TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

SEASONAL WEATHER FORECAST

No. 42 Special Issue: October to December (OND) 2026 Rain Season *Forecast issued on 18th August, 2026*

HIGHLIGHT

- The "***Vuli***", 2026 season is more likely to be influenced by Very Strong El-Niño conditions.
- The "***Vuli***", 2026 rains are expected to be Above Normal to Normal over most parts of the northern coast, north-eastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and northern Kigoma region.
- The "***Vuli***", 2026 rains are expected to start during the fourth week of September and first week of October, 2026 over Lake Victoria and gradually spreading to other areas during October. Usually, "***Vuli***" rains cease in December, however during this season off-seasonal rains are expected to continue in January, 2027.
- Enhanced rainfall is expected during the month of November, 2026.

CLIMATE SYSTEM OUTLOOK DURING OND, 2026

During this season, the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are expected to remain significantly Above Normal over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean (CEPO), indicating the presence of Very Strong El-Niño conditions. Furthermore, Above Normal SSTs are expected over the western Indian Ocean relative to the eastern Indian Ocean, favouring moderate to strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions. Meanwhile, Normal to slightly Above Normal SSTs are anticipated over the eastern Atlantic Ocean (off-Angola coast). Collectively, these ocean-atmosphere conditions are expected to enhance the rainfall making mechanisms over most parts the country.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK DURING OND, 2026

The "***Vuli"*** rainfall season is specific to areas of the north-eastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Island), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba isles), Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region.

Based on the expected climate systems, Above Normal to Normal rains are expected over most parts of Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, northern part of Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, northern part of Morogoro and Pwani (including Mafia Island) regions, together with Unguja and Pemba Islands. The "***Vuli***" rains are expected to cease in December, however during this season off-seasonal rains are may continue to January, 2027 with enhanced rainfall during November, 2026. Details of the "***Vuli"*** rainfall season are as follows: -

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and northern part of Kigoma region (Kakonko and Kibondo districts):

The "***Vuli"*** rains are expected to be Above Normal to Normal over Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions together with the northern part of Kigoma region.

The rains are expected to start in the fourth week of September to first week of October, 2026. These rains are expected to continue through January, 2027.

Northern Coast area and its Hinterlands: (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Island), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba islands):

Seasonal rains are expected to be Above Normal to Normal over Dar es Salaam, Tanga, northern part of Morogoro and Pwani (including Mafia Island) regions together with Unguja and Pemba Islands. The rains are expected to start during the first and second week of October, 2026 and cease in January, 2027.

Northeastern Highlands: (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions): Above Normal to Normal rains are expected over Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions and are predicted to start during the first and second week of October, 2026 and cease in January, 2027.

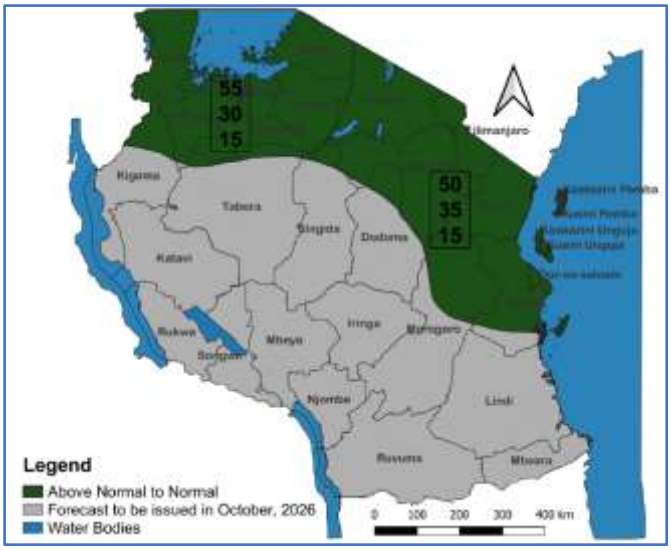


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for October to December (OND) 2026.

Note 1: *Due to the presence of El-Niño, occasional rainy periods are expected in September, 2026 in some areas of the country. However, the seasonal rains (Vuli, 2026) are expected to start in October, 2026 in many areas.*

Note 2: *The presence of El-Niño towards the end of the year may result into the early onset of the "Msimu" rains (November-April) in some areas with a unimodal rainfall regime, where the rainy season normally begins in November.*

Note 3: *The rainfall forecast for this season mainly considered spatial and temporal averages over larger areas. Features and systems that influence small scales temporal and spatial climate variability will be addressed in the subsequent daily and monthly forecast. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day, monthly, and warning updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).*

EXPECTED IMPACTS AND ADVISORY DURING OND, 2026

Agriculture, Fishery, Livestock and Wildlife Production

Areas expecting periods of excessive soil moisture and flooding may face outbreaks of crop diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, and viruses, which can adversely affect plant growth, product quality, and overall yields. Nonetheless, normal agricultural practices are expected to continue in certain regions during the "Vuli" 2026 season. Farmers are therefore advised to prepare their fields, carry out planting and weeding, and apply relevant farm inputs promptly. It is also important to adopt best practices and technologies that will help prevent waterlogging, soil erosion, and loss of fertility. Selecting appropriate seeds and crop varieties, as guided by extension officers, is equally crucial. To mitigate disease impacts and boost productivity, it is further recommended to strengthen agricultural infrastructure, harvest and store rainwater efficiently, and implement integrated pest and disease management strategies.

Livestock keepers and fishers are likely to benefit from the availability of pasture and food for fish. However, outbreaks of livestock diseases such as rift valley fever, foot rot and breeding of vector-borne insects may occur. Also, increased incidence of seaweed diseases and a decline in seaweed production due to decreased seawater salinity are expected. Furthermore, livestock keepers are advised to practice good animal husbandry to conserve pasture and harvest rainwater for future use. The community is advised to put in place good plan for management and conservation of water and animal feeds. Seaweed farmers are advised to conduct cultivation in deep water to get rid off the effects of rainwater entering the sea. In addition, pastoralists and fishers are advised to use weather forecast updates and adhere to the advice provided by extension officers in order to minimize possible adverse impacts and capitalize on expected favourable conditions during the season.

The availability of pasture and water for wildlife in parks and game reserves is expected to be good. However, excessive rainfall may lead to water stagnation and widespread flooding, which could lead to migration of wildlife into community areas. This condition is likely to trigger the risk of disease transmission from wildlife to domestic animals as wildlife entering into community areas surrounding parks and game reserves. Such movements may also increase the likelihood of human-wildlife conflicts, posing risks to both people and livestock. The relevant authorities are advised to improve the various infrastructures in wildlife reserves and raise community awareness on preventing and responding to human–wildlife conflicts. Community members should promptly report any wildlife entering residential areas to the relevant authorities so that appropriate control measures can be taken.

NOTE 2*:*

Note 2: The seasonal rainfall outlook provided is focused on three months of the Vuli season and averaged over large spatial and temporal scales. Features and systems that influence small-scale temporal and spatial climate variability will be addressed in the subsequent daily and monthly forecasts. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day, and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).