

Kenya—Brief Outlook for the ‘Long-Rains’ Season

Given the significant exposure the Kenyan economy has to the March-May ‘long-rains’ season, we take a brief look at the recent trends in rainfall, and provide an outlook for the upcoming season.

A Brief Look at the October-December 2014 ‘short-rains’ seasons

According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), rainfall in Kenya was near normal levels over most parts of the country during the October—December 2014 ‘short-rains’ season. However, there were certain regions of Kenya, for example areas in South Eastern Kenya, and more localised areas in Central and North Eastern regions of Kenya, which recorded depressed rainfall (i.e. >25% below long term averages).

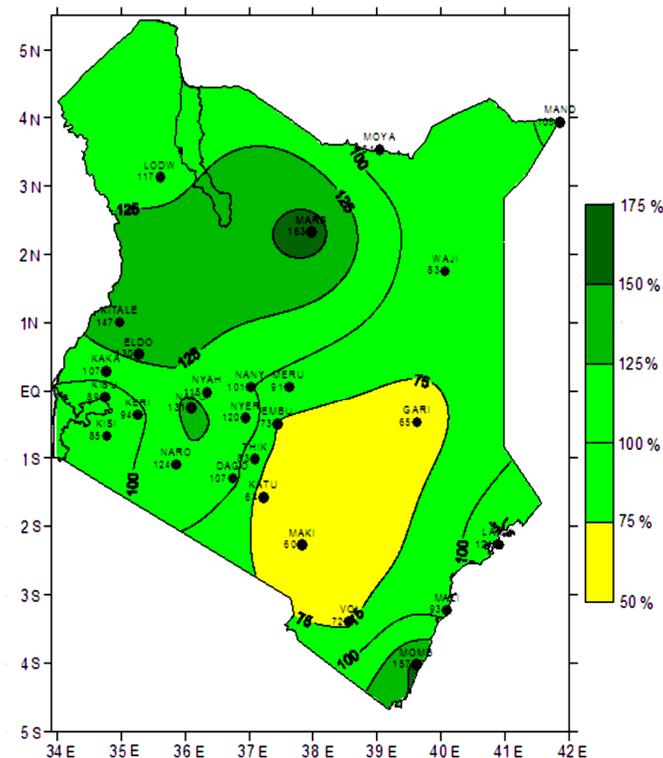


FIGURE 1B: OND 2014 RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN KENYA

Source: October–December 2014 Rainfall Distribution. Kenya Meteorological Department, Kestrel Capital

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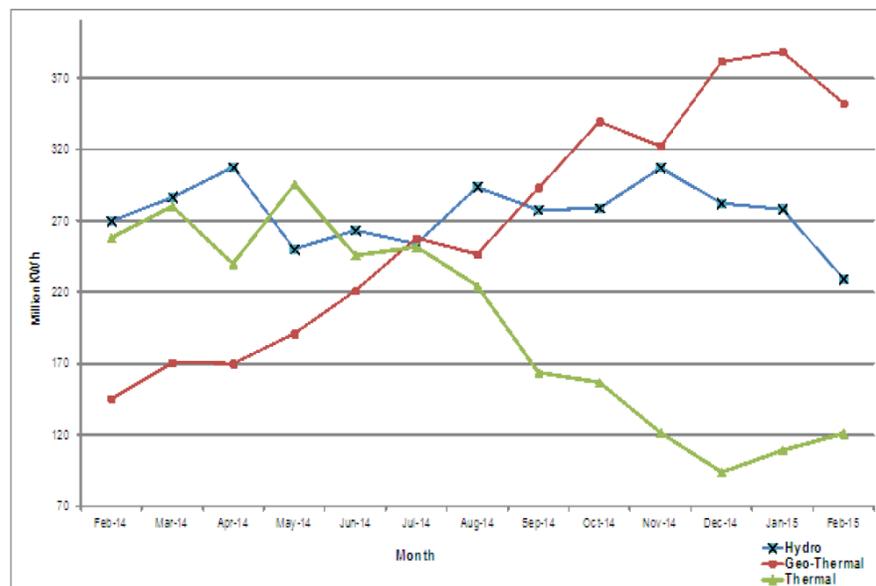
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Rains—January and February 2015

January and February of this year were generally drier than average, with a number of weather stations in North Western, North Eastern, South Eastern and Coastal regions recording no rainfall at all. Pockets of the country however, did receive regular and sometimes substantial amounts of rainfall. According the KMD however, the poor distribution of the rainfall, combined with lower than average rainfall did affect crop performance for parts of Central and South Eastern Kenya, resulting in reduced food security in certain parts of the country.

The poorer rainfall also resulted in reduced water levels in the Seven Forks Hydro Stations, comprising of 542.3MW of Kenya’s hydro-electric generating capacity.

Fig.8: Electricity Generation by Source



Source: Kenya Bureau of Statistics

The Outlook for the March—May 2015 “Long-Rains” Season

Looking forward to the March—May 2015 “Long Rains” Season, the KMD expect depressed rainfall over most of the eastern part of the country. However, rainfall over most parts of Western and Central areas of Kenya (typically Kenya’s breadbasket), are expected to be near-average, with a slight tendency to be above-average in several parts of Western Kenya. Although time series data highlighting rainfall data was not available at the time of

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publication of this report, the general experience of rainfall in the Nairobi and surrounding areas appears to be in line with previous long-rains seasons.

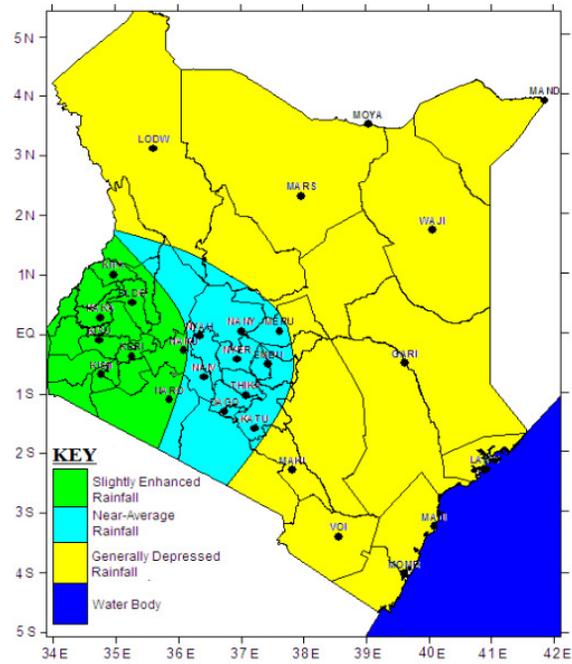


FIG. 4: MARCH-MAY (MAM) 2015 SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK

Source: Kenya Meteorological Department

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