

Regional Weather Intelligence Report

East Africa Region · Bulletin No. 042/2026 · Valid 16–17 May 2026

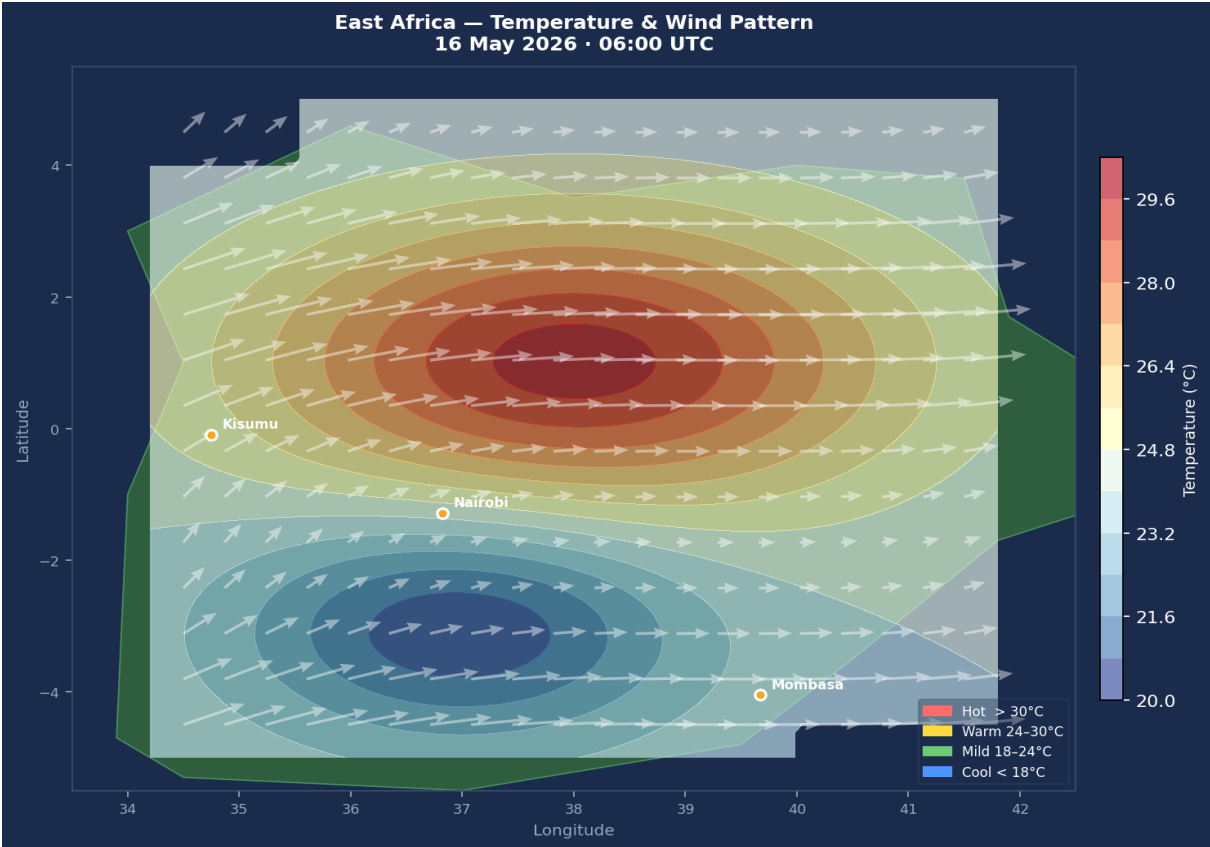


Figure 1. Analysed surface temperature (°C) and wind field over East Africa, 16 May 2026 at 06:00 UTC. Warm anomalies are evident over coastal Tanzania and southern Kenya. Arrows indicate near-surface wind direction and relative speed.

SYNOPTIC SYNOPSIS

A persistent ridge of high pressure over the southern Indian Ocean continues to drive moist south-easterly airflow across the coastal belt and interior highlands. A weak trough extending from northern Tanzania into the Rift Valley is expected to generate scattered afternoon convective activity. Overnight fog patches are probable over the Central Highlands above 2 000 m.

1. Station Observations & Short-Range Forecast

The following observations were recorded at principal synoptic stations across the East Africa region at 06:00 UTC on 16 May 2026. Data are sourced from automatic weather stations (AWS) and supplemented by manual observations where AWS coverage is unavailable.

Station	Alt (m)	Temp °C High / Low	RH %	Wind (kt) Dir / Speed	24-hr Rain (mm)	Outlook
Nairobi (JKIA)	1 624	26 / 13	72	SE / 10	12	Partly cloudy
Mombasa (Moi)	17	32 / 23	85	SE / 15	5	Sunny periods
Kisumu (Kisumu)	1 131	27 / 17	78	SW / 08	21	Afternoon showers
Eldoret (Eldoret)	2 073	22 / 10	65	NE / 06	8	Fog early, clear later
Kampala (Entebbe)	1 155	28 / 19	80	S / 09	18	Isolated thunderstorms
Dar es Salaam	14	31 / 24	83	SE / 12	3	Sunny, hazy
Arusha	1 387	25 / 14	70	S / 07	9	Partly cloudy

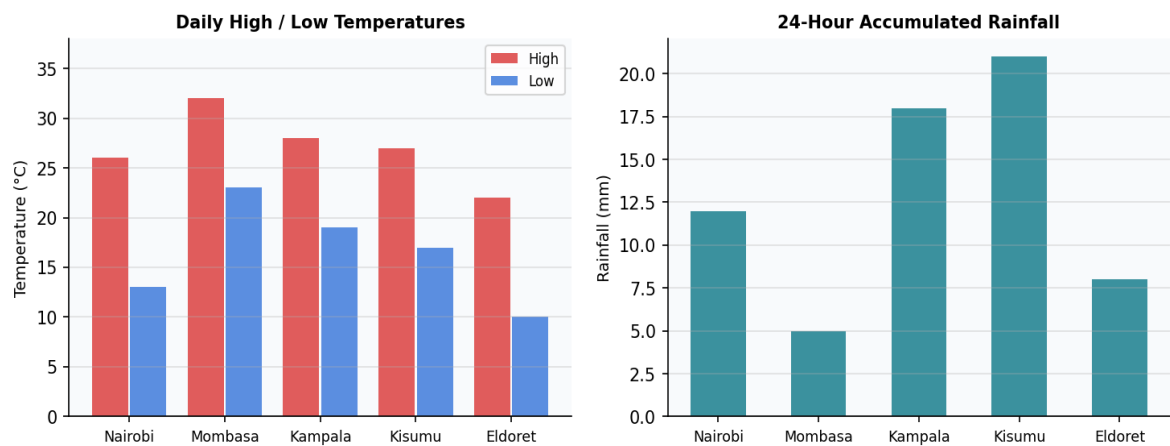


Figure 2. Left: Daily high and low temperatures (°C) for selected stations. Right: 24-hour accumulated rainfall (mm). Kisumu and Kampala record the highest precipitation totals, consistent with active convection along the lake shores.

1.1 Forecast Confidence

Model guidance from the ECMWF ENS and GFS ensembles shows high agreement (>80% probability) on continued south-easterly flow through 17 May. Confidence in precipitation forecasts over the Lake Victoria basin is moderate, with a spread of ±8 mm in the 24-hour totals. Users operating in flood-prone sub-catchments should apply the higher-end precipitation estimates in planning.

Note: All temperature values are in degrees Celsius. Wind speeds are in knots (kt). Rainfall totals represent the 24 h period ending 06:00 UTC 16 May 2026.

2. Weather Warnings & Special Advisories

#	Warning Type	Area Affected	Valid Period	Severity
01	Heavy Rainfall	Lake Victoria Basin	16–17 May	ORANGE
02	Strong Winds	Indian Ocean Coast	16 May AM	YELLOW
03	Dense Fog	Central Highlands > 2000 m	16 May 00–09 UTC	YELLOW
04	Flash Flood Risk	Lower Tana River Corridor	16–18 May	ORANGE
05	Dust Haze	Northern Arid Lands	16–17 May	YELLOW

2.1 Heavy Rainfall — Lake Victoria Basin (Advisory 01)

Rainfall totals of 30–60 mm are expected over the Lake Victoria basin and surrounding counties (Kisumu, Siaya, Homabay, Migori, Busia) during the 24-hour period ending 06:00 UTC on 17 May 2026. Localised totals of up to 80 mm are possible in elevated areas around the Nandi and Mau escarpments. County emergency management offices are advised to pre-position rescue assets and issue early warnings to communities in riparian areas.

2.2 Flash Flood Risk — Lower Tana River Corridor (Advisory 04)

Upstream heavy rainfall in the Mt. Kenya and Aberdare catchments is expected to generate elevated river flows along the Tana River over the next 48–72 hours. Water Resource Authority gauging stations at Garissa report that the Tana is currently at 78% of bankfull capacity. Downstream flooding of low-lying areas in Tana River and Garissa counties is probable if rainfall forecasts verify. Authorities should review evacuation protocols for Bura and Hola irrigation schemes.

2.3 Aviation Significant Weather

SIGMET information is issued separately through the Nairobi FIR VOLMET. Pilots operating VFR in the Lake Victoria region and over the Central Highlands should obtain updated METAR/TAF before departure. Instrument meteorological conditions (IMC) are expected at Eldoret International Airport (HKEL) between 00:00 and 10:00 UTC due to dense fog.

3. Seasonal Climate Context

May 2026 falls within the long-rain season (March–May, MAM) for equatorial East Africa. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) seasonal forecasts issued in March 2026 indicated above-normal rainfall for the Lake Victoria basin and the coast of Kenya and Tanzania, with near-normal conditions expected for northern Uganda and south-western Ethiopia.

Sea-surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean remain approximately 0.4°C above the 1991–2020 climatological mean, providing an enhanced moisture source for convective systems making landfall along the East African coast. The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is currently in phase 5, favouring suppressed convection over the region; however, the signal weakens beyond day 10, after which model uncertainty is elevated.

3.1 Monthly Climatological Normals — Nairobi (1991–2020)

Parameter	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Mean High (°C)	25.2	26.0	25.6	24.1	22.8	21.4
Mean Low (°C)	13.1	13.3	14.0	14.2	13.5	11.8
Total Rain (mm)	38	45	88	211	158	29
Sunshine (hrs)	9.0	9.5	7.8	5.9	6.1	7.3

4. Dissemination & Contacts

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