



# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES

## KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Dagoretti Corner, Ngong Road, P. O. Box 30259, Nairobi, Kenya,  
Telephone: 254-20-3867880-5, Fax: 254-20-3876955/387373,  
E-mail:director@meteo.go.ke

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## REVIEW OF WEATHER IN JANUARY AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2017

### SUMMARY

Most parts of the country experienced sunny and dry weather conditions for most of January 2017. Several areas in western and central highlands including Nairobi, however, received significant amounts of rainfall especially at the end of the month.

February is normally a dry month over most parts of the country (**see figure 2**). The forecast for February 2017 indicates that the better part of the country will still 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 rainfall that will occasionally spread to the central highlands including Nairobi.

### JANUARY 2017 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

Sunny, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed over most parts of the country in January 2017. However, some areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, highlands west of the Rift Valley, Central Rift Valley and central highlands including Nairobi received significant amounts of rainfall especially at the end of the month. Moi Airbase Station station, for example, recorded 38.6mm of rainfall on 31<sup>st</sup> January while Eldoret Airport recorded 37.7mm on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Several other stations recorded rainfall greater than 20mm/24hrs at the end of the month.

By the end of the month Eldoret Airport station recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 69.1mm which when compared to its January long-term mean (LTM) rainfall of 72.0mm, was near normal. Eldoret, Kericho, Nyeri, Moi Airbase, Kisumu, Kakamega and Kisii recorded 44.3mm, 42.9mm, 39mm, 38.6mm, 37.6mm, 37.2mm and 35.5mm respectively. The rest of the stations recorded less than 30mm total for the month. The Coastal stations recorded trace amounts of rainfall during the month. **Figure 1** below highlights the comparison of the monthly totals to the LTMS.

The rain bearing Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) migrated southwards to Tanzania leaving most parts of Kenya under sunny and dry weather conditions. There was also cooling of sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which led to drier conditions.

### FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 2017

This forecast is based on the expected evolution of global Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) patterns and average performance of rainfall during previous years when the December-January SSTs behavior was similar to the current trend.

The outlook for February 2017 (**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, expected to experience near normal rainfall. The rainfall will occasionally spread to the central region including Nairobi. The specific outlooks for individual areas are as follows:

**The Lake Basin (Kisii, Kisumu, Busia), parts of Highlands west of the Rift Valley (Kericho, Kakamega) and Central Rift Valley (Narok)** are expected to receive near normal rainfall.

**The Central Highlands including Nairobi (Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Nyahururu, Murang'a, Dagoretti, Wilson, JKIA)** are expected to be mainly sunny for most of the month. However, occasional light to moderate rainfall emanating from the western region is expected to occur over several areas, during these times mornings are expected to be cloudy.

**The North-western (Lodwar, Lokichoggio), North-eastern Kenya (Moyale, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa), South-eastern (Makindu, Voi, Machakos) and the Coastal Strip (Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Tana River)** are expected to be mainly sunny and dry throughout the month.

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

**MR. PETER G. AMBENJE**  
**Ag DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF KENYA WITH WMO**

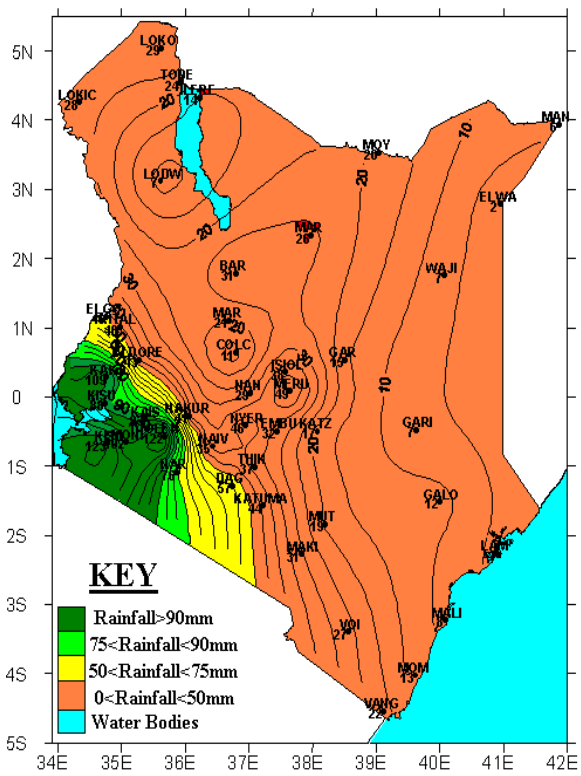
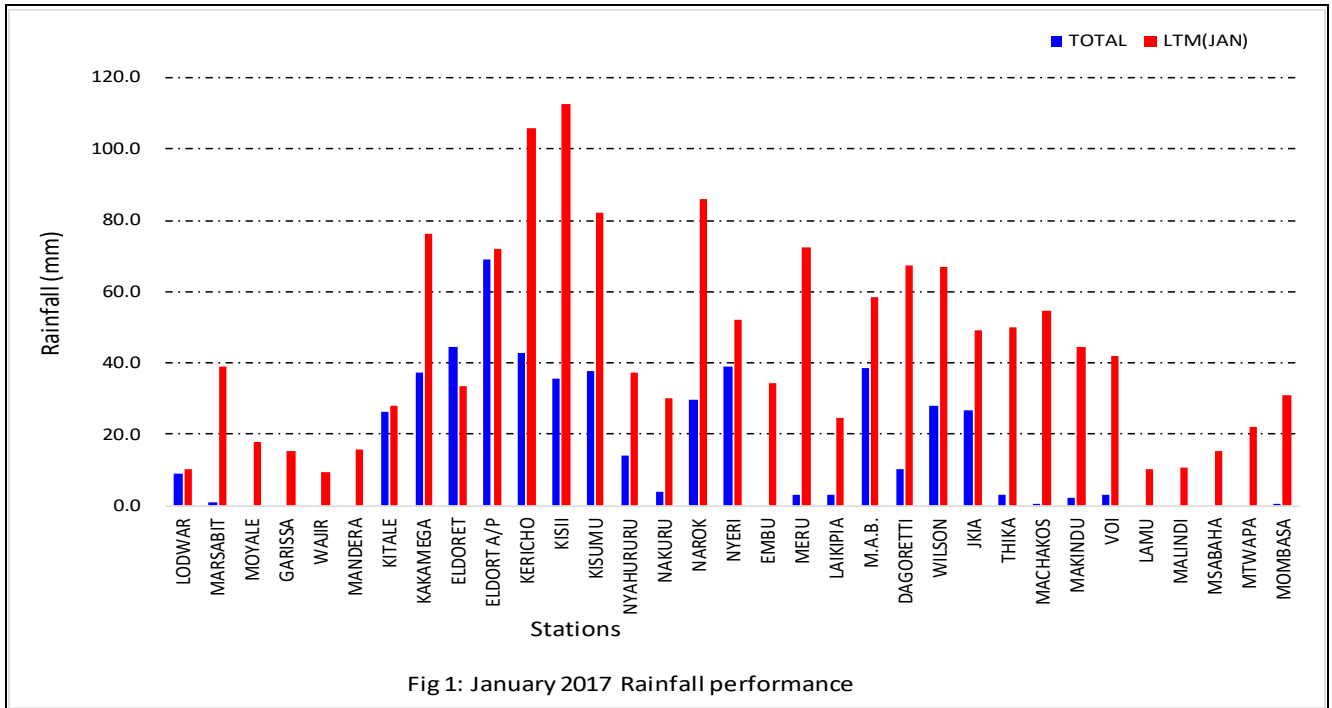


Fig. 2: Normal Rainfall Performance in February

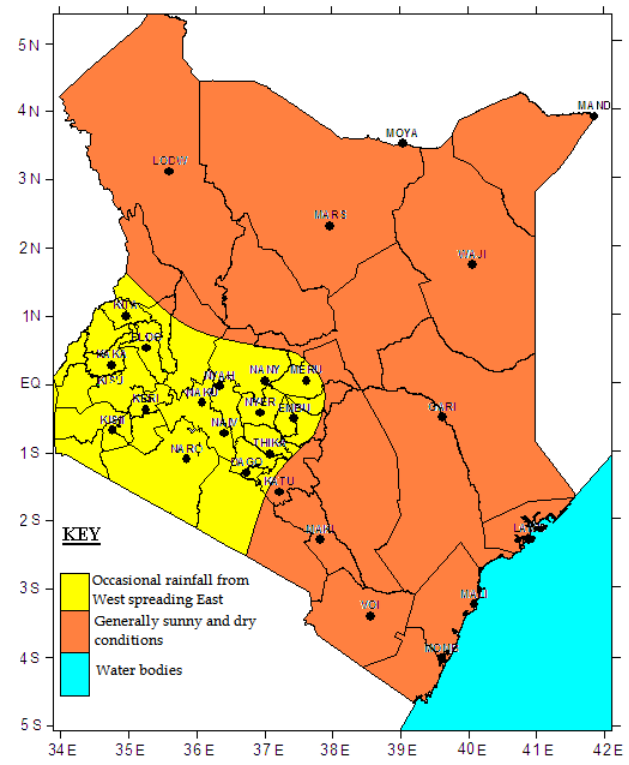


Fig. 3: Expected Rainfall Performance in February 2017