



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT – HOMA BAY COUNTY

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Date: 6th February 2025

HOMA BAY COUNTY SEASONAL FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2025 "LONG-RAINS" SEASON

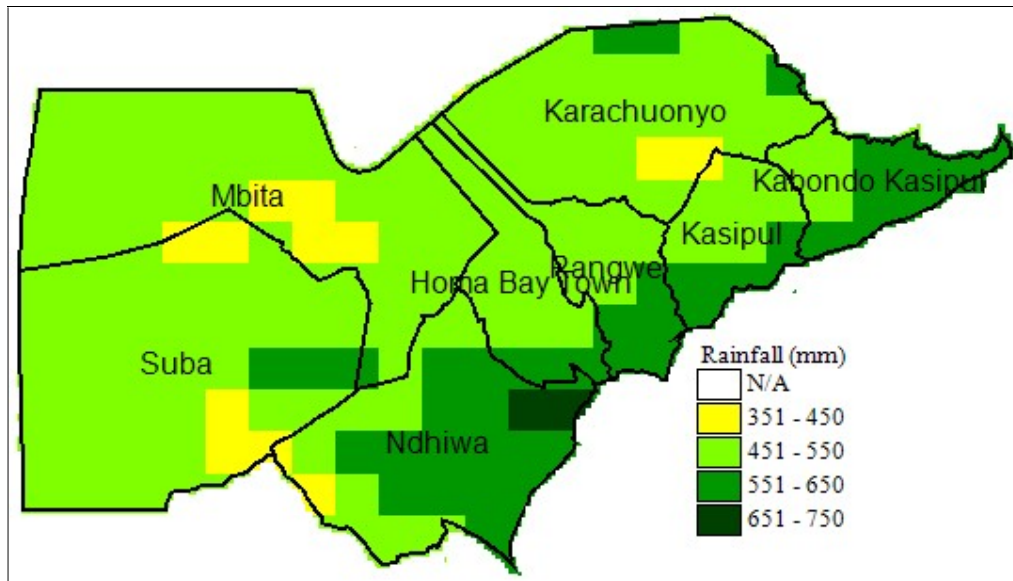


Figure 1: Forecast volume of rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during the March, April, May 2025 rainy season.

SUMMARY OF SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The March-April-May (MAM) period is the major rainfall (long rains) season over most parts of Kenya including Homa Bay County. The County normally experiences the highest seasonal rainfall amounts of about 350 - 650mm. The prevailing negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) over the equatorial Indian Ocean, a persisting weak La Niña condition over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, together with the prevailing atmospheric conditions and local factors that affect the climate of Kenya were considered.

During March to May (MAM) 2025 "Long-Rains" season, Homa Bay County will likely receive near-average to above-average (enhanced) rainfall. The County is expected to continue receiving rainfall from the month of February 2025 with occasional dry spells during the onset month of March and the rains will continue into the month of

June 2025. The rainfall distribution in time and space is expected to be poor to fair with dry spells during the onset month of March, while during the peak month of April 2025 the distribution will be good. During May 2025, rainfall will be near-average with fair to good distribution in time and space over Homa Bay County. The rains will be characterized by isolated incidences of heavy rainstorms that may cause flash floods during these three months. The temperature outlook for MAM 2025 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 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.

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

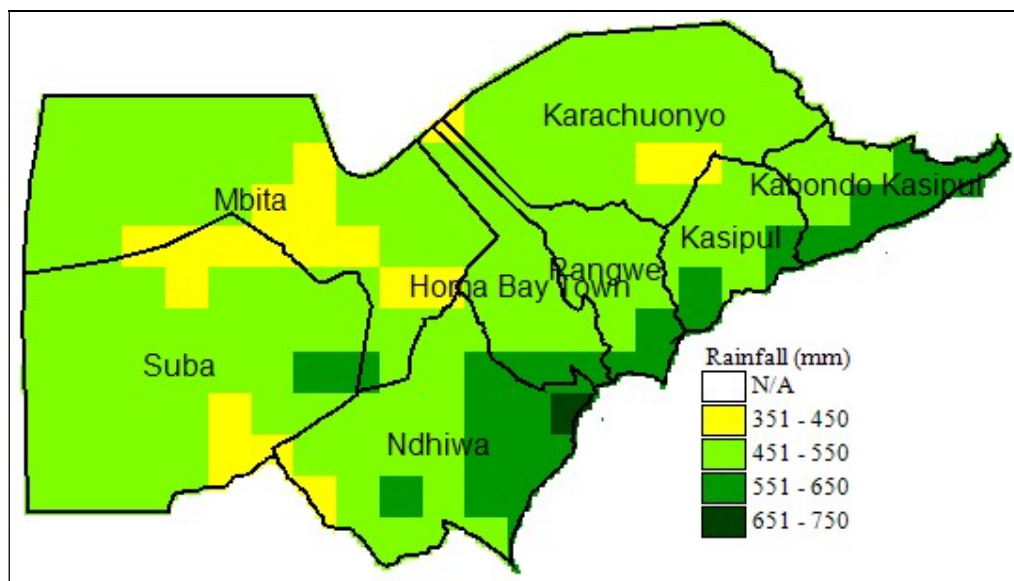


Figure 2. Normal rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during the March, April, May rainy season. This map shows the average rainfall experienced during the same three-month period over 30 years between 1981 and 2010

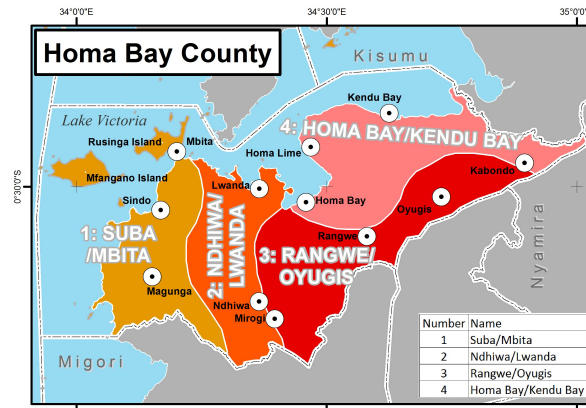


Figure 3. The main climatic zones of Homa Bay County

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 etc.)

Start of rainy season (onset): Rainfall is expected to continue from February 2025 with occasional dry spells during the onset month of March 2025.

End of rainy season (cessation): Rainfall will continue into June 2025.

Probable volume of rainfall: 350 – 650 mm – Close to or more than the long-term average rainfall received in this season over the past 30 years

Distribution of rainfall over time: Rainfall is expected to be near-average to below-average (depressed) with poor to fair distribution both in time and space over most places especially during the onset month of March, while during the peak month of April 2025 rainfall will be near-average to above-average (enhanced) and well distributed both in time and space. During the month of May 2025 near-average rainfall with fair to good distribution in time and space will be experienced over Homa Bay County. During these months, isolated incidences of heavy rainstorms accompanied with thunderstorms will likely occur that may cause flash floods.

Commentary of County Meteorological Director:

- Areas near Kabondo, Oyugis, Rangwe, Mirogi and Ndhiwa are likely to receive more than 550 mm of rain.
- Dry spells are likely to be more than 5 days especially during the months of March and May.

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

Please use this seasonal forecast in conjunction with the monthly and weekly weather forecasts for Homa Bay County, issued by the County Director of Meteorology.

For further information, please contact:

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More information about the climate and weather in Kenya is on the KMD website <http://www.meteo.go.ke/>