kenya experience generally sunny and dry weather conditions during the month of September. The central regions experience occasional cool and cloudy conditions especially at the beginning of the month.

#### **3.1 Rainfall Outlook**

The rainfall forecast for September 2017 is based on the observed patterns of the Global Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) and more so in the Indian Ocean. The slightly warmer than average SSTs in the western Equatorial Indian Ocean (adjacent to the East African Coast) and the slightly cooler than average SSTs in the eastern Equatorial Indian Ocean (adjacent to Australia) were highly considered.

The forecast indicates that several parts of the country will remain generally dry for most of the month. However, occasional afternoon showers and thunderstorms are expected to occur over the Western highlands, The Lake Victoria Basin and parts of Central Rift Valley as depicted in **figure 2**.

#### **3.2 Expected Temperatures**

Generally warm weather conditions with occasional cool and cloudy conditions are expected to occur over the Central highlands including Nairobi. The daytime and nighttime temperatures are expected to be warmer than average over the entire country.

#### **3.3 The specific outlook for individual areas is as follows:**

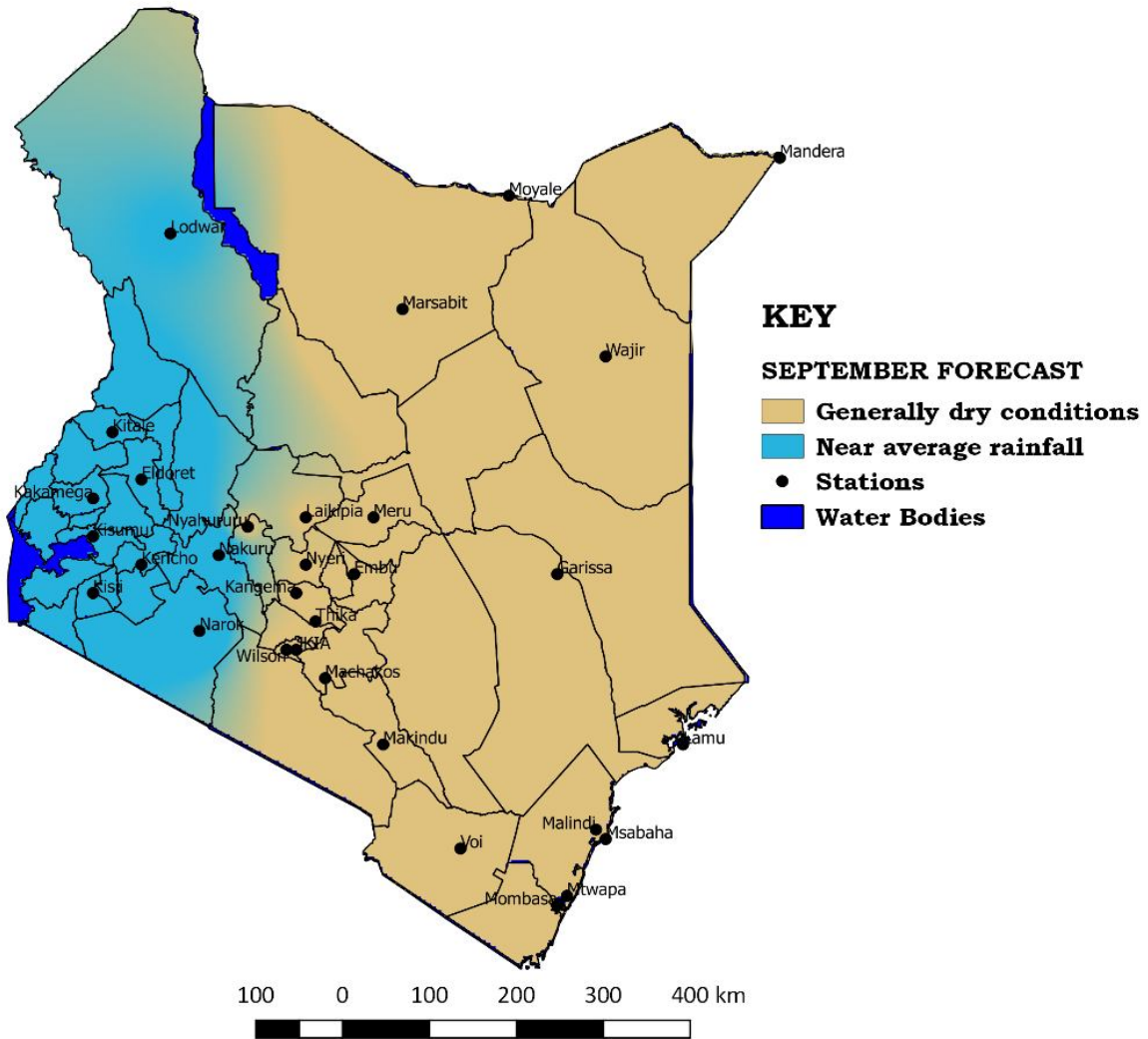
- a) **The Highlands West of the Rift Valley** (Kitale, Kericho, Nandi, Eldoret, Kakamega), **Lake Victoria Basin** (Kisumu, Kisii, Busia), **parts of Central Rift Valley** (Nakuru, Nyahururu, Aberdares region) and **Northwestern Region** (Lodwar, Lokichoggio, Lokitaung), are likely to experience near-average rainfall that will be characterized by occasional afternoon showers and thunderstorms;
- b) **The Highlands east of the Rift Valley** (Nyeri, Muranga, Kiambu, Embu, Meru) and **Nairobi area** (Dagoretti, Kabete, Wilson, Eastleigh, Ngong) will experience occasional cool and cloudy conditions during the morning hours especially at the beginning of the month. Sunny and dry weather conditions are, however, likely to prevail for most of the month. The daytime and nighttime temperatures are expected to be warmer than average;
- c) **The Coastal strip** (Lamu, Malindi, Msabaha, Mombasa, Mtwapa, Kilifi) is expected to experience generally dry weather conditions with occasional light morning showers;
- d) **The Northeastern Kenya** (Marsabit, Garbatulla, Wajir, Mandera, Moyale), **Southeastern Kenya** (Machakos, Makindu, Voi) and parts of central and south Rift Valley (Narok, Magadi, Kajiado) are expected to remain generally sunny and dry throughout the month.

### **4. EXPECTED IMPACTS**

- The continuation of sunny and dry weather conditions over Northeastern and Southern lowlands as well as the Coastal region will lead to diminishing pastures for livestock in the regions. Close monitoring of the situation is therefore necessary to avert loss of animals.
- The expected good rainfall performance over the western highlands will continue to impact positively on the crop performance over the areas especially in the North Rift. This situation is likely to improve the food security in the country.
- Visibility may occasionally become poor in some parts of Central highlands, Nairobi and parts of central Rift Valley especially at the beginning of the month. Motorists are

cautioned to exercise extra care when driving along roads such as Limuru-Nakuru-Eldoret to avoid accidents.

### September 2017 Forecast



**FIGURE 2: SEPTEMBER 2017 RAINFALL OUTLOOK IN KENYA**

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KENYA WITH WMO