



The 2025-26 Dry Season Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis November 24th – 28th, 2025

Concept Note

Background

Preparing for climate change and natural climate variability are regional and national priorities established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community. Climate variability and change, as exemplified by the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather and climate events, such as droughts, floods, heat waves and tropical cyclones, continue to pose significant risks for the Caribbean region. The threats from such hazards make early warning information systems critical components of preparedness, risk reduction and adaptation.

Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) were first organized in 1997 in response to a threatening El Niño event, to provide seasonal climate information to help decision-makers reduce climate-related risks, develop technical forecasting capacity, and to strengthen connections between science providers and decision-makers¹. Thanks to the promotion by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), RCOFs are now active in several parts of the world. The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) is a significant step towards providing those relevant and necessary climate information and services to support adaptation and disaster risk reduction in climate sensitive sectors and communities across the Caribbean.

In June 2010, in the wake of one of the most intense droughts in Caribbean history, a workshop was convened to re-establish the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) after its hiatus in the early 2000s. Its intent was to develop a sustained collaborative process to provide credible and authoritative real-time regional climate information products. To cement the re-establishment, the first of many CariCOFs was held in February/March 2012 that consisted of three separate but complementary activities:

1. A Technical Training Workshop that developed a draft seasonal (three-month) rainfall outlook,
2. A Partnership Workshop that brought together key partners and users of climate information, and
3. The Outlook Forum that discussed the rainfall forecast with users, which determined the final product.

¹ Gerlak, A. K., et al, 2018: Building a framework for process-oriented evaluation of Regional Climate Outlook Forums. Wea. Climate Soc., 10, 225–239, <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-17-0029.1>







- climate sensitive sectors on action to reduce climate risks;
4. Discussions surrounding current and future climate services for the water and agriculture sectors,
 5. The Caribbean Climate Impacts Database.

This agenda reflects strides to continue the transition of the Caribbean RCOF to a Regional Climate Forum, also promoted by the WMO, where the focus moves beyond just the outlooks for the season, but to include broader climate related issues.

Pre-CariCOF Training of Caribbean Meteorologists and Climatologists

The technical training workshop, often referred to as the pre-CariCOF training of Caribbean meteorologists and climatologists, will take place from 24th to 26th November. The training enhances the capacity of the region's National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre (RCC) in the delivery of climate information and services to the climate sensitive sectors. The session will also use the opportunity to prepare the 2025-26 Dry Season climate outlooks through a consensus process. The objectives of the training are to:

1. Update on new functionalities in CAROGEN version 2;
2. Simplifying climate data management for CariCOF forecasts – daily precipitation, and maximum and minimum temperature time series to be used in all counts or occurrences-based forecasts;
3. Seasonal and sub-seasonal heatwave forecasts using station-specific percentile thresholds for extremes forecasts in CPT.

The 13th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

Critically important to the climate services agenda in the region, is the implementation of a regional Roadmap and Plan of Action (RPA) 2020 to 2030 - the Caribbean's long-term vision for the co-design, co-development and co-delivery of sector-specific climate services. RPA implementation is being advanced by the Regional Consortium of Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners. These partners include seven regional sector agencies² with mandates related to the six climate sensitive sectors served by the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre at CIMH. These include the two sectors targeted for the 2025 Dry Season CariCOF (water and agriculture), along with

² Including the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA).





health, energy, disaster risk management and tourism. Several other regional and international agencies provide support for the work of the Consortium as Observing Members³.

The 13th Consortium Meeting will take place from 25th to 26th November 2024. The objectives of this meeting are:

1. To review progress and challenges on RPA implementation over the period June – November 2025;
2. To reflect on Performance period 2 (2023- 2025) and look ahead to Performance period 3 (2026 - 2028) implementation;
3. To discuss Consortium support for ClimSA activities 2025-2026;
4. To review draft Consortium LOA and TOR for Performance Period 3 (2026-2028); and
5. To showcase the upgraded Caribbean Climate Impacts Database (CCID).

³ Including the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Climate Studies Group of the University of the West Indies, Mona campus (UWI CSGM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Agricultural Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI).

