

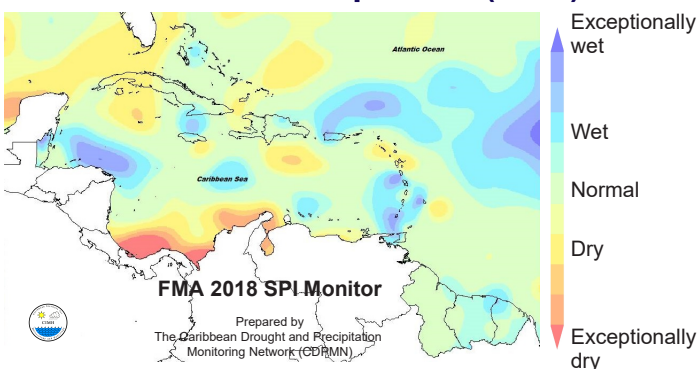
## BRIEF SUMMARY: February to August 2018

**February to April 2018:** Most areas observed at least the usual rainfall totals, as is common during a La Niña event. Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada and north-western Puerto Rico were particularly wet. Drought is not a primary concern at this time. This was one of the coolest season in recent years in the east of the region.

**June to August 2018:** A relatively cool summer season is forecast, although a number of heat waves are likely to temporarily increase heat stress in vulnerable sections of the population. Except in the Guianas, rainfall totals are forecast to be lower than usual or similar to the usual; a number of short dry spells is expected, along with fewer wet spells than usual. The latter may reduce the potential for flooding and associated hazards in Belize and in the islands. Nevertheless, there is a concern for flash flooding from extreme wet spells in any area.

### LOOKING BACK:

#### Feb. - Mar. - Apr 2018 (FMA)



### Observations

• **RAINFALL:** **April:** Barbados, N Belize, SW Dominica, Grenada and NW Puerto Rico very wet. **March:** central Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, N Jamaica, St. Vincent, W Trinidad very wet; N Bahamas, W Martinique, St. Kitts, SE Trinidad very dry. **February:** Aruba, W Belize, Curacao, Grenada, N Dominican Republic, S Martinique very wet; N Bahamas and S Jamaica very dry.

### TEMPERATURES:

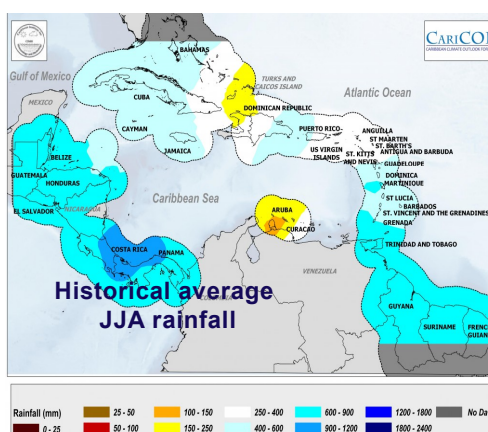
**FMA:** slightly warmer than average in most places, but  $>1^{\circ}\text{C}$  above avg. in N & central Bahamas, W Cuba and W Jamaica; slightly cooler than avg. in Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and NE Suriname.

### Notable Climate Records:

- **WET - FMA:** 2 locations in Belize recorded their highest rainfall totals on record ( $\sim 160\text{--}193\%$  of avg.), 7 in Dom. Republic ( $\sim 210\text{--}415\%$  of avg.), 3 in Martinique ( $\sim 190\text{--}215\%$  of avg.). **April:** 1 in Belize, 1 in Dominica, 4 in Dom. Republic, 2 in Martinique.
- **DRY - February:** 1 location in Jamaica ( $\sim 15\%$  of avg.)
- **HOT - FMA:** 1 location in Belize recorded its highest minimum temperature. Haiti recorded its highest maximum temp. (incl. also a record warmest month of February).

### WHAT NEXT?

#### Rainfall patterns June-July-August (JJA)



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

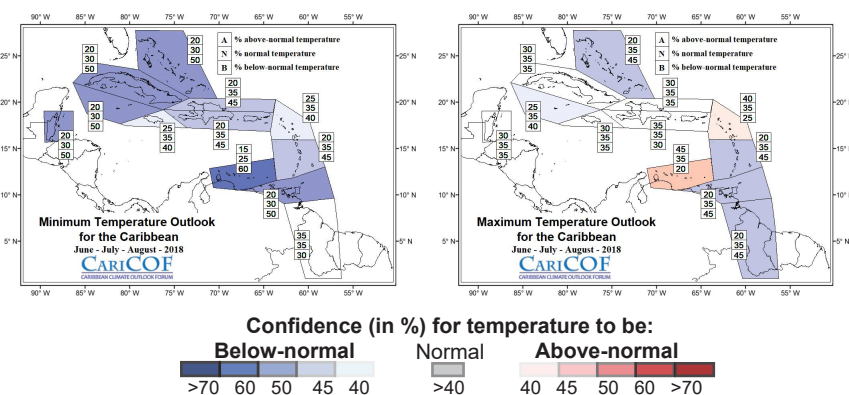
## Wet days and wet spells up to August

### What usually happens from June to August?

- Number of wet days: roughly 30 to 45 in flatter areas of the islands, and 50 to 65 in mountainous areas and in the Guianas (ABC Is. 5 to 15;).
- # of wet spells: 3 to 6 (ABC Islands: up to 3), of which 1 to 3 are very wet (ABC Is: up to 2)
- # of extreme wet spells: up to 1 or 2.

### Forecast and Implications:

- **Flash flood potential** a concern in most areas in the event of extreme wet spells.
- **Slightly reduced long-term flooding potential and recharge rates** of large water reservoirs associated w/ slightly fewer wet spells than usual, except in the Guianas.
- **Less reliable rains for agriculture** and **slower increase in surface wetness** in Belize and the islands.



JJA night-time (minimum) and day-time (maximum) temp. in the Caribbean are likely to be cooler than in most recent years, except in ABC Is and Leewards during the day.

## Drought conditions up to August

**Current Drought situation:** Short term drought is seen in Cayman, Western Cuba and St. Kitts & Nevis, though not severe.

**Shorter term outlook:** Shorter term drought might possibly develop in Barbados, south-eastern Belize, eastern and northern Dom. Republic, St. Kitts and Tobago.

**Long term concern:** Long term drought may possibly develop in Western Cuba and northern French Guiana  
(by 30 Nov., 2018)

## BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - September to November 2018

Although indications suggest that the period are likely to be cooler than in most recent years, heat discomfort may peak and heat waves are likely in September across the region. The precipitation outlook trends to a usual or a wetter than usual period in the ABC Islands, Greater Antilles and Leewards, but drier than usual in Barbados, the Guianas, Trinidad and Tobago and Windwards.

For detailed temperature and precipitation outlooks for SON 2018, please visit [rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/](http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/)

## What influences the next season?

### El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

**Recent observations:** The Cool SST anomalies between  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the Niño3.4 region of the Pacific associated with a weak La Niña since August have faded in April, marking an end to the La Niña event.

**Model forecast and guidance:** Most models suggest neutral ENSO conditions for JJA. Model confidence for ENSO neutral conditions is ~65% for JJA and ~40- 45% for SON. Most models suggest El Nino conditions to appear later in the year, with a confidence of 40-50% by SON.

**Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures:** If neutral, ENSO will exert minimal influence on Caribbean rainfall and temperature. If El Niño manifests by SON, an enhanced sub-tropical jet would tend to increase precipitation in the north, while increased wind shear further south would reduce precipitation there.

### 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, 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](http://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  |

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