REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT – HOMA BAY COUNTY

Date: 13th February 2026

HOMA BAY COUNTY SEASONAL FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 "LONG-RAINS" SEASON

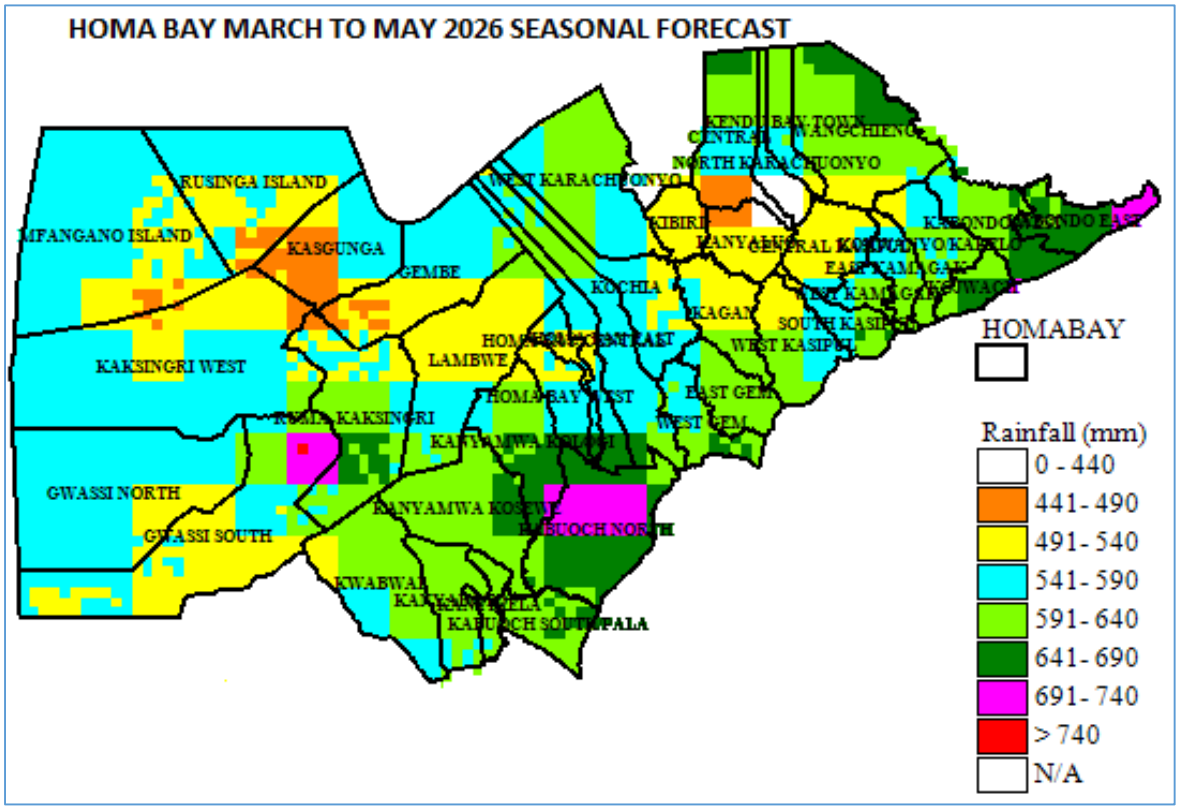


Figure 1: Forecast volume of rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during the March, April, May 2026 Rainy season.

The map above (Figure 1) shows the volume of rainfall in mm that is forecast to fall in each part of Homa Bay County during the coming rainy season.

Summary:

What the Weather Outlook Means for Our Community

Rainfall and associated Hazards

Most parts of Homa Bay County are likely to experience near average to slightly above average. During this season:

- ***Some days may record heavy or very heavy rainfall, leading to flooding in low lying areas, river overflows, lake backflow and soil erosion on farms.***
- ***Lightning strikes, occasional strong winds, and hailstones may accompany rainfall, posing risks to people, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure.***

Influence of Tropical Cyclones

- ***Tropical cyclones may form over the Indian Ocean during this rainy season. Depending on their location and movement, these cyclones may either:***
  - ***Enhance rainfall over Homa Bay county or***
  - ***Cause dry spells by diverting rainfall away***

The path of cyclones and their probable impact upon the weather in Kenya can only be predicted a few days in advance. Follow daily weekly forecasts regularly to find out if any cyclone to affect Homa Bay County.

Occurrence of Dry Spells

Dry spells may still occur within the rainy season. These periods of days without rain can negatively affect:

- ***Crops and pasture***
- ***Water availability***
- ***Livestock productivity***

Careful water use and timely farm planning are therefore essential.

Climate Drivers

The March-April-May (MAM) period is the major rainfall (long rains) season over most parts of Kenya including Homa Bay County. The climate outlook for the March-April-May (MAM) 2026 “” Long Rains” Season indicates that near average to above average rainfall is expected over the county. The County normally experiences the seasonal rainfall amounts of about 350 - 650mm.The County is expected to continue receiving rainfall from the month of February 2026 with occasional dry spells during the onset month of March and the rains will continue into the month of June 2026.

During the season, the county is likely to experience a fair to good temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. The peak of the rainfall season is expected to occur in April in most parts of the county. The rains will be characterized by isolated incidences of heavy rainstorms that may cause flash floods during the three months. The temperature outlook for MAM 2026 season indicates a high likelihood of warmer than average temperatures over much of the County.

NB: *There are intra-seasonal drivers of climate variability, such as tropical cyclones and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (an eastward moving tropical weather system that affects rainfall), that are only predictable at shorter lead times. It is therefore imperative to keep up to date with subsequent forecasts and updates.*

The map below (Figure 2) shows normal rainfall in mm in each part of the county during the same three-month period.

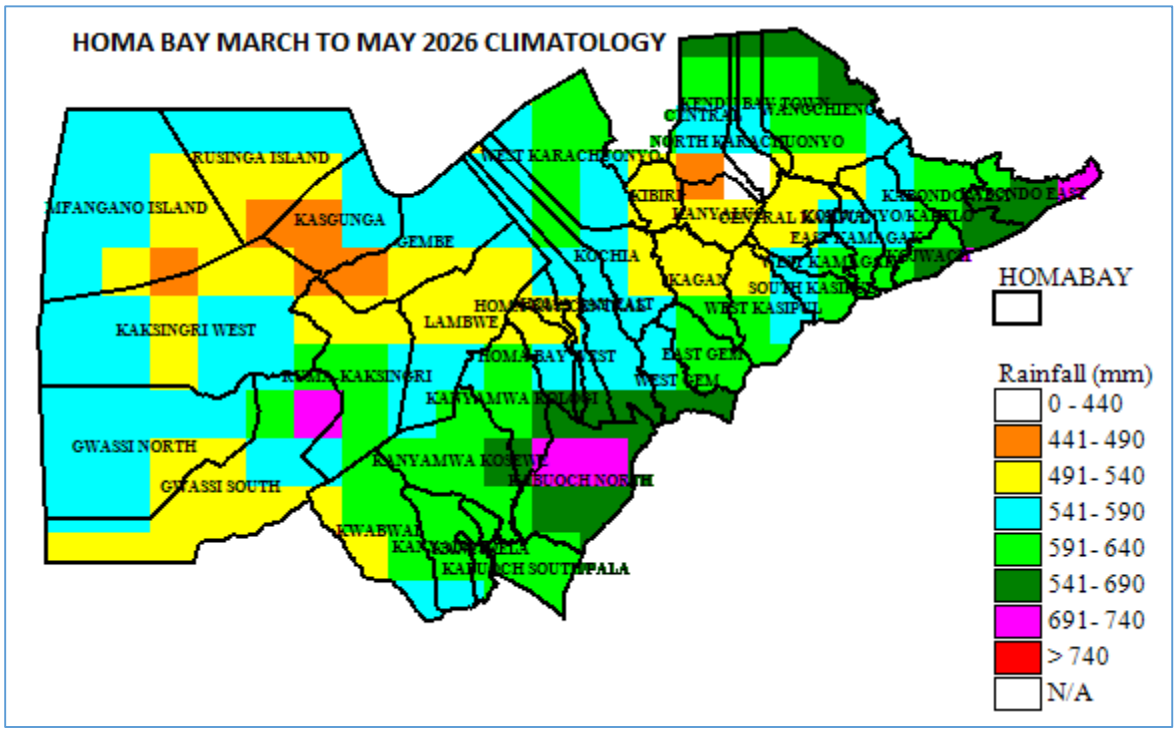


Figure 2. Normal rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during the March, April, May rainy season. *This map shows the average rainfall experienced during the same three-month period over 30 years between 1991 and 2020*

Figure 3 below shows the climatic zones of Homa Bay county.

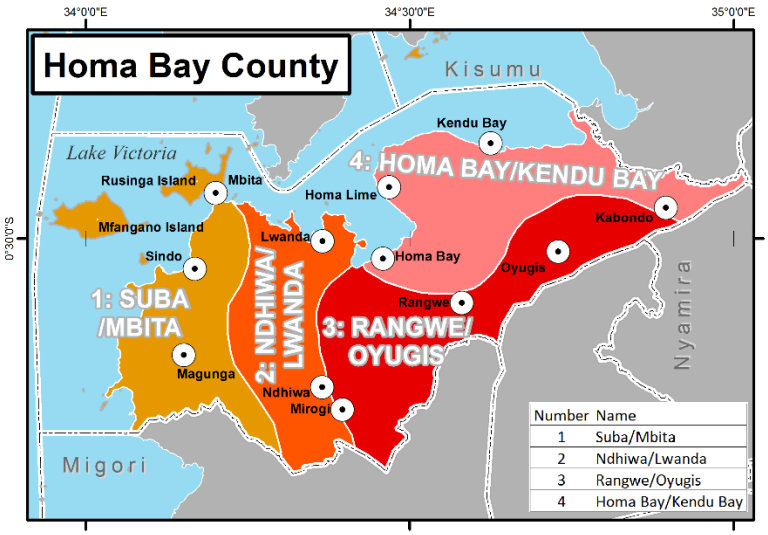


Figure 3. The main climatic zones of Homa Bay County

Seasonal Forecast for Homa Bay County by climatic zone

Forecast for Suba/Mbita, Ndhiwa/Lwanda, Rangwe/Oyugis and Homa Bay/ Kendu Bay climatic zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 (includes Mbita, Rusinga Island, Mfangano Island, Nyandhiwa, Sindo, Ndhiwa, Nyarongi, Mirogi, Rangwe, Oyugis, Kabondo, Homa Bay Town, Kendu Bay, Karachuonyo)

Expected Onset: ***Continues from February 2026***

Cessation (End of season): ***Continues in to June 2026***

Probable volume: *Between 400 to over 700 mm Entire County*

Probable distribution of rainfall during the rainy season: ***Fair to Good***

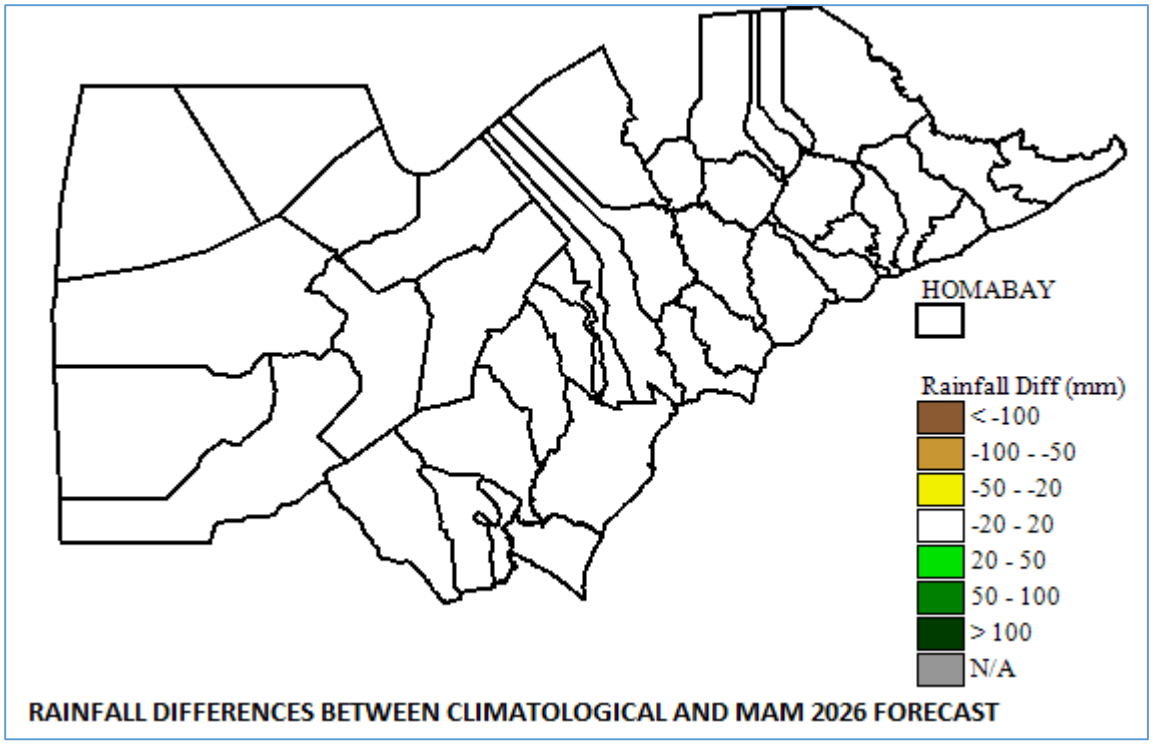


Figure 4: Shows rainfall difference between long term average and March-May 2026 forecast.

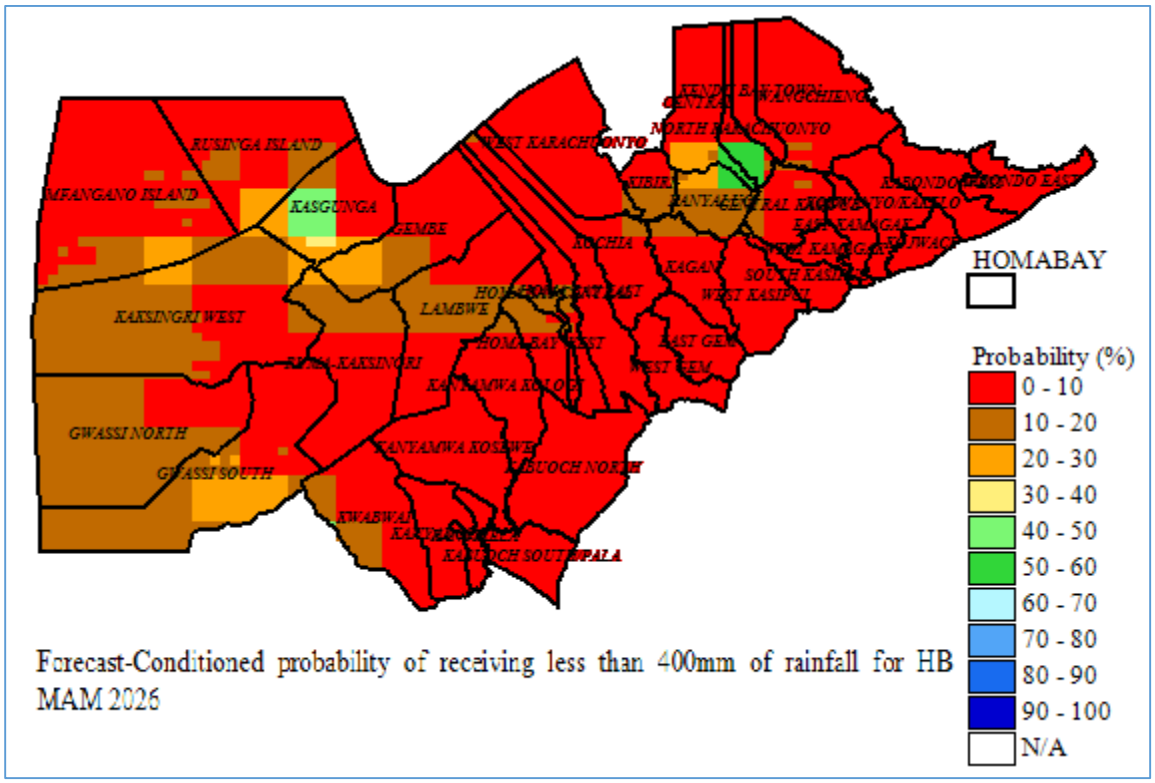


Figure 5: Shows low probabilities of receiving less than 400mm over the county during March-May 2026

Commentary of County Meteorological Director:

- *Areas near Kabondo, Oyugis, Rangwe, Mirogi and Ndhiwa are likely to receive more than 600 mm of rain.*
- *Dry spells are likely to be more than 5 days especially during the months of March and May.*
- *The season is likely to receive **near average to above average rainfall** with **Fair to Good** distribution during the season.*
- *The **onset** is expected from February 2026 and **Cessation (end of season)** to continue into June 2026*
- *The rains are likely to be accompanied with lightning and thunderstorms; therefore people should avoid taking shelter under the trees.*
- *Need for early dredging of the trenches, culverts to allow for free flow of rain watersand prevent overflowing waters due to undirected surface runoffs*
- *Water pans and dams to be desilted on time to enable optimal surface runoffharvesting*
- *The Department of agriculture to timely advice farmers on the crops to plant*
- *County Disaster preparedness team to be on the alert for the likely flash floods due to occasional storms*

Advice to farmers from Ministry of Agriculture

- *Consult your local agricultural extension officer for advice on how to plan farming activities in the light of this forecast*

NB: This forecast should be used with daily, weekly and monthly forecasts issued by this Department

For further information, please contact:



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