



### BRIEF SUMMARY: June to December 2018

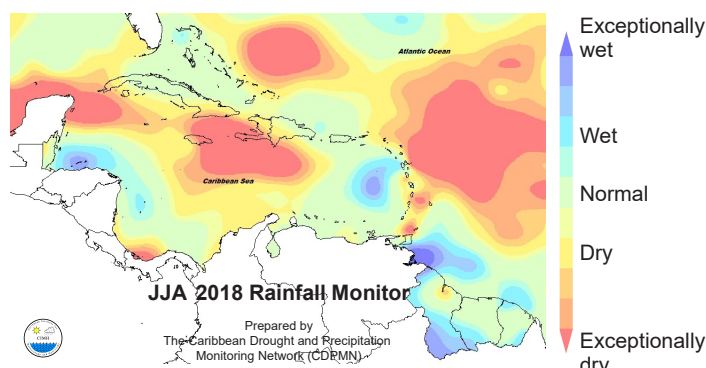
**June to August 2018:** Much of the region observed the usual rainfall or less, leading to short term drought in Antigua, Barbados, the northern Leewards, southern Hispaniola, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Tobago. Temperatures were close to average, except in Curaçao and Guadeloupe (cooler) and central Bahamas and Jamaica (warmer).

**October to December 2018:** The transition between the wet and dry seasons is usually still characterised by frequent wet days and wet spells, leading to concerns of flood and flash flood potential. The forecasts suggest no strong deviation from the usual case, though recurrent dry spells may affect crop growth (except in the Lesser Antilles) and long-term drought is possible in Antigua and Cayman Isls. The region will also transition into the milder half year, with a few heatwaves initially increasing heat stress in many areas southwards of Guadeloupe.

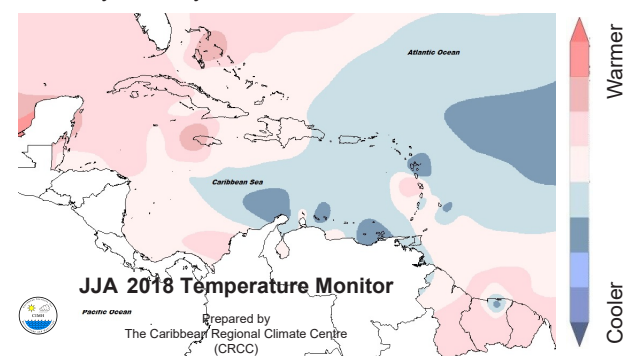
### LOOKING BACK:

#### Jun. - Jul. - Aug. 2018 (JJA)

#### Observations



- ♦ **RAINFALL:** Antigua, Barbados, S Hispaniola, E Jamaica, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Lucia, Tobago very dry; SW Guyana very wet.



- ♦ **TEMPERATURES:** ABC Islands, Barbados, Leewards, US C'bean Territories cooler than average; other areas slightly above-average temperatures.

#### Notable Climate Records:

**WET:** JJA: 1 location in Guyana recorded its highest rainfall totals on record (165% of avg.).

**DRY:** JJA: 1 location in Dom. Republic recorded its lowest rainfall totals (50% of avg.).

**August:** 3 locations in Jamaica.

**HOT:** JJA: 4 locations in Guyana, 1 in Bahamas, 1 in Belize, 1 in French Guiana, 1 in Suriname, 2 in Trinidad & Tobago recorded their highest mean temperatures.

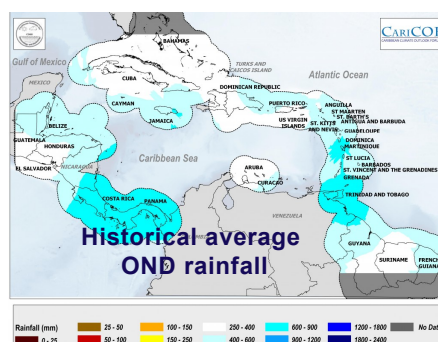
SEPTEMBER 2018

find out more by using the clickable images and headings or visit [rcc.cimh.edu.bb](http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb)

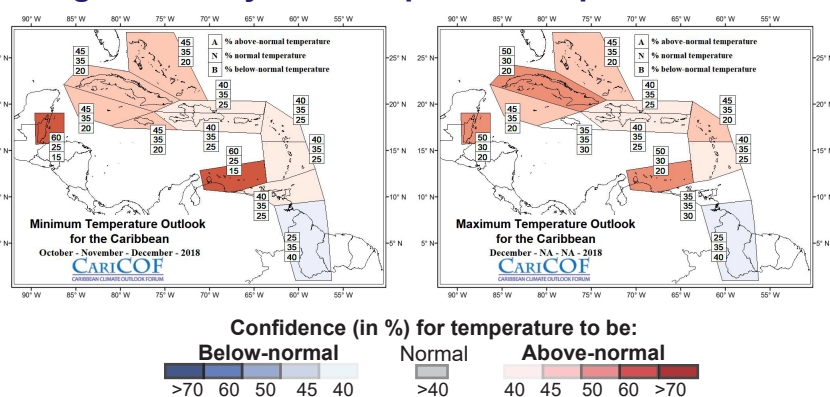
e-mail [caricof@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:caricof@cimh.edu.bb)

### WHAT NEXT?

#### Rainfall patterns October-November-December (OND)



## Night- and day-time temperatures up to December



OND night-time (minimum) and day-time (maximum) temp. in the Caribbean are likely to be above- to normal, with the possible exception of Guyana.

## Wet days and wet spells up to November

### What usually happens from October to December?

- Number of wet days: roughly 35 to 50 (ABC Is: 15 to 35; coastal Guianas: 20 to 40).
- Number of wet spells: 3 to 6 (coastal Guianas: 1 to 4), of which 1 to 4 are very wet (coastal Guianas: up to 2).
- Number of extremely wet spells: up to 2 (Guianas: up to 1).

### 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 until November, after which an extreme wet spell is possible.

## Drought conditions up to December

**Drought situation:**  
(as of September 1)

Grand Cayman, southernmost Belize and southernmost Hispaniola have seen long term drought developing, while short term drought is seen in Antigua, parts of Barbados, northern Belize, southernmost Cuba, southern Hispaniola, eastern Jamaica, northern Leewards, St. Lucia and Tobago.

**Shorter term outlook:**

Shorter term drought will possibly remain in northern Belize by the end of December.

**Long term concern:**

Long term drought will possibly remain in Cayman and possibly appear in Antigua by the end of November.

## BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - January to March 2019

Night- and day-time temperatures across the Caribbean are forecast to return to cooler levels by December, making January to March comfortable for most, although perhaps still above normal. Further indications are that January to March - which are part of the dry season in most areas - may be drier than usual in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, western Guianas and the Windwards, whereas Cayman may possibly be wetter than usual.

For detailed temperature and precipitation outlooks for JFM 2019, please visit [rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/](http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks/)

## What influences the next season?

### El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

**Recent observations:** In recent months, sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial eastern Pacific (NINO3.4) have increased to 0-0.5°C above average, meaning warm neutral ENSO conditions.

**Model forecast and guidance:** Most models suggest ENSO conditions to evolve into a weak or moderate El Niño (with 60-70% and 65-75% confidence for OND and JFM, respectively).

**Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures:** An El Niño state will tend to tilt the odds to drier conditions with less shower activity, except in JFM in the Bahamas, Cayman and Cuba, where drier conditions become more likely. Note, however, that these effects tend to be more dominant with stronger El Niño signals.

### Climate outlooks - background

The Caribbean Climate Outlooks are prepared by the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF). The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre, coordinates the CariCOF process. Contributors to the Outlooks are the Meteorological Services from the region.

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  |

CariCOF Outlooks offer consensus-based information averaged across multiple territories. In some cases, individual national results may differ from region wide results. To get information on your specific country context, please consult your National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and/or any national level bulletins they may provide.

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