



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Country Profile:

Anguilla



1. PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Anguilla is a British Overseas Territory in the Eastern Caribbean, comprising a small main island and several offshore islets. Anguilla is located at 18.2°N Latitude and 63.05°W and situated around 241 km (150 miles) east of Puerto Rico and just 14 km (9 miles) north of St Martin. It is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands. The island measures 25 km by 5 km with a total land area of 91 sq. km. The beaches regarded as some of the best in the Caribbean, offer visitors several different experiences. These range from long sandy stretches like Rendezvous Bay, overlooking neighboring Saint Martin Island; to secluded coves reached by boat, such as at Little Bay (<http://www.anguilla-vacation.com/>). Protected areas include Big Spring, known for its prehistoric petroglyphs, and East End Pond, a wildlife conservation site.



Figure 1. Map of Anguilla. Credit: Wiki Commons

Temperatures in Anguilla are fairly constant throughout the year averaging about 27°C. The wet season spans May to November/December each year with a mean annual total of just over 1050 mm. The island has a flat landscape so that spatial variation of rainfall is small and, since rainfall levels are usually low, vegetation is mainly small trees and bush.

2. CLIMATOLOGY

Meteorological needs of Anguilla are served by the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services (<http://www.antiguamet.com/>). There is a dedicated webpage with forecast information that is updated on a daily basis. There is a Manual Climatological Station and an Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at the local office sited in Anguilla located at the Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport (18° 12' N, 63° 03').

The Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall climatology are presented in Figure 2 and in Table 1. As a relatively flat and small island relative to the Windward Islands or Guadeloupe, annual precipitation totals are generally similar to the surrounding Leeward Islands. May can, in some

years be wet, while June tends to be drier. From July to December, rainfall totals are higher, but with increasing variability until November (the near-normal range between the first and second tercile is 67 mm to 151.3 mm, but the 90th percentile is 382.3 mm)and, subsequently, very little variability in December.

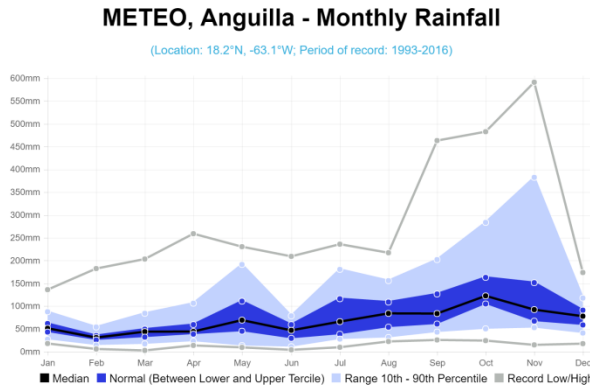


Figure 2 1993-2016 Climatology of monthly rainfall totals in Anguilla. Source: rcc.cimh.edu.bb

Table 1. Summary statistics of rainfall in Anguilla (1993-2016)

Station Name	Anguilla-METEO (Year/Month of Occurrence)
Mean Annual Rainfall	1056 mm (1993 -2015)
Wettest year/Month / three month period	1754 mm (1999) / 591.1mm (Nov. 1999) / 1205 mm (September to November 1999)
Driest Year/Month / three month period	530.7 mm (1994) / 2.7 mm (March 1999) / 49.5 mm (May to July 1994)

Source: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/>

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Anguilla has a population of about 16,000 (IMF 2012). The AMB (2015) estimates its GDP at USD 333 million with a per capita GDP of USD 20,241. The island is deemed to have turned its small size and population, natural beauty, relative inaccessibility, and stability as a British Overseas Territory to its advantage by establishing a reputation as an upscale and exclusive tourist destination (IMF 2010). It has also developed a relatively large financial sector in comparison to the size of its economy (IMF 2012; AMB 2015).

4. KEY NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR NEEDS

A 2015-2016 survey of user climate information needs in the Caribbean captured responses from 2 sectoral users representing the water and disaster risk management sectors in Anguilla. One tourism sector representative also participated in stakeholder interviews in 2016. This very small sample reflects the limitations of the territory's size, population and the potential market for the delivery and use of climate services. It may also signal that a targeted future research intervention is needed to address this critical data gap.

Users report that they obtain their climate information from government agencies, departments and research institutes. Climate information is used to help inform and manage the day-to-day operational activities and also to inform strategic planning on a daily basis. Users reported the following barriers to the use of climate information: 1) a lack of knowledge of climate data, 2) an inappropriate level of data offered by climate information to support organisational decisions, and 3) a lack of in-house expertise to use the information.

5. RANGE OF CLIMATE SERVICES

As of September 2015, the Clayton J. Lloyd Meteorological Service (CJLMS) reports that it is a Category 1 climate services provider offering a basic range of climate data services and information products (e.g., focusing on climate observations, climate data management, climate monitoring). As such, the level of interaction between the CJLMS and users of climate information is low and the CJLMS does not yet deliver climate information that is tailored, packaged and delivered to meet specific user needs, nor does it tailor any of the regional climate products for the national context. To date, no National Climate Outlook Forum has been convened in Anguilla. Moreover, feedback is not routinely collected from users.

The socio-economic sectors that currently benefit from climate data services are the agriculture, water and disaster risk management sectors. In addition, the CJLMS interacts with the media, schools, the Department of Environment, and the private sector (particularly engineers). The CJLMS has identified the tourism and financial sectors as additional sectors that could potentially benefit from climate services.

CJLMS recommendations for improving its climate services capability include:

1. A database management system (WMO approved);
2. Training and capacity building, particularly in: i) data management, ii) local climate forecasting and research, iii) the development of climate products and use of tools;
3. A research division with a clear research agenda and long-term research strategy; and
4. Increased staff complement since the "staff complement is too small to engage in climate service delivery though very willing to do so".

6. REFERENCES

International Monetary Fund (IMF). 2012. IMF Country Report No. 12/8. United Kingdom—Anguilla—British Overseas Territory 2011 Article Iv Consultation Discussions. Washington, D.C.

AMB Country Risk Report. 2015. Country Report: Anguilla

Web Sites

<http://www.anguilla-vacation.com/>

<http://carogen.cimh.edu.bb/>

<http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Anguilla

<http://www.antiguamet.com/>