



TAITA TAVETA COUNTY
SEASONAL WEATHER FORECAST FOR
MARCH-APRIL-MAY (MAM), 2026

Date of Issue: 24th February, 2026

Forecast Period: 1st March to 31st May, 2026

SUMMARY:

- The MAM season represents the county’s primary “Long Rains” period and is critical for agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods.
- The 2026 outlook indicates largely near-normal rainfall across the county, with **localized variations** at ward level.
- Slightly enhanced rainfall is expected in central areas such as Mwatate and Bura, while mild rainfall suppression is likely in eastern lowlands including Mbololo and parts of Wumingu/Kishushe.
- The **Onset** is expected to be an early onset, between the third and fourth weeks of February 2026. *NB: The onset is already happening in several places within the county.* The **Cessation** of the season may occur from the second to the third week of May 2026.
- Rainfall **distribution** is expected to be **poor to fair in both time and space**, with **intermittent dry spells** during the season.
- **Warmer-than-average temperatures** are forecast across the county, particularly in mid- and low-altitude areas, increasing the likelihood of higher evapotranspiration rates.
- Potential **positive impacts** include improved crop performance and pasture regeneration in wetter zones.
- **Potential risks** include moisture stress in slightly drier wards, localized flooding from occasional heavy rainfall events, and heat-related stress.
- The forecast is intended to support planning in agriculture, water management, disaster preparedness, and climate risk reduction across Taita Taveta County, among other sectors of the communities.

1. Climate Outlook for the March-April-May (MAM) 2026 “Long Rains” Season:

The March to May period is the major rainfall season (long rains) over most parts of Kenya. For Taita Taveta county in the southern low-lands of Kenya, the highest rainfall amounts (greater than 300mm) are received over several parts of the county like within Wundanyi, Werugha, Bomani, Ngolia, Kasigau; as shown on figure 1 (annex).

During the MAM season, several areas are likely to experience a generally poor to fair temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. The season is expected to be characterized by a normal to late onset, with intermittent dry spells. However, occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the county due to expected early-onset over several places. The peak of the rains is expected to occur in April over most regions.

2. Detailed Outlook for the Wards within Taita Taveta County:

Generally, near-average to below-average rainfall is expected over most parts of the county. Table 1 in the annex indicates the climatology, outlook, expected anomaly, interpretation of the forecast and possible implication, for planning purposes. To comment more,

- (1) Areas Likely to Receive Above-Normal Rainfall include Mwatate, Bura, localized parts of Ngolia and Kasigau. These areas show positive departures from the 1991–2020 average, suggesting improved moisture availability.
- (2) Areas expected to have slightly drier than normal season include Mbololo, Eastern Wumingu-Kishushe, and parts of Mboghoni. These wards may experience marginal rainfall suppression relative to climatology.
- (3) Parts that may get a near-normal season of rainfall include several wards across Taveta, Wundanyi highlands, Central Mwatate and the Kasigau-Marungu belt.
- (4) County-Level Summary Outlook:
 - (a) The MAM 2026 season is largely near normal;
 - (b) Slight enhancement in central zones;
 - (c) Slight suppression in eastern lowlands;
 - (d) No extreme wet signal (≥ 392 mm) compared to climatology.

3. Expected Distribution, Onset and Cessation of the MAM 2026 Rainfall:

- (i) **Distribution** of the MAM 2026 Rainfall is expected to be poor to fair in both time and space;
- (ii) **ONSET AND CESSATION:**

The rainfalls that are currently (3rd to 4th weeks of February) being experienced over several places are likely to continue into early March 2026 and are expected to **meet the onset criteria** over several regions. The onset criteria are defined as the receipt of at least 20 mm of rainfall within three consecutive days, with no dry spell exceeding seven (7) days thereafter. Current atmospheric systems have been found to favor the wet-weather activities that are occurring in February, and are expected to temporarily enhance moisture convergence and rainfall amounts over several parts of the county during the late February to early March period. However, one of the systems named MJO is likely to transition to less favorable phases from mid-March, and this may result in reduction of rainfall amounts and increased likelihood of dry spells, as the convective environment becomes suppressed over some regions. The **peak** in of the season is expected on April 2026. The **Cessation** of the season may occur from the second to the third week of May 2026.

4. MAM 2026 Temperature Forecast:

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole county, with increased probabilities over the mid and low altitude lands.

5. Potential Impacts of the Long Rains (March-May) 2026 Season:

The expected rainfall during the 'Long rains' (March to May) 2026 season is expected to have both negative and positive impacts across various sectors. The most likely impacts on various sectors will be highlighted by the sector leads.

NOTE: This seasonal forecast is to be used in conjunction with the weekly and monthly updates, and any advisories which may be issued by this Weather Service whenever it becomes necessary.

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PS : Find figures and tables annexed on MAM 2026 in the following few pages.

ANNEXES: -

Table 1: Detailed Outlook for the Wards within Taita Taveta County;

Table 2: Amount and Probability of Precipitation;

Figure 1: Rainfall Climatology (1991-2020);

Figure 2: MAM 2026 Rainfall Outlook;

Figure 3: Probability of exceeding 300mm for MAM 2026 Rainfall.

Table 1: March-April-May (MAM) 2026 Long Term Average (1991-2020), Rainfall Forecast Ranges, Expected Anomaly, Interpretation of the Outlook, and Possible Planning Implication for Taita Taveta County Wards:

S/NO.	Ward	Climatology MAM 1991–2020 (mm)	MAM 2026 Forecast (mm)	Expected Anomaly	Outlook Interpretation	Planning Implication
1.	Ngolia	227–282	227–282 (locally 282–337)	Near to Slightly Above	Near normal, localized wetter zones	Good cropping prospects
2.	Chala	282–337	282–337	Near Normal	Season typical	Stable production expected
3.	Mahoo	282–337	282–337	Near Normal	Consistent with climatology	Favourable for rain-fed crops
4.	Bomani	282–337	282–337	Near Normal	No major deviation	Normal planning adequate
5.	Mboghoni	337–392	282–337	Slightly Below Normal	Slight reduction from climatology	Monitor crop moisture
6.	Mata	227–282	227–282	Near Normal	Seasonal rainfall expected	Normal cropping window
7.	Wumingu/Kishushe	227–282	172–227 (east), 227–282 (west)	Slightly Below average (east)	Mild suppression in the eastern areas	Water harvesting advisable
8.	Mwanda/Mgange	227–282	227–282	Near Normal	No significant shift	Standard planting calendar
9.	Wundanyi/Mbale	282–337	282–337	Near Normal	Highlands remain wetter	Good for horticulture
10.	Werugha	227–282	227–282	Near Normal	Typical season	Stable outlook

S/NO.	Ward	Climatology MAM 1991–2020 (mm)	MAM 2026 Forecast (mm)	Expected Anomaly	Outlook Interpretation	Planning Implication
11.	Kaloleni	172–227	172–227	Near Normal	Dry but climatologically normal	Drought-tolerant crops advised
12.	Sagalla	172–227	172–227	Near Normal	Dry zone remains dry	Water conservation needed
13.	Mbololo	125–172	117–172	Slightly Below	Drier edge of normal	High moisture stress risk
14.	Marungu	227–282	227–282	Near Normal	No change	Normal planning
15.	Kasigau	227–282	227–282 (isolated 282–337)	Near to Slightly Above	Localized wet pockets	Good pasture regeneration
16.	Mwatate	172–227	227–282	Above Normal	Improvement over climatology	Enhanced crop performance likely
17.	Bura	172–227	227–282	Above Normal	Wetter than average	Favorable for cereals
18.	Chawia	227–282	227–282	Near Normal	Stable rainfall regime	Normal agricultural planning
19.	Rong'e	282–337	282–337	Near Normal	Highlands remain wetter	Good for horticulture
20.	Wusi-Kishamba	282–392	282–392	Near Normal	Stable rainfall regime	Normal planning for agriculture

Table 2: Category and Amount (mm) of Precipitation, and Probability (%) of Rainfall Distribution Over Places

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rainfall Amount</u>	<u>Spatial Rainfall Distribution</u>	
Light	Less than 5.0mm	<u>Term</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Moderate	5 mm to 20 mm	Most Places	Between 66% and 100%
Heavy	20 mm to 50 mm	Several Places	Between 33% and 66%
Very Heavy	Over 50mm	Few Places	Between 0 and 33%

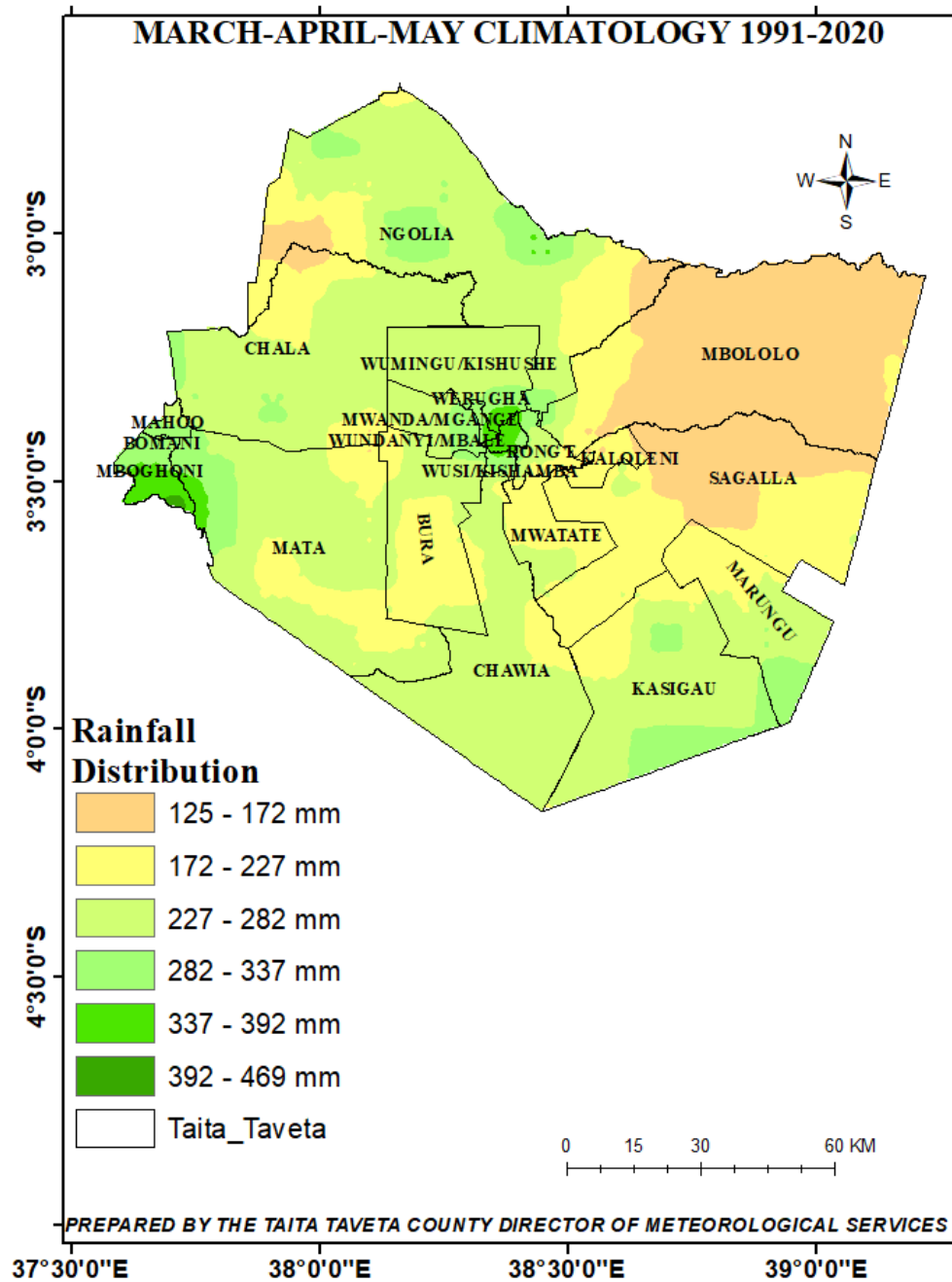


Figure 1: Long-Term-Averages (1991-2020) of Rainfall distribution across Taita Taveta County (Climatology)

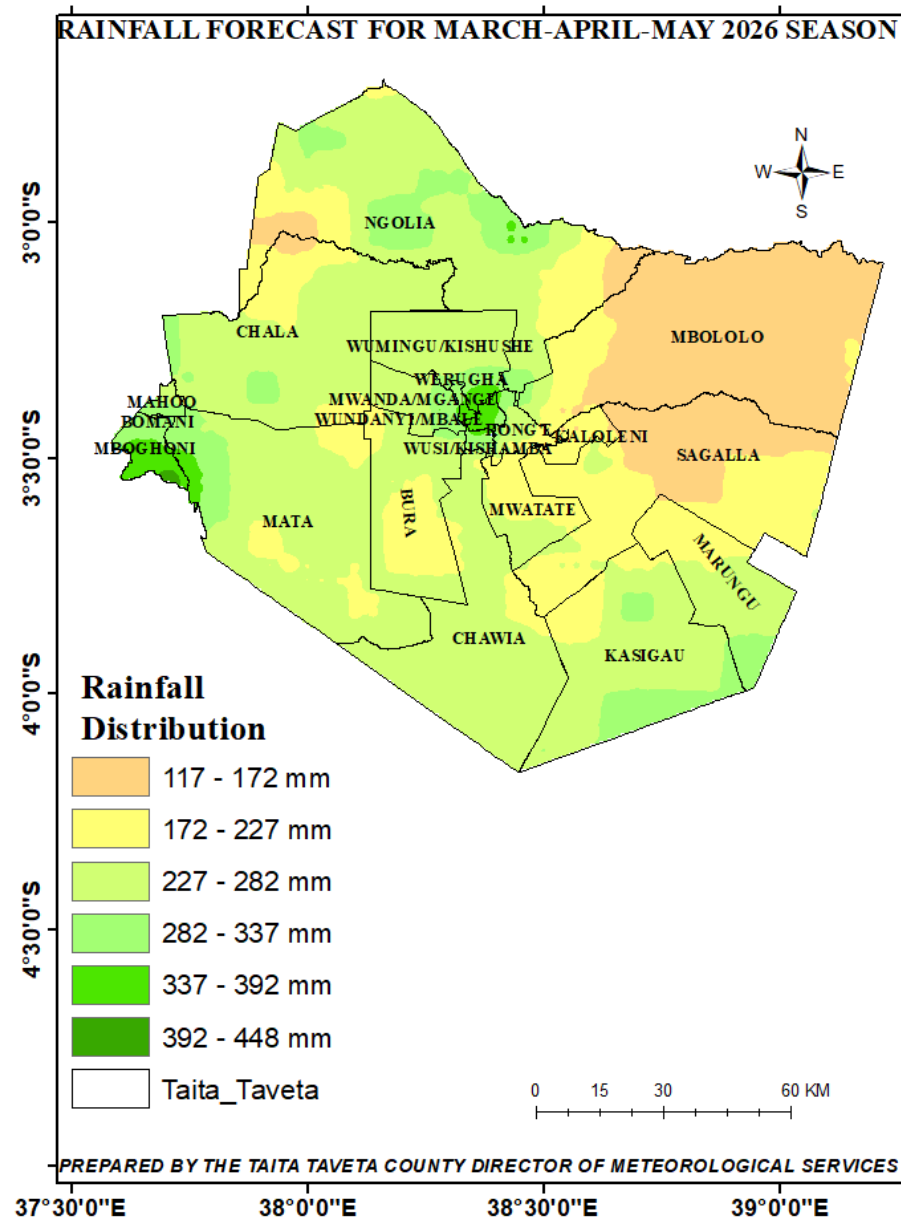


Figure 2: MAM 2026 Rainfall Outlook

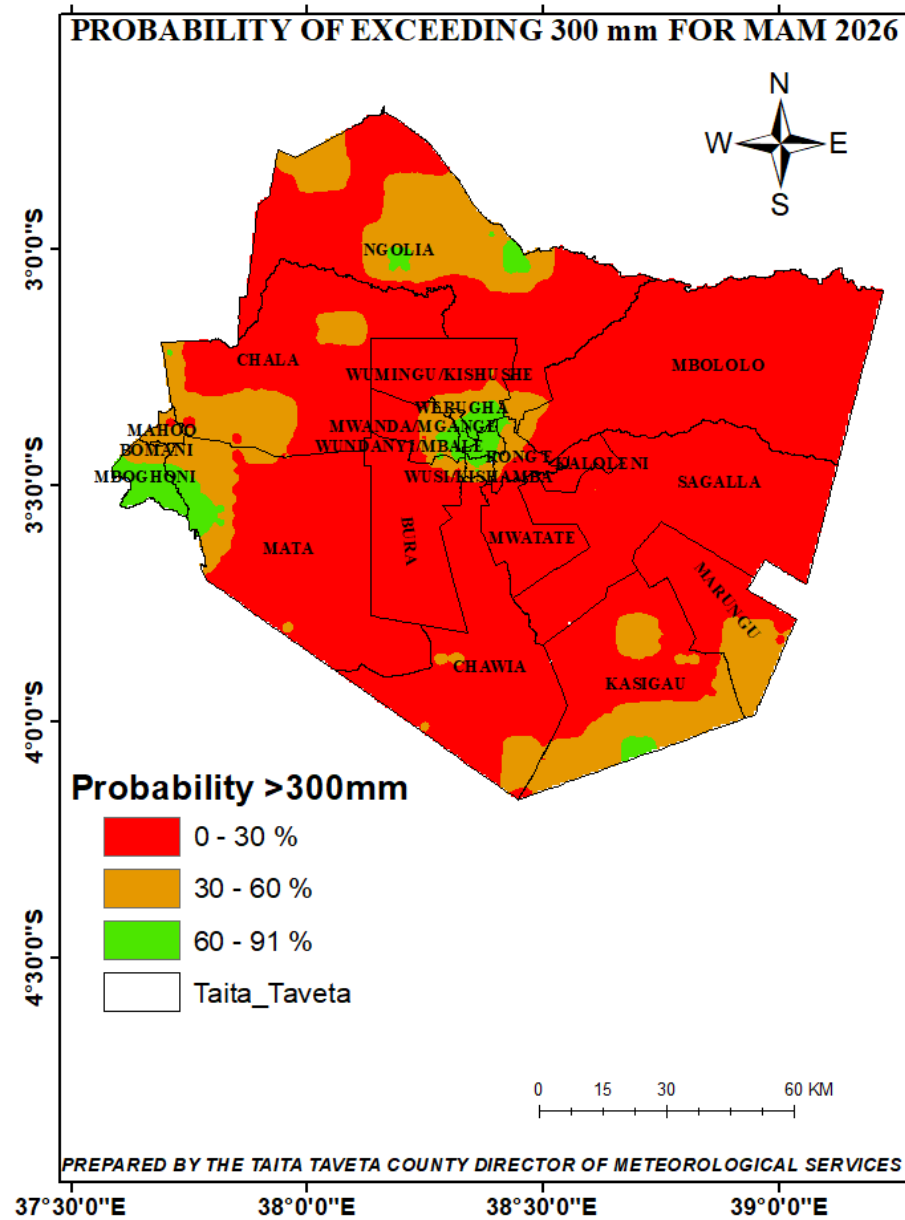


Figure 3: Probability of exceeding 300mm for MAM 2026 Rainfall

End