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Seasonal Forecast: May to July (MJJ) 2023

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What are the usual MJJ conditions?

May-June-July		
RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (30YEARS)		
	CANEFIELD AIRPORT	DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT
Normal Accumulation	333.6 to 593.2mm	445.2 to 729.8mm
Number of Wet Days	36 to 61 days	43 to 69 days
Number of 7-day Wet Spells	3 to 7	2 to 6
Number of 7-day Dry Spells	-	-
TEMPERATURE (15YRS AVERAGES)		
Average Maximum	31.8°C to 32.4°C	30.4°C to 30.7°C
Average Mean	27.9°C to 28.5°C	27.4°C to 27.8°C
Average Minimum	24.0°C to 24.5°C	24.4°C to 24.9°C

What is the forecast for this MJJ season?

Rainfall

- May marks the transition of the dry season into the wet season;
- Uncertainties remain in the rainfall totals forecast at this time; however, a general increase in rainfall amounts is usual during this season;
- A slight decrease in the number of wet days is likely, however, the frequency of outdoor activity disruptions due to rainfall should be increasing;
- A faster than usual increase in the number of very wet spells (with medium confidence) which could result in flash floods is expected;
- At this time, there is no concern for drought, however some parts of the island may continue to experience extended dry spells.

Temperature

- The Caribbean Heat Season begins in May;
- Temperatures are forecast to be high enough to be uncomfortable to many;
- Daytime and night-time temperatures are likely to be higher than usual;
- This may manifest in recurring heatwaves and rapidly increasing heat stress.

What factors are influencing this forecast?

1. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Recent observations: Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern Pacific have risen from La Niña to slightly above average (ENSO neutral conditions) by mid-April.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models indicate a likely transition to El Niño conditions in MJJ (60-70% confidence) and ASO (80% confidence).

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: ENSO neutral offers little contribution to seasonal forecasting, but a transition into El Niño more often than not is marked by a delayed onset of the wet season, a drier summer season and reduced tropical cyclone activity, especially in September and October.

2. Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) and the Caribbean Sea

Recent observations: SSTs have hovered around 0.5°C above average in much of the sub-tropical North Atlantic and eastern Tropical North Atlantic (TNA), but are near average in the Caribbean Sea.

Expected conditions: Models are confidently forecasting increasingly warm SST anomalies of 0.5°C to 1°C (or more) above average across the Caribbean Sea and the TNA.

Expected impacts: Warm SSTs in and around the Caribbean tend to contribute to higher air temperatures with above-average humidity and an increased frequency of heatwaves, but also higher Atlantic Hurricane Season activity, seasonal rainfall totals and an increased frequency of extreme rainfall during the wet season.