

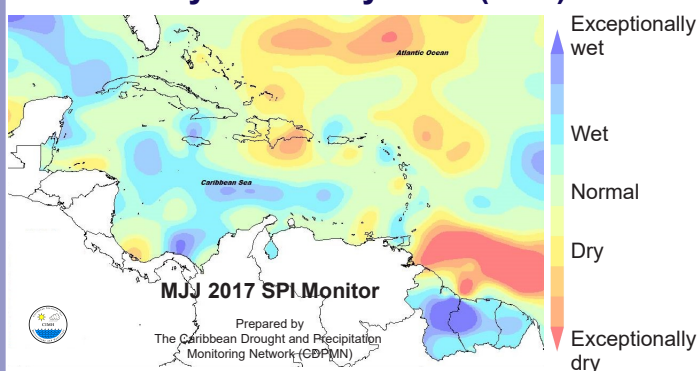
BRIEF SUMMARY: May to November 2017

Throughout much of the region, May to July 2017 marked the transition into the wet season, with an active start to the Hurricane Season. Temperatures became gradually more uncomfortable, due to the rising humidity. The usual amount of rainfall was seen in most places. By contrast, flooding rains fell in parts of Jamaica and the Guianas, whereas record-breaking heat, aided by short-term drought, became a concern in Haiti.

September to November 2017: The wettest time of the year is forecast to be at least as wet as usual in Belize and the Caribbean islands with the potential for flooding and flash floods due to many wet spells. In contrast, the Guianas are now in their dry season. Enhanced health risk is expected due to favourable environmental conditions for mosquito breeding and moisture related pests, as well as excessive heat, incl. heatwaves.

LOOKING BACK:

May-June-July 2017 (MJJ)



Observations

- ♦ **RAINFALL: July:** Parts of Dominica, E Dominican Republic, E Jamaica, parts of coastal Guianas, E Hispaniola, St. Croix, W Tobago, S Trinidad very dry; inland portions of Guyana and W Suriname very wet. **June:** parts of Barbados, W Cuba, N Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, S Jamaica, W Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, NW Suriname and Trinidad very wet. **May:** Cayman and W Dominican Republic very dry; NW Suriname very wet.
- ♦ **TEMPERATURES: MJJ:** warmer than average, especially in Bahamas ($>0.75^{\circ}\text{C}$ above avg.). Exception is Antigua.

Notable Climate Records:

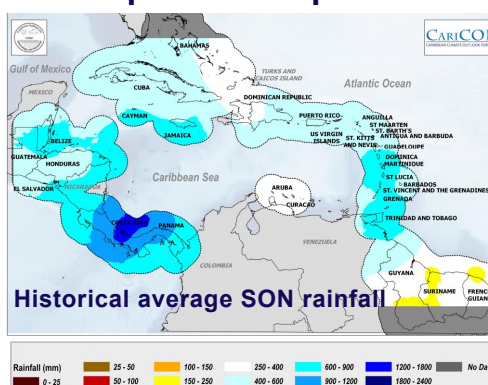
- ♦ **WET - MJJ:** 1 location in Guyana (178% of avg.).
July: 1 location in Guyana.
- ♦ **DRY - MJJ:** None.
- ♦ **HOT - MJJ:** Haiti recording its record highest maximum (as well as July max. temperatures),
1 location in The Bahamas recording its record highest mean temperature.

Notable Impacts

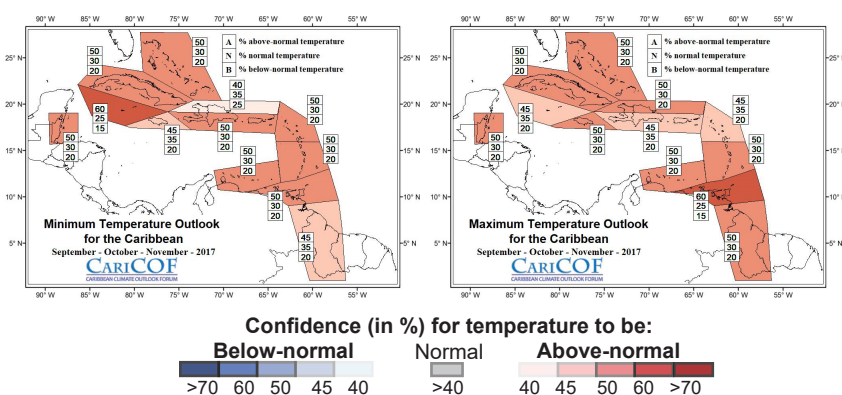
- ♦ Severe flooding in Jamaica after an extreme wet spell during a particularly wet April-May period, inundating farming communities in Cave Valley and in Clarendon, St. Anne, where 2 persons needed rescuing.

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns September-October-November (SON)



Night- and day-time temperatures up to November



Wet days and wet spells up to November

What usually happens from September to November?

- Number of wet days: roughly 35 to 50 (ABC Is: 10 to 20; coastal Guianas: 20 to 35).
- Number of wet spells: 3 to 6 (coastal Guianas: 1 to 3), of which 1 to 4 are very wet (coastal Guianas: up to 2).
- Number of extremely wet spells: up to 2 (Guianas: none).

Forecast and Implications:

- Flash flood concern from possible extremely wet spells.
- Frequent rain disruptions of outdoor activities.
- Wetter surface makes environmental conditions more conducive to mosquitoes & moisture related pests.
- Recharge of large water reservoirs related to wet spells.
- Guianas experiencing their main dry season, but this year, an extreme wet spell is a possibility in November.

Drought conditions up to November

- Drought situation:** Central parts of The Bahamas have seen long term drought developing, while short term drought is seen in Turks and Caicos and in Hispaniola.
- Shorter term outlook:** Shorter term drought may possibly develop in Haïti and in The Bahamas by the end of November.
- Long term concern:** Long term drought is evolving in central Bahamas and might develop in N Bahamas.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - December 2017 to February 2018

Night- and day-time temperatures across the Caribbean are forecast to return to comfortable levels for most, although perhaps still above normal for some, but free of heatwaves. Further indications are that December to February may be wetter than usual or usual throughout the region - with a productive wet season on forecast for the ABC Islands and the Guianas (typically ending in January) -, but with the exception of The Bahamas, Belize, Cayman, Cuba and Jamaica, which are more likely to experience a usual or even drier start to their dry season.

For detailed temperature and precipitation outlooks for DJF 2017-'18, please visit rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/

What influences the next season?

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Recent observations: In recent weeks, sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial eastern Pacific (NINO3.4) have fluctuated around average, meaning neutral ENSO conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: Most models, suggest temperatures to remain around average by SON and DJF, thus favouring neutral (65-70% and 55% confidence for SON and DJF, respectively).

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: The ongoing ENSO neutral state will have little effect on rainfall or temperatures.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SSTs Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) and Caribbean Sea SSTs have warmed significantly to 0.5-1.5°C above average.

Expected conditions: Sustained positive temperature anomalies in these areas by DJF.

Expected impacts: Warm SSTs east of the Caribbean may lead to above-average humidity in the wet season (and ensuing dry season), as well as atmospheric instability. Those factors tilt the odds towards a wetter second half of the wet season, a more intense peak of the hurricane season in September. Warmer air temperatures, and more heatwaves, are expected until the end of October, especially during dry spells.

Climate outlooks - background

The Caribbean Climate Outlooks are prepared by the Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF). The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre in demonstration phase, coordinates the CariCOF process. Contributors to the Outlooks are the Meteorological Services from the region. For more information on how the outlooks are produced, please visit rcc.cimh.edu.bb.

The Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks are issued in the form of a map, which shows regions where the forecast rainfall or temperatures have the same probabilities to be:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Above-normal (A) | - within the wettest/hottest third of the historical record |
| Near-normal (N) | - within the middle third of the historical record |
| Below-normal (B) | - within the driest/coldest third of the historical record |

DISCLAIMER

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