



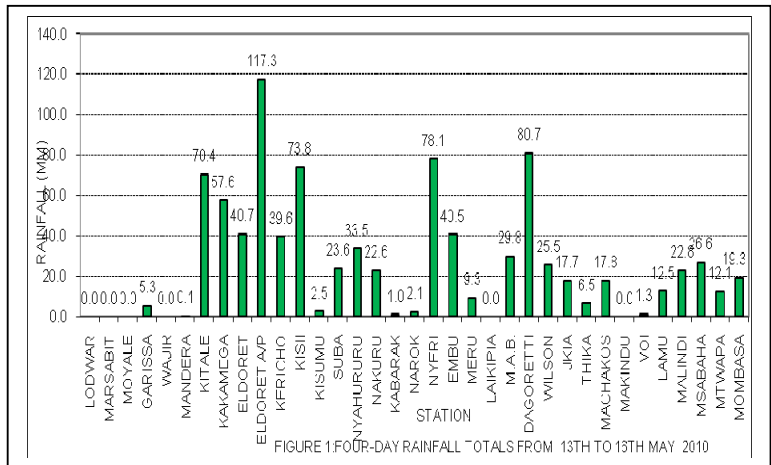
FOUR-DAY FLOOD WATCH UPDATE

Issued on: 17th May 2010
Valid: 18 - 21 May 2010

1. RAINFALL REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD 13th TO 16th MAY 2010

Wet conditions were sustained over most parts of the country. However, the rainfall intensities reduced over the coastal strip. A gradual cessation in the rainfall season is evident from the low rainfall or dry conditions in the southeastern lowlands and the northeastern parts of the country.

Figure 1 shows the four-day total rainfall amounts for the review period. It is evident from the graph that wet conditions occurred in western areas, central Rift Valley, parts of central highlands, Nairobi area and the coastal strip. However, a significant decrease in rainfall amounts was observed over the coastal strip. Heavy rainfall was observed in a number of locations during this review period. On 13th May 2010, Nyeri station had 68.9mm while on 14th May 2010, Kakamega station recorded (53.1mm), Eldoret airport (46.2mm), and Nyahururu 30.9mm. Kitale and Dagoretti recorded 40.2mm and 43mm of rainfall on 15th and 16th May respectively.

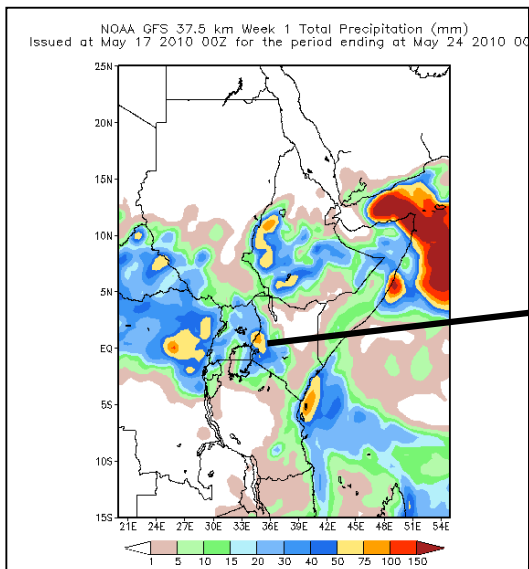


Eldoret airport recorded the highest total amount of rainfall of 117.3 in four days, followed by Dagoretti (80.7mm), Nyeri (78.1mm), Kisii (73.8mm), Kitale (70.4mm), and Kakamega (57.6mm).

FOUR-DAY RAINFALL FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 18TH TO 21TH MAY 2010

SUMMARY
 The western areas, northwestern parts (mainly bordering Uganda and Sudan), central and south Rift Valley, parts of central highlands and Nairobi area as well as the coastal strip are expected to continue experiencing wet conditions.

Figure 2 shows the predicted total rainfall for the seven-day period ending 24th May 2010. Areas shown in yellow, pink and red colours are likely to record significant seven-day rainfall totals above 50mm. These are found around Mt. Elgon and the Cherengani Hills in western Kenya. A pick up on the coastal strip will occur after the four-day forecast period. Flooding episodes are likely to persist in Nyanza province and are imminent in Budalang'i as Rivers Nzoia and Yala as well as other rivers in western Kenya continue swelling as a result of heavy rainfall (around Mt. Elgon, Cherengani and Nandi Hills). Swollen rivers in other parts of the country also still possess the potential for flooding even as the rainfall amounts are expected to be relatively lower than previous.



From figure 2, the areas that need close monitoring for likely occurrence of heavy rainfall during the forecast period are:
 → *Mt. Elgon as well as Chereng'ani and Nandi hills*

Figure 2: Predicted Seven-day rainfall totals for

Figure 3 shows the past, current and projected (one day) flows of River Nzioa. **Alert or warning level** is when the River flow level is **2.8m** above the reference datum while a flood level is attained when the flow level reaches **3.5m** above the reference datum. Currently, the water level is at 4.76m and has been above the flood level for the last seven days (since 10 May 2010). It is anticipated that the river level at Rwambwa will fall to about 4.52m and 3.8m on Tuesday, 18th May and Wednesday 19th May 2010 respectively. **The river level has been above the alert or warning level of 2.8m for the last 12 days. The heavy rainfall projected around Mt. Elgon is expected to keep the water level near or above the flood level and sustain a high risk of flooding in Budalang'i.**

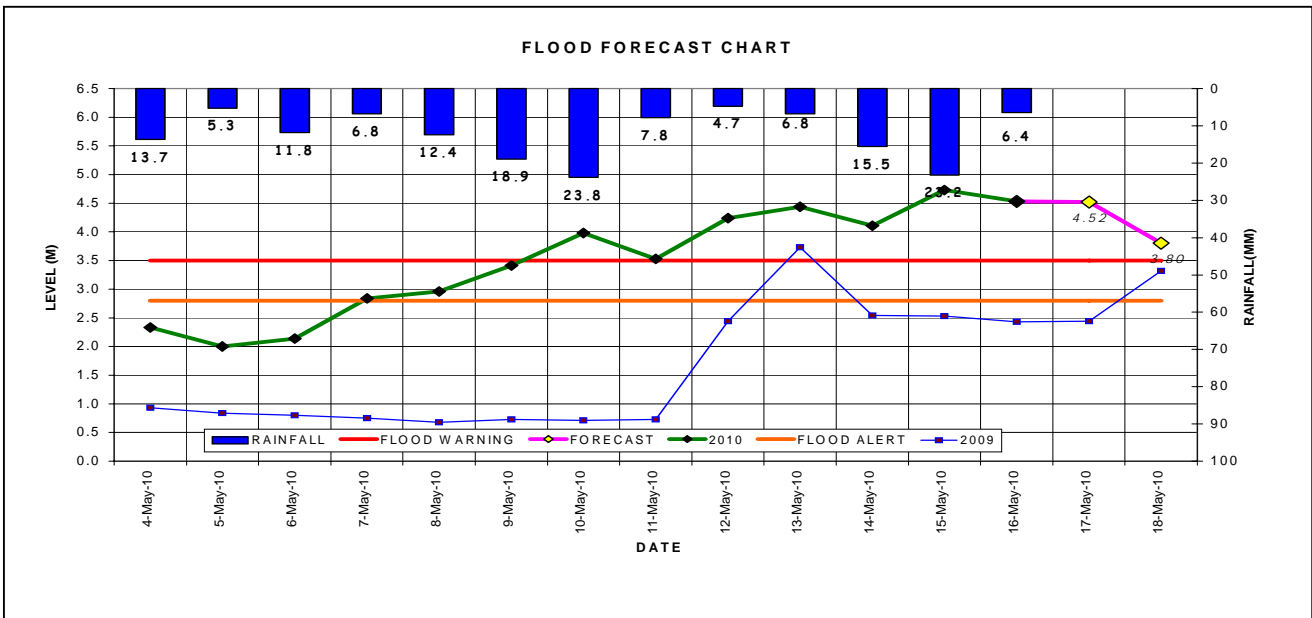


Figure 3: Flood Forecast chart for Nzoia River Basin, valid 18th & 19th May 2010.

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