

Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - October to December 2025

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service.
CariCOF outlooks speak to recent and expected seasonal climate trends across the Caribbean in general.

BRIEF SUMMARY: June to December 2025

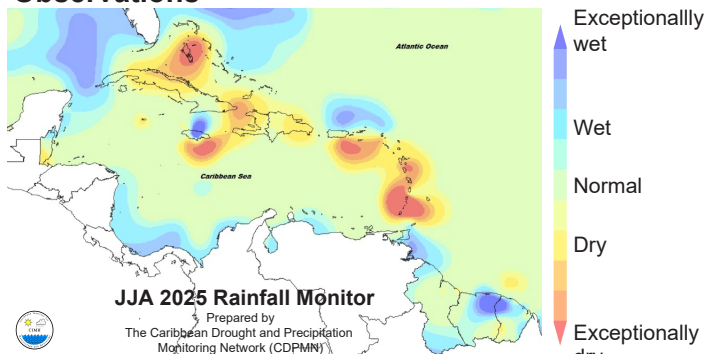
June to August 2025: North Atlantic ocean temperatures were above average around the Caribbean Sea and in the subtropics. Drier than usual air above the Tropical North Atlantic spurred lower than usual rainfall totals and frequency over the summer part of the Wet Season. This dryness, combined with unusually warm waters, has fueled above average air temperatures in many areas.

October to December 2025: The Caribbean transitions out of the Hurricane, Wet, and Heat Seasons into the early Dry and Cool Seasons in December, while northern and eastern parts Guianas transition from the Hot, Dry Season into the secondary wet season. A *potential* shift to La Niña conditions in the Pacific may combine with continued unusual warmth in the Subtropical North Atlantic. This combination increases uncertainty in the seasonal forecast which, nevertheless, suggests: (i) progressive decrease of tropical cyclone activity and of excessively hot and humid days, though recurrent heatwaves are still *likely* in the Guianas and *possible* in the islands from Dominica southwards; (ii) peaking rainfall intensity and shower frequency in Belize and the islands, resulting in *high to extremely high* potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts; (iii) *possible* buildup of drought in the islands.

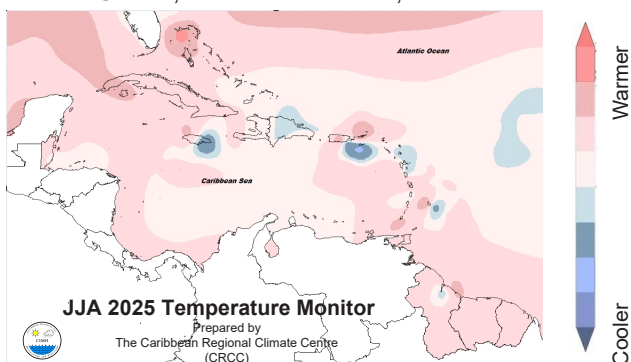
LOOKING BACK:

June - July - August (JJA) 2025

Observations



♦ **RAINFALL:** Northwestern Bahamas, northernmost Cuba, Guadeloupe, Windward Islands, St. Croix very dry; northwest French Guiana, northeast Suriname, southeast Trinidad very wet.



♦ **TEMPERATURE:** Northern and Northwestern Bahamas, Belize, the Guianas and most island locations were close to or up to 1°C warmer than usual; Antigua, Guadeloupe, southeast Jamaica, eastern Puerto Rico and St. Croix slightly cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in JJA 2025:

WET: 1 location in Jamaica and 1 in French Guiana reported record-high rainfall totals (~145-340% of avg.) for this period.

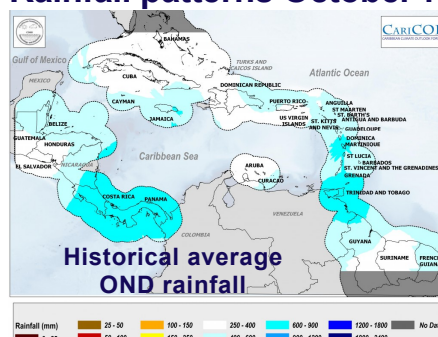
DRY: Grenada, 1 location in The Bahamas, 2 in Martinique, 1 in Puerto Rico and 1 in St. Vincent reported record-low rainfall totals (~25% to 50% of avg.) for this period.

HOT: 1 location in The Bahamas reported record-high mean temperatures.

More at <https://carogen.cimh.edu.bb/index.php/component/countrydata/>

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns October-November-December (OND)



Belize :

Oct to Dec - wet season. Frequent heavy showers.

C'bean Islands north of 16°N:

Oct - wet season. Frequent heavy showers
Nov to Dec - transition to dry season.
Decreasing shower frequency & intensity.

C'bean Islands south of 16°N (except ABC Islands):

Oct to Nov - wet season. Frequent heavy showers. Dec - transition to dry season.
Decreasing shower frequency & intensity.

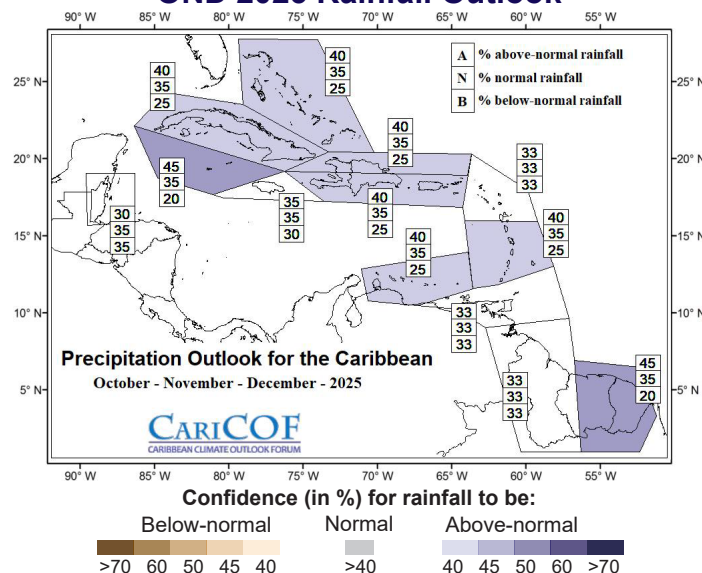
ABC Islands:

Oct to Dec - frequent showers, occasionally heavy.

Guianas:

Oct - Dry season with heavy showers at times.
Nov to Dec - transition to wet season. Increase in showers.

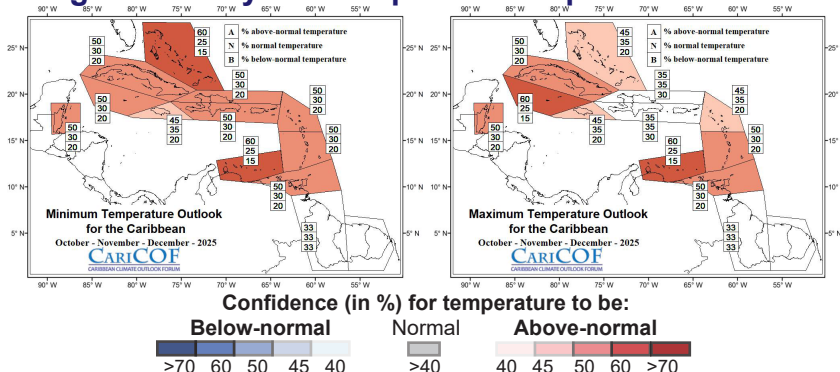
OND 2025 Rainfall Outlook



Rainfall totals from October to December are forecast to be the usual or higher in the ABC Islands, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba, eastern parts of the Guianas, Hispaniola, the Windward Islands and the US Caribbean Territories (*medium confidence*).

White areas show where the forecast indicates little information on rainfall totals.

Night- and daytime temperatures up to December



This period marks the transition out of the Heat Season and into the Cool Season. OND night-time and daytime temperature are forecast to at least as high as usual (*medium to high confidence*), with spells of hazardous, humid heat expected through October in the ABC Islands, Barbados, the Windward Islands, and through November in the Guianas.

Wet days and wet spells up to December

What usually happens from October to December?

- 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:

- *High to extremely high* potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards across the Caribbean Islands and Belize; *moderate* potential in the Guianas, increasing to *high* by late-November in coastal and northern areas.
- Surface wetness makes environmental conditions more conducive to moisture-related pests in the islands and Belize.
- Rising water levels in rivers, large water reservoirs and soils.
- Rising wildfire potential after November in the northwestern Caribbean and through mid-November in the Guianas.

Drought conditions

Latest drought situation: *Severe* (or worse) short-term drought has developed in the Northwestern Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent; *severe* (or worse) long-term drought in the Northwestern Bahamas, southwest Belize, Cuba, northern Jamaica and St. Vincent.

Short-term drought (at the end of Dec. 2025) Short-term drought is *evolving* in Dominica and *might possibly develop* in Northern Bahamas, western Belize and Martinique.

Long-term drought (at the end of Nov. 2025) Long-term drought is *imminent* in the Northwestern Bahamas, is *evolving* in the Northern Bahamas and Grand Cayman, and *might possibly develop or continue* in southwest Belize, parts of Central Cuba and St. Vincent.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - January to March 2026

This period marks the progression of the Caribbean Dry Season to its usual peak by March and the Cool Season. An unseasonably warm North Atlantic around the Northern Caribbean and in the subtropics, *potentially* combined with La Niña conditions, is forecast for this period. More comfortable temperatures, though *likely* higher and with more humidity than usual are forecast for this Cool Season. The risk of severe weather impacts from intense shower activity, including flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts should decrease from *moderate* in early January to *limited* in early March in Belize and the islands. Wherever rainfall totals during this year's Wet Season end up significantly less than usual, the impacts of the 2025-26 Dry Season will be intensified. *For temperature and precipitation outlooks for JFM 2026, please visit rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caricof-climate-outlooks*

What influences the next season?

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Recent observations: Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific are around 1°C below average, i.e., La Niña conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models forecast *more likely than not* a transition to La Niña conditions in OND (~60-70% confidence each, resp.), returning to ENSO neutral in JFM (~55% confidence).

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: La Niña conditions are often associated with increased heavy shower activity, rainfall totals, air temperatures and Atlantic Hurricane Season activity in OND, as well as a (much) wetter secondary wet season in the coastal Guianas and a drier than usual early dry season in the northwestern Caribbean in JFM.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SSTs around the Caribbean and in the subtropical North Atlantic are 0.5-1°C warmer than usual, though SSTs in the tropical ocean west of Africa are close to average for the season.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting persistently warm SST anomalies of 0.2-0.5°C above average in OND and in JFM around Belize, the Greater Antilles and, especially, the Lucayan archipelago.

Expected impacts: Warm SSTs in and around the Caribbean tend to contribute to higher air temperatures with above-average humidity, seasonal rainfall totals, an increased frequency of extreme rainfall and increased tropical cyclone activity through the end of the year, and even through the Cool Season from December to February or March.

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, i.e. a range called the 'usual' |
| 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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