



SEVEN-DAY WEATHER REVIEW FROM 19TH – 25TH JANUARY, 2012 AND THE FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD VALID 27TH JANUARY TO 2ND FEBRUARY, 2012

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1. SUMMARY

Review of weather for the last seven-day period (19th – 25th January, 2012)

During the review period (19th – 25th January, 2012):

- Hot and dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the country during the review period;
- Localized rainfall activities were confined to the first and the last three days.
- Day-time (maximum) remained high all over the country apart from few areas particularly around Msabaha.
- Minimum (night- time) temperatures increased over the North western and north eastern parts of the country.

Forecast for the next seven days (27th January to 2nd February, 2012):

The forecast for the next seven-day period (27th January to 2nd February, 2012) indicates that:

- Hot and dry conditions will be sustained over most parts of the country;
- Slight improvement in cloud cover is expected over some parts of the Central highlands, north eastern, coastal strip and the southern sector of the country.
- Relatively low minimum (night-time) temperatures will persist over areas around the highlands west of rift valley, Central highlands and the Central Rift valley.

2. WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS`

2.1 WEATHER REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD 19TH - 25TH JANUARY, 2012

2.1.1 Rainfall Review

Hot and dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the country during the review period. Localized rainfall activities were confined to the first and the last three days mainly over the western parts and south eastern lowlands. Very light rainfall was also observed over the south coast.

Kakamega Meteorological station and Shikoti station recorded 7.7mm and 1.0mm of rainfall respectively on 19th January, 2012. Voi Meteorological station also recorded 0.8mm and 0.3mm on 23rd and 24th January, 2012.

The highest rainfall total for the seven day period was 7.7mm recorded at Kakamega rainfall station. The other stations that recorded rainfall were Voi (1.1mm) and Shikoti (1.0mm) as depicted in *figures 1 and below*.

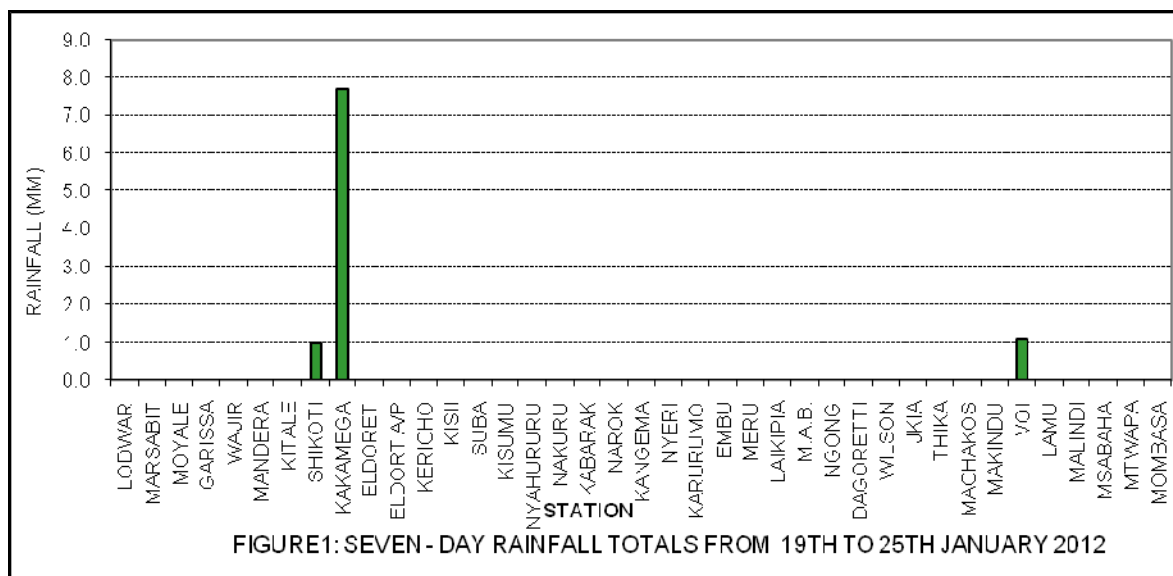


FIGURE1: SEVEN - DAY RAINFALL TOTALS FROM 19TH TO 25TH JANUARY 2012

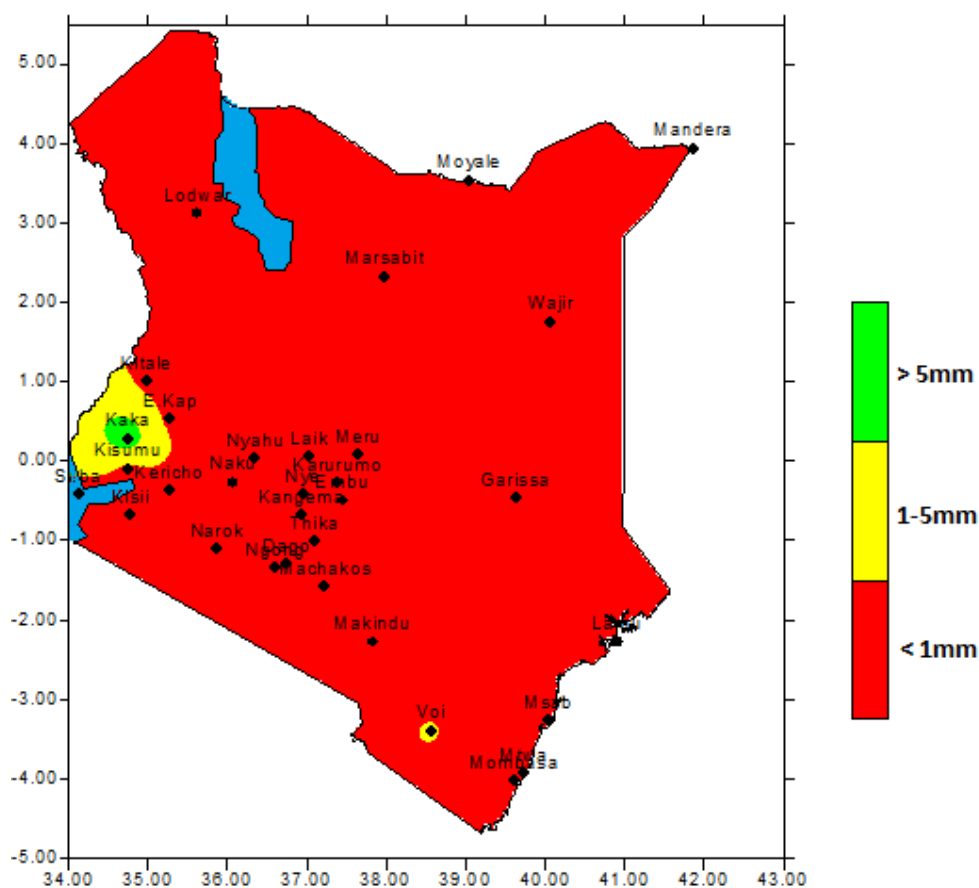


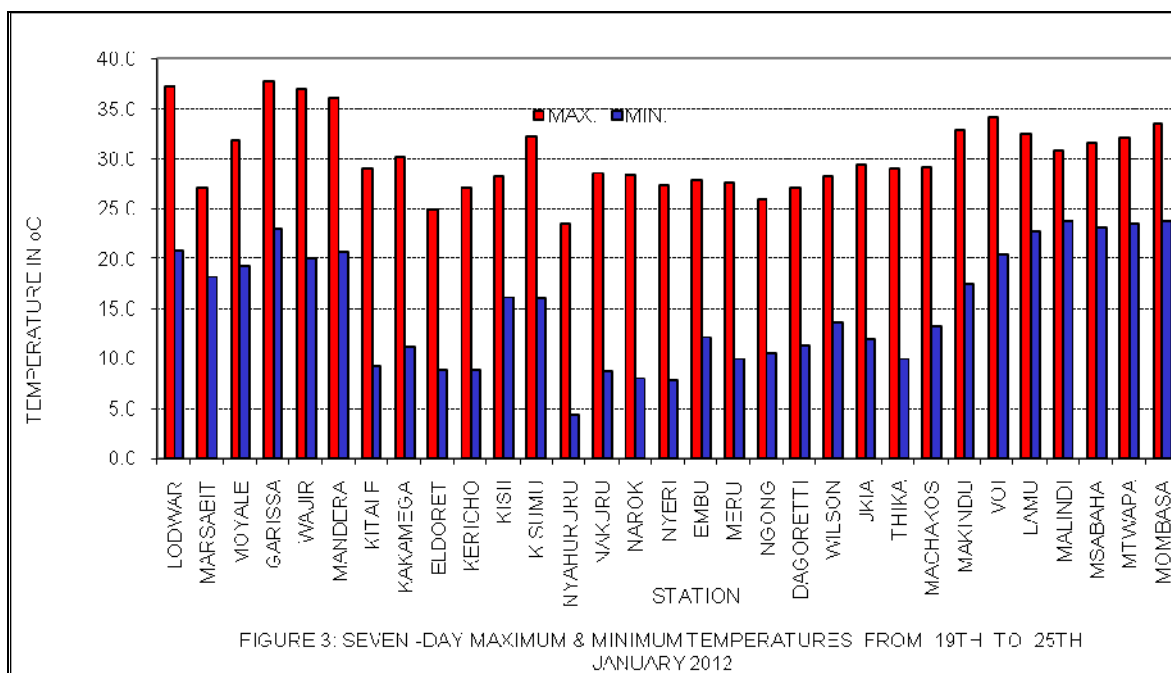
Fig 2: Spatial rainfall distribution during the four-day period (19th – 25th January, 2012).

2.2 Temperature

During the review period, day-time (maximum) temperatures continued increasing over most parts of the country apart from few areas particularly around Msabaha. Minimum (night- time) temperatures also increased over the North western and north eastern parts of the country. Other areas depicted continued decline in minimum temperatures except pockets around Kisii, Ngong and Wilson airport. High diurnal temperature changes (Difference between Maximum and Minimum temperatures)

gradients ($> 18^{\circ}\text{C}$) were observed over the highlands west of the rift valley, Central rift valley and central highlands.

The highest daily maximum temperature of 38.3°C was recorded at Garissa Meteorological Stations on 22nd January, 2012 and the lowest daily minimum temperature of 3.5°C was recorded at Nyahururu Meteorological Station on 24th January, 2012. The same stations recorded the highest seven day average maximum and minimum temperature of 37.7°C and 4.3°C respectively, (See figure 3).



2.3 EXPECTED SYNOPTIC DEVELOPMENTS FROM 27TH JANUARY TO 2ND FEBRUARY, 2012

It is expected that pressures will be;

- Moderately strong over southern Atlantic Ocean (St. Helena) but weakening slightly at the end of the forecast;
- Very weak due to the presence of a tropical depression over the Mozambique Channel which is expected to fill as it steers to the south.
- Moderately weak over southwest Indian Ocean (Mascarene high) in the first half of the forecast period, weakening further as another tropical depression develops over the north east of Madagascar in the second half of the forecast;
- Moderate over the Azores and the Mediterranean region for most of the forecast period;
- Moderate over the Arabian region but weakens slightly as the forecast period progresses.

Winds are expected to be:

- Surface and medium levels will be dominated by moderate north-easterlies occasionally changing to easterly over much of the country.
- Moderate south easterlies will be dominant in the upper levels over much of the country.

These developments indicate that:

- Hot and dry conditions will be sustained over most parts of the country;
- Slight improvement in cloud cover in the afternoon is expected over some parts of the Central highlands, north eastern, coastal strip and the southern sector of the country.
- Relatively low minimum (night-time) temperatures will persist over areas around the highlands west of rift valley, Central highlands and the Central Rift valley.

2.4 FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS FROM 27TH JANUARY TO 2ND FEBRUARY, 2012

The Lake Victoria Basin, Highlands west of the Rift Valley Central and south Rift Valley (Kitale, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kisii, Migori, Nyamira, Kericho, UasinGishu, Nakuru, Narok, Nyandarua counties etc) will experience mainly sunny intervals over most places throughout the day for much of the forecast period. However, localized areas within some counties in the South-Rift, south Nyanza are likely to experience very light afternoon showers and thunderstorms on the second and third day of the forecast period.

The Northwestern counties (Turkana, West Pokot etc).Will experience mainly sunny periods throughout the forecast period.

Central highlands including Nairobi area (counties of Meru, Murang'a, Kiambu, Nyeri, Nairobi, Embu, etc) Sunny intervals are likely to prevail for much of the forecast period. Slight improvement in cloud cover is expected in the first day of the forecast.

Northeastern counties (counties of Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Moyale etc) sunny periods will prevail throughout the forecast period but some clouds will be observed on the first day of the forecast.

Southeastern lowlands (Taita Taveta, Makueni, Machakos, Kitui, Mwingi counties etc), Sunny intervals are expected to dominate for much of the forecast period. Light rains are expected to occur in the first and second day.

The Coastal strip (Mombasa, Malindi, Kilifi, Lamu, Kwale etc) Sunny intervals will be dominant during the period, but there is a likelihood of very light morning showers in south coast during the first day.

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

KEY OF SCIENTIFIC WORDS USED

High Pressure System (Anticyclone): An area associated with clear skies or fine weather.

Ridge: An elongated area of high pressure from which winds flow outward.

Most Places: Between 66% and 100%.

Several Places: Between 33% and 66%

Few Places: Between 0 and 33%

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FOR: DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES