



**Highlights:**

- **The cumulative rainfall** for April\_2018 was above the Long Term Mean (LTM) for all stations across the country.
- **An increase in soil moisture** was observed across the country due to the widespread of heavy rainfall.
- The rains during May\_2018 are expected to **slightly reduce, compared to what was observed during the previous two months of March and April 2018**

**I. Introduction**

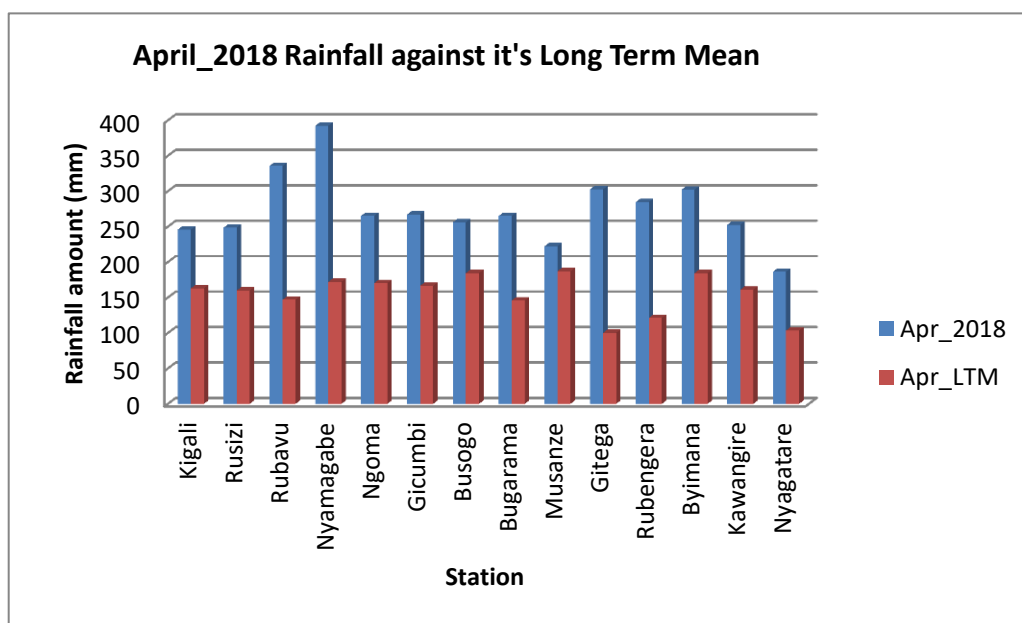
The rainfall during the month of April\_2018 was above the Long Term Mean (LTM) for all stations across the country with some stations like Rubavu, Nyamagabe and Gitega which recorded more than twice the LTM.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during April\_2018 and its Long Term Mean (LTM):

**Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations**

Station	Apr_2018	Apr_LTM
Kigali (Kanombe)	245.8	162.9
Rusizi (Kamembe)	248.6	159.9
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	335.6	146.9
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	392.3	172.1
Ngoma (Kibungo)	265.2	170.3
Gicumbi (Byumba)	267.0	166.5
Busogo	256.1	184.5
Bugarama	265.0	145.9
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	222.2	187.1
Gitega	302.7	100.1
Rubengera	284.6	121.2
Byimana	302.1	184.4
Kawangire	252.5	161.0
Nyagatare	186.3	103.4

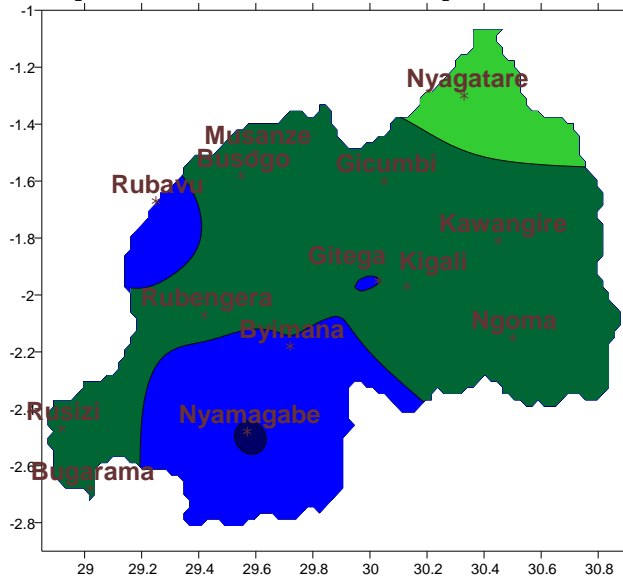
*Table1*



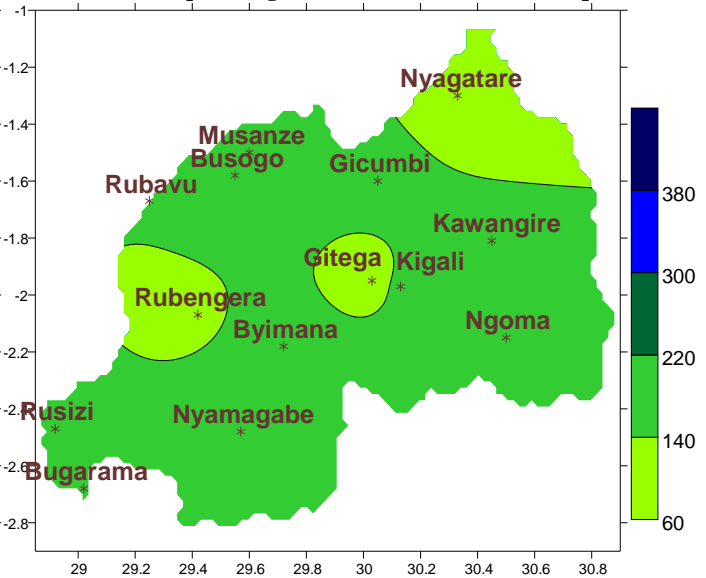
*Plot1*

b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps “**Map 1 and 2**” below shows the cumulative rainfall recorded during the month of April\_2018 and the cumulative Long Term Mean (LTM) rainfall for the same period. The maps “**map 3 and 4**” shows the cumulative rainfall recorded during the month of March\_2018 the cumulative Long Term Mean (LTM) rainfall for the same period.

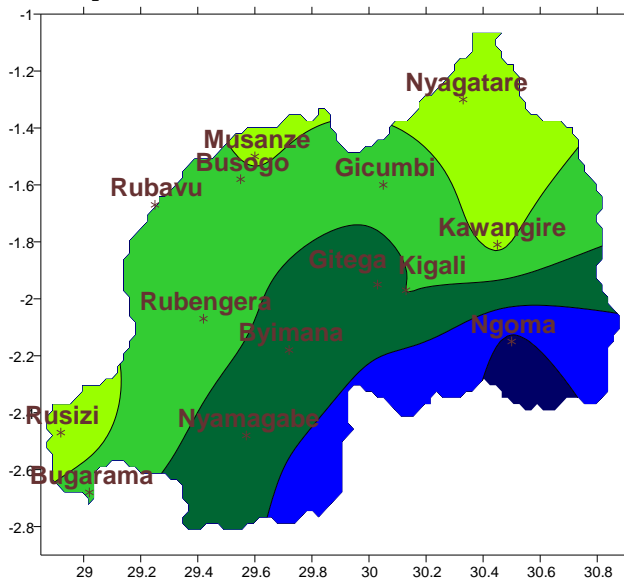
**Map1: Total observed rainfall (mm): Apr\_2018**



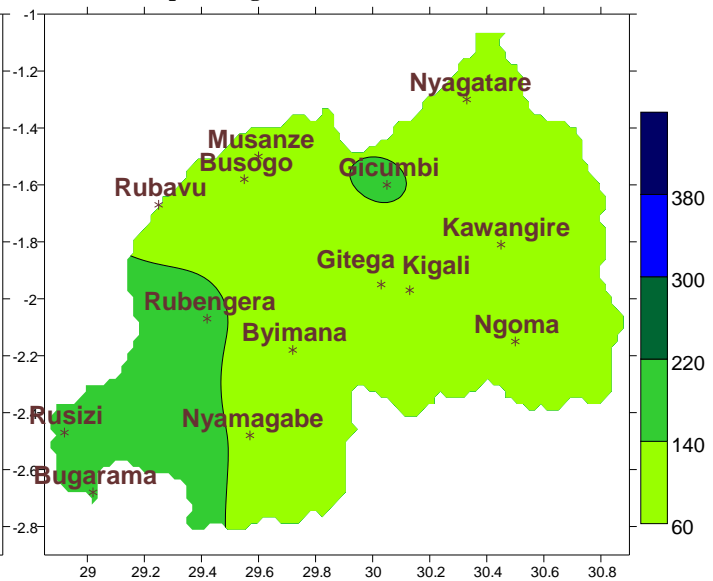
**Map2: Long Term Mean rainfall (mm): Apr\_LTM**



**Map3: Total observed rainfall (mm): Mar\_2018**



**Map4: Long Term Mean rainfall (mm): Mar\_LTM**



## II. Detailed observed rainfall during April\_2018

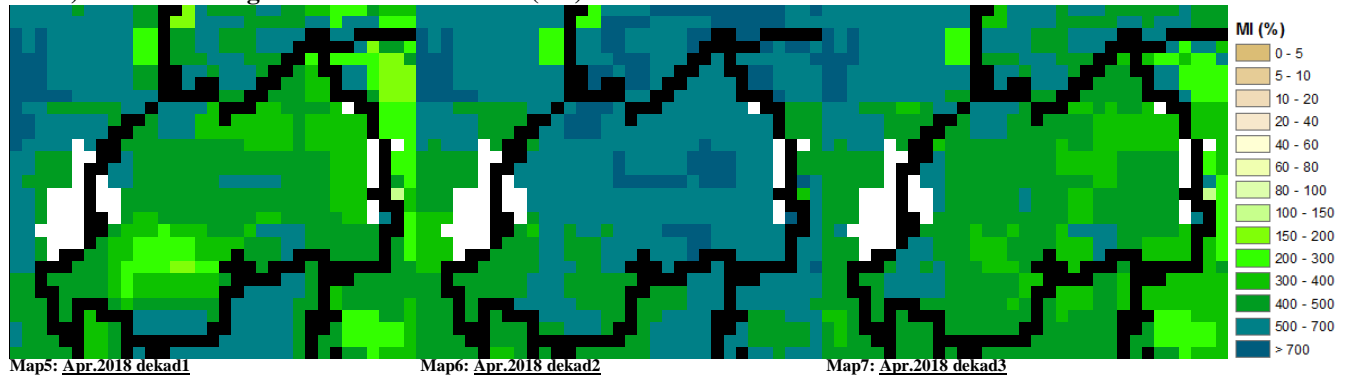
The rainfall during the month of April\_2018 was way above the Long Term Mean (LTM) for all stations across the country (see **Map1&2** and **Table1**). The extreme heavy rainfall was more observed in Rubavu, Gitega and Nyamagabe where Map1 is shaded in green-blue-black colors.

The month of March\_2018 was also characterized by heavy rainfall which was above the LTM across the country with some places in the central and southern parts of the country recording rainfall which was higher above the LTM (see **Map3&4**).

The heavy down pour of rainfall which was experienced during the season was induced by the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) positioned over equatorial Africa where Rwanda is located.

### III. Agricultural impact.

#### a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)

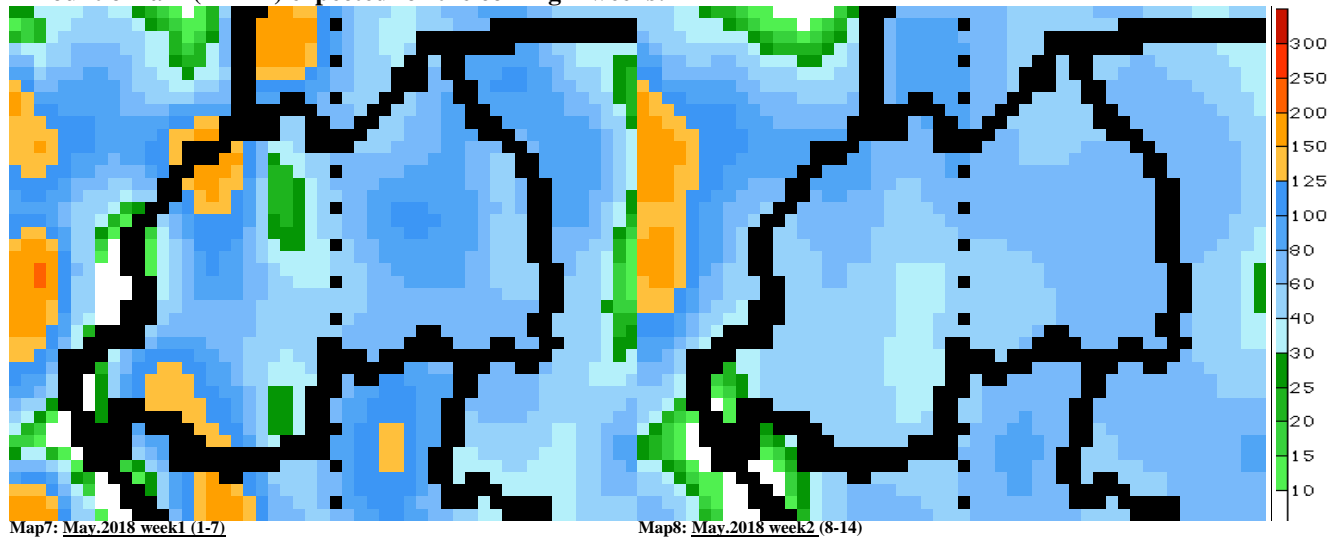


During April\_2018 the satellite derived moisture index showed an increased moisture content for three consecutive dekads this was associated with widespread of rainfall during the month of April 2018. The improved soil moisture indicated favorable conditions for different vegetation's (Map 5, 6&7).

#### b) Rainfall forecast for May\_2018

The wet conditions of rains are expected to prevail over most parts of the country; whereby during the first dekad, the northwestern and southwestern parts of the country are expected to receive more rains while the remaining parts of the country will slightly reduce as indicated on the scale of the map below.

**Amount of rain (in mm) expected for the coming 2 weeks:**



**N.B:** This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily (24-hour), Three (3), Five (5) and Seven (7) days forecasts issued by the Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda)