



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTRY  
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

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**WEATHER REVIEW FOR JANUARY 2019 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2019**

**1. SUMMARY**

Most parts of the country experienced sunny and dry weather conditions for most of January 2019. Several areas in western and central highlands including Nairobi, however, received some significant amounts of rainfall especially at the beginning of the month.

February is normally a dry month over most parts of the country (see **figure 2**). The forecast for February 2019 indicates that most parts of the country will 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 occasional rainfall that may spread to the central highlands including Nairobi.

**2. WEATHER REVIEW FOR JANUARY 2019**

**2.1 RAINFALL REVIEW**

Sunny, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed over most parts of the country in January 2019. 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 at the beginning of the month. A few stations recorded moderate to heavy rainfall (20mm to 50mm) within 24hrs.

By the end of the month Meru Meteorological Station recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 79.9mm (113%) as compared to its January Long-Term Mean (LTM) rainfall of 70.7mm. Other stations that recorded above 50mm were Kisumu (70.5mm), Muriranja (61.0mm), Matungu (55.1mm) and Suba (53.9mm). The rest of the stations recorded less than 50mm.

**Figures 1 and 2** below highlights the comparison of the monthly totals to the LTMS.

**2.2 TEMPERATURE REVIEW**

Higher than average Maximum (daytime) and Minimum (night time) temperatures were recorded over the entire country during the month. Nearly all meteorological stations in the country recorded maximum and minimum temperatures that positively deviated from the average. The highest maximum temperature deviations of positive 2.4°C, 2.1°C and 1.9°C were recorded at Marsabit, Kitale and Thika stations respectively. Lodwar, Kakamega, Kericho and Meru also recorded positive deviations of above 1.5°C. The highest minimum temperature deviations of positive 2.6°C, 2.1°C and 2.0°C were recorded at Wilson Airport, Narok and Dagoretti Corner stations respectively while Marsabit, Eldoret, Malindi and Msabaha stations also recorded positive deviations exceeding 1.5°C.

### 2.3 REVIEW OF THE SYNOPTIC PATTERNS IN JANUARY 2019

The zonal (East-West) arm of rain bearing Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was mainly located over Tanzania while the meridional (North-South) arm was mainly located over central Africa. This left most parts of Kenya under sunny and dry weather conditions as is usual for this time of the year. The few Tropical Cyclones that developed in the South-West Indian Ocean Basin had no impact on the rainfall in Kenya.

### 3. EXPERIENCED IMPACTS

- The sunny and dry weather conditions experienced over much of the country was conducive for land preparation in readiness for March-April-May 2019 rainfall season.
- The higher than average daytime temperatures over the country led to high rates of evaporation and hence reduced water levels in the hydroelectric power generating dams and other water reservoirs in the country.

### 4. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2019

February is generally a dry month over most parts of the country. This February 2019 forecast is based on prevailing global Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) patterns and the average performance of rainfall during previous years when the December-January SSTs behavior was similar to the current trend.

The outlook for February 2019 (**Figure 3**) 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, likely to experience occasional rainfall during the month. The rainfall may occasionally spread to the central region including Nairobi. The specific outlooks for individual areas are as follows:

**The western highlands (Kericho, Kakamega, Kitale, Eldoret etc), Lake Victoria Basin (Kisii, Kisumu, Busia) and Central and South Rift Valley (Nakuru, Narok, Kajiado etc)** are expected to be generally sunny and dry with occasional rainfall over few areas.

**The Central Highlands including Nairobi (Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Nyahururu, Murang'a etc)** 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 few areas.

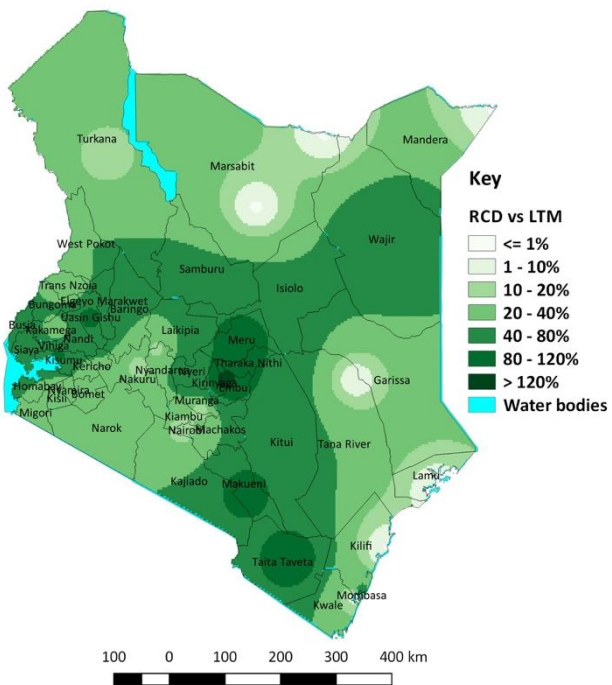
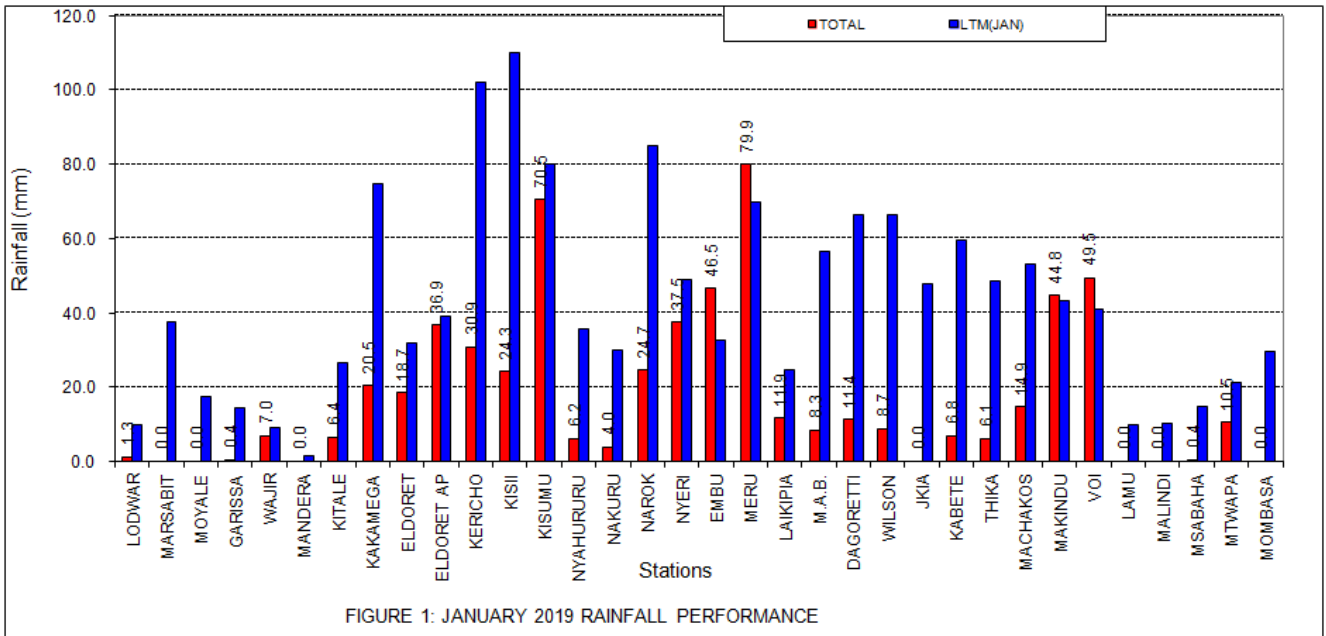
**The North-western (Turkana, Samburu etc), North-Eastern Kenya (Moyale, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa), South-eastern (Makueni, Taita-Taveta, Machakos, Makindu, Voi) and the Coastal Strip (Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Kilifi, Tana River)** are expected to be mainly sunny and dry throughout the month.

### 5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

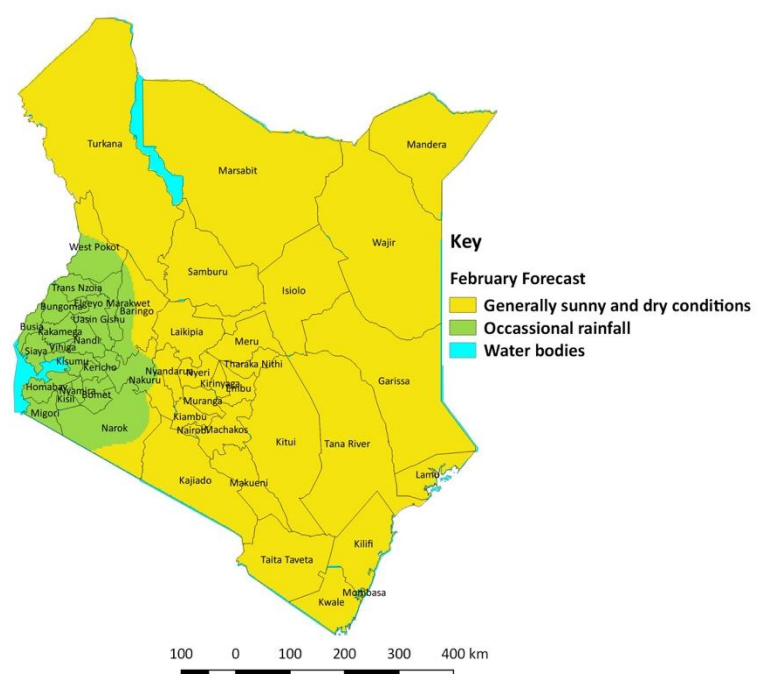
- The dry conditions are conducive for wild fires especially in areas with dry vegetation and strong winds;
- Formation of dust devils will be common in various parts of the country where the temperatures are quite high;
- Reduced visibility may occur in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands due to dusty conditions

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

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**FIGURE 1: JANUARY 2019 TOTAL RAINFALL AS PERCENTAGE RECEIVED (% OF JANUARY LONG-TERM MEAN (LTM))**



**FIGURE 3: FEBRUARY 2019 FORECAST**