

Briefing note

Proposal for a daily weather forecast for Western Kenya

Introduction

The purpose of the Western Kenya project is to decentralise climate information services for decision making in this region. Output two of the project is to develop and roll out communications channels identified for each county. A proposal has been produced by Robert Powell, Communications Consultant, for a daily weather forecast for western Kenya. This briefing note provides an overview of the key points within the report.

The full report can be viewed [here](#).

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Summary

It is proposed that Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) should produce and disseminate a regional daily weather forecast for Western Kenya to complement the downscaled weekly, monthly and seasonal weather forecasts produced and disseminated by its County Meteorological Directors (CDMs) in the region.

The daily publication of an accurate and reliable weather forecast for Western Kenya would provide a useful new source of weather information for people in the region. The regional forecast for Western Kenya would be produced in English by KMD's National Meteorological Centre in Nairobi every day of the year.

At present, KMD only provides information for three locations in Western Kenya in its national daily forecast: Kisumu, Kakamega and Kitale. This proposal aims to create a daily forecast that gives a text summary of expected weather conditions throughout Western Kenya, plus specific location forecasts for the 14 county headquarters towns in the region.

The forecast would be useful to people in its own right, helping both rural and urban communities to plan their activities for the day ahead. It would also alert these communities to any weather-related hazards they may face at a local level. But most of all, the new regional forecast would inspire public confidence in KMD's longer term forecasts, particularly among farmers.

The daily forecast for Western Kenya would cover 14 counties of Western Kenya whose climate is strongly influenced by their proximity to Lake Victoria. These are: Trans-Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Bungoma, Kakamega, Busia, Vihiga, Siaya, Kisumu, Nandi, Kericho, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii and Nyamira.

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Daily forecast

The daily forecast would be issued by KMD at 16.00 seven days per week. It would cover weather conditions in Western Kenya over the following 36 hours. The forecast would be issued in the late afternoon to meet the needs of local and regional radio stations in Western Kenya. These would be the main channel of communication for communicating the daily forecasts to members of the public.

The forecast would highlight any rainfall expected over the 36-hour period. It would also comment on the expected volume and geographic distribution of such rainfall. The forecast would also give an indication of expected cloud conditions and temperature. Finally it would highlight any weather-related hazards that were likely to occur in particular counties or districts. These would include violent thunderstorms, high winds, unusually high or low temperatures, floods, flash floods and landslides.

It is proposed that KMD use a three-colour traffic light system to classify hazards. The following classification is proposed:

Green – No hazard warnings in force.

Amber - Potentially dangerous weather is expected. **Be prepared.**

Red – Dangerous and potentially life threatening weather conditions are expected. **Take immediate and appropriate action to ensure your safety.**

The appropriate colour code(s) would be prominently marked in the section of the forecast reserved for hazard warnings to give such alerts a high visual impact.

The daily weather forecast would describe the weather conditions expected in three periods in each day:

- **Morning** – sunrise to noon
- **Afternoon** – noon to sunset
- **Night** – sunset to sunrise

The daily forecast for Western Kenya should be produced and disseminated on every day of the year by the KMD National Meteorological Centre in Nairobi. The Nairobi-based producers of the forecast would be responsible for posting it on the Western Kenya regional page of the KMD website and for sending it by email to a contact group of subscribers.

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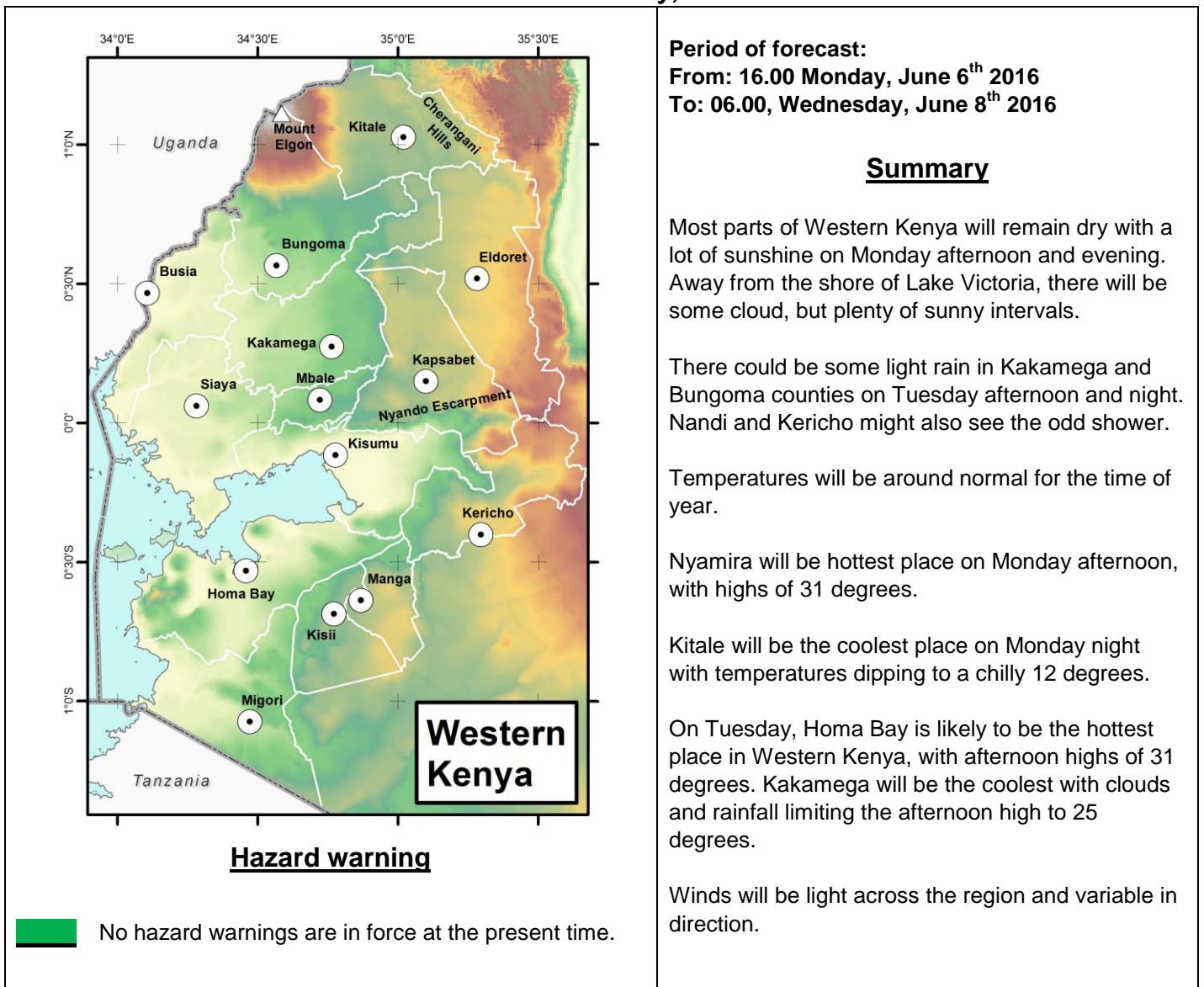


Sample forecast

Kenya Meteorological Department



Daily weather forecast for Western Kenya
Issued at 16.00 on Monday, June 6th 2016



Period of forecast:
From: 16.00 Monday, June 6th 2016
To: 06.00, Wednesday, June 8th 2016

Summary

Most parts of Western Kenya will remain dry with a lot of sunshine on Monday afternoon and evening. Away from the shore of Lake Victoria, there will be some cloud, but plenty of sunny intervals.

There could be some light rain in Kakamega and Bungoma counties on Tuesday afternoon and night. Nandi and Kericho might also see the odd shower.

Temperatures will be around normal for the time of year.

Nyamira will be hottest place on Monday afternoon, with highs of 31 degrees.

Kitale will be the coolest place on Monday night with temperatures dipping to a chilly 12 degrees.

On Tuesday, Homa Bay is likely to be the hottest place in Western Kenya, with afternoon highs of 31 degrees. Kakamega will be the coolest with clouds and rainfall limiting the afternoon high to 25 degrees.

Winds will be light across the region and variable in direction.

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


























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	Monday Afternoon	Monday Night		Tuesday Morning	Tuesday Afternoon	Tuesday Night
Bungoma	 Sunny intervals 28 max	 Partly cloudy 18 min		 Sunny intervals 30 max	 Light rain 25 max	 Light rain 19 min
Busia	 Sunny, clear sky 30 max	 Partly cloudy 21 min		 Sunny, clear sky 31 max	 Sun and showers 28 max	 Partly cloudy 22 min
Eldoret	 Sunny, clear sky 28 max	 Clear night 12 min		 Sunny, clear sky 26 max	 Sunny intervals 28 max	 Partly cloudy 15 min
Homa Bay	 Sunny, clear sky 30 max	 Partly cloudy 21 min		 Sunny, clear sky 28 max	 Sunny intervals 31 max	 Partly cloudy 20 min
Kakamega	 Sunny intervals 28 max	 Partly cloudy 14 min		 Sunny intervals 26 max	 Light rain 25 max	 Light rain 15 min
Kapsabet	 Sunny interval 28 max	 Partly cloudy 17 min		 Sunny intervals 29 max	 Sun and showers 30 max	 Partly cloudy 16 min
Kericho	 Sunny, clear sky 27 max	 Partly cloudy 17 min		 Sunny intervals 26 max	 Sun and showers 27 max	 Partly cloudy 18 min
Kisii	 Sunny intervals 29 max	 Partly cloudy 19 min		 Sunny, clear sky 30 max	 Sunny interval 30 max	 Clear night 17 min
Kisumu	 Sunny intervals 29 max	 Partly cloudy 19 min		 Sunny intervals 28 max	 Sunny intervals 30 max	 Partly cloudy 20 min
Kitale	 Sunny intervals 28 max	 Partly cloudy 12 min		 Sunny, clear sky 29 max	 Sunny intervals 29 max	 Partly cloudy 14 min
Manga	 Sunny, clear sky 31 max	 Clear night 16 min		 Sunny, clear sky 29 max	 Sunny intervals 30 max	 Clear night 16 min
Mbale	 Sunny intervals	 Partly cloudy		 Sunny intervals	 Sunny intervals	 Partly cloudy

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	Sunny intervals 28 max	16 min		Sunny intervals 27 max	Sunny intervals 29 max	17 min
Migori	 Sunny, clear sky 30 max	 Clear night 15 min		 Sunny, clear sky 28 max	 Sunny intervals 29 max	 Clear night 16 min
Siaya	 Sunny, clear sky 29	 Clear night 18 min		 Sunny, clear sky 28 max	 Sunny intervals 30 max	 Partly cloudy 18 min

Key to Hazard warning colours

Green – No hazard warnings in force.

Amber - Potentially dangerous weather is expected. **Be prepared.**

Red – Dangerous and potentially life threatening weather conditions are expected.
Take immediate and appropriate action to ensure your safety.

For further information, please contact:

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