

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



UPDATE OF CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR
MARCH - MAY, 2019 MASIKA RAINFALL SEASON

This statement is intended to update climate outlook for March - May, 2019 *Masika* rainfall season.

A series of low-pressure systems that occurred from 5th March, 2019 led to the development of Tropical cyclone (Idai) from 10th to 15th March, 2019. The tropical cyclone (Idai) moved over the Mozambique Channel and has been dragging moisture towards the southern parts of Africa and hence reducing activities over most parts of Tanzania especially the northern sector. Currently, another series of low-pressure systems are developing over the eastern part of Madagascar and one has become a tropical storm Savannah. The low-pressure systems are likely to drag much of the rainfall activities into the Indian ocean based on the position and predicted movement.

Following the current and expected climate system (as indicated in part II of this statement):

- i. There is likelihood of elevated periods of suppressed rainfall over northern parts of Morogoro region, Dar es salaam, Pwani, Tanga and occasionally over few areas of Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.
- ii. The MAM, 2019, seasonal outlook was predicted to be short and end early between the fourth week of April and first week of May, 2019. However, the current situation shows likelihood of even much earlier cessation in some areas during the second week of April, 2019.
- iii. Seasonal rains (November-April) are expected to progress as predicted earlier. "These rains, which started in November, 2018 are expected to continue through

end of April as predicted earlier. The rains were predicted to be normal over most areas. However, pockets of below normal rains are expected over southern region and parts of Dodoma and Singida regions”.

I. UPDATE OF SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK MARCH - MAY 2019

The March to May (MAM) rainfall season (Masika) is more prominent over the northeastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Unguja and Pemba, Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma and Morogoro regions. The following is the detailed outlook for the remainder of the season:

a) *Lake Victoria Basin: (Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions):*

The rains are expected to be normal to above normal over Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions. Otherwise, suppressed rains may occur over few areas of Kagera region and Kibondo. Cessation of rainfall is expected earlier during the third week of April, 2019.

b) *Northern Coast areas and its Hinterlands: (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Coast regions, Islands of Unguja and Pemba and northern Morogoro areas):*

During the remainder of the season generally normal with elevated chance of below normal rains are expected mainly over Dar es salaam, Pwani, Tanga and northern parts of Morogoro region. Rains over Dar es salaam, Pwani, Tanga and northern parts of Morogoro region are expected to end during the second week of April, 2019. On the other hand, the Isles of Unguja and Pemba are expected to have mainly normal rains with pockets of above normal over few areas, cessation over these areas is expected to be during the fourth week of April, 2019.

c) *North-Eastern Highlands: (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions):*

Generally, rains are likely to be normal over most areas with pockets of above normal over few areas of Arusha region. Cessation of rain is expected to be during the third week of April, 2019.

II. CLIMATE SYSTEM OUTLOOK

The observed and expected sea surface temperatures as well as the climate systems indicates reduction of rainfall activities over most areas of the bimodal. The sea surface temperatures over southwest and central Indian Ocean are still expected to be warmer than average during the remainder of the season, hence reduction of rainfall activities due to weak easterly flow. Furthermore, near average to slightly warmer than average temperatures expected over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (off Angola Coast) that are likely to weaken moist westerly winds from Congo Basin.

III. ADVISORY

TMA advises all users of weather information including farmers, livestock keepers, wildlife conservation authorities, hydrological and health sectors to continue seeking and utilizing experts' advice on their relevant sectors.

NB: The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten day and monthly updates issued by the TMA.

TMA will continue to monitor developments of the weather systems and issue updates whenever appropriate.

Issued by TMA:

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