







Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - November 2025 to January 2026

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.

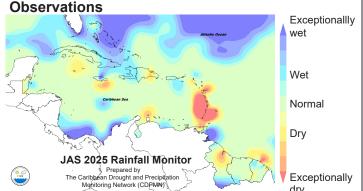
BRIEF SUMMARY: July 2025 to January 2026

July to September 2025: North Atlantic ocean temperatures were above average in and around the Caribbean, with drier than usual air above the Tropical North Atlantic prevailing for much of the period. By September, particularly in the Lesser Antilles, this combination led in short-term drought in many islands, accompanied by (near-)record heat on the leeward sides of their leeward sides.

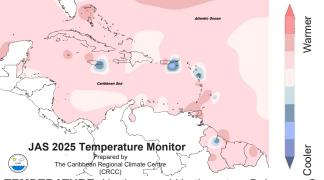
November 2025 to January 2026: The Caribbean transitions into the Dry and Cool Seasons in December, while northern and eastern parts Guianas transition from the Hot, Dry Season into the secondary wet season in November. A shift to La Niña conditions in the Pacific - combined with continued unusual warmth in the Subtropical North Atlantic - increases uncertainty in the seasonal forecast. Nevertheless, the outlook suggests: (i) steady decrease of tropical cyclone activity and of excessively hot and humid days in November; (ii) high rainfall intensity and shower frequency in the ABC Islands, Belize, the Lesser Antilles through November or December, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts; (iii) increasing dry spell frequency in The Bahamas and Greater Antilles; (iv) appearance of drought impacts by the end of January in locations with ongoing drought.

LOOKING BACK:

July - August - September (JAS) 2025



•RAINFALL: Aruba, E Dom. Rep., Guadeloupe, parts of coastal Guianas, Windward Isls. very dry; Central & NW Bahamas, E Cuba, central Jamaica, SE Trinidad and S Guyana very wet.



• TEMPERATURE: Northern and Northwestern Bahamas, Grand Cayman and many leeward locations in the Antilles close to 1°C warmer than usual; Guadeloupe, SE Jamaica, E Puerto Rico and St. Croix slightly cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in JAS 2025:

WET: 1 location in Jamaica reported record-high rainfall totals (~225% of avg.) for this period.

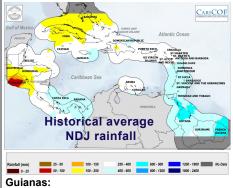
DRY: 1 location in Barbados, 1 in Dominica, 2 in Martinique, 1 in St. Lucia and 1 in St. Vincent reported record-low rainfall totals (~20% to 60% of avg.) for this period.

HOT: 1 location in The Bahamas, 1 in Barbados, 2 in Guyana reported record-high mean temperatures.

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

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns November-December-January (NDJ)



Nov to Jan - wet season. Frequent, heavy showers.

Belize:

Nov to Dec - wet season. Frequent heavy

January - dry season. Few heavy showers in some years.

C'bean Islands north of 16°N:

Nov to Dec - transition to dry season. Decreasing shower frequency & intensity. January - sunny days and some days with showers

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

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

NDJ 2025-26 Rainfall Outlook A % above-normal rainfall % normal rainfall 25° 1 -25° N B % below-normal rainfal 20° -20° N 15° N 10° N Precipitation Outlook for the Caribbean November - December - January 2025 - '26 ARICOF Confidence (in %) for rainfall to be: Below-normal Normal Above-normal

Rainfall totals from November to January are forecast to be the usual or higher in the ABC Islands, eastern parts of the Guianas, Trinidad & Tobago (medium confidence).

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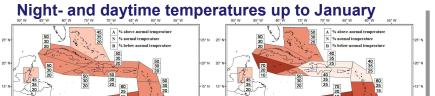
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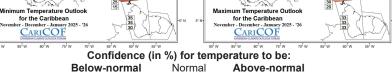
White areas show where the forecast indicates little information on rainfall totals.

40 45 50 60 >70

More on the climate outlook

November 2025 to January 2026





>70 60 50 45 40 >40 40 45 50 60 >70 This period marks the transition into the Cool Season. NDJ night-time and daytime

temperature are forecast to at least as high as usual throughout the islands and Belize (medium to high confidence). Comfortable temperatures should prevail from December onwards, though the Guianas may still experience recurrent heat discomfort in November.

Wet days and wet spells up to January What usually happens from November to January?

- Number of wet days: roughly 35 to 50 (ABC Is: 20 to 45; coastal Guianas: 30 to 50).
- # of wet spells: 2 to 5, of which 1 to 3 are very wet (coastal Guianas: up to 2).
- # of extreme wet spells: up to 2 (Belize & Greater Antilles: up to 1).

Forecast and Implications:

- High potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards across the Caribbean Islands and Belize through December, then decreasing to moderate; high to extremely high potential in the Guianas.
- Rising water levels in rivers, large water reservoirs and soils through December.
- Surface wetness makes environmental conditions more conducive to moisture-related pests.

Drought conditions

(as of Oct. 1st, 2025)

Lastest drought situation: Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed throughout the Windward Islands, as well as in Aruba, parts of the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, pockets of the coastal Guianas; severe (or worse) long-term drought in far southwest Belize, southwest Dominica, northern Jamaica, northwest Martinique, parts of northern Guyana, St. Croix and St. Vincent.

Short-term drought (at the end of Jan. 2026) Short-term drought is evolving in Dominica and might possibly develop in Saint Lucia.

Long-term drought (at the end of Nov. 2025) Long-term drought is evolving in the Northern Bahamas and might possibly develop or continue in the USVI.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - February to April 2026

This period marks the usual peak of the Caribbean Dry Season, as well as the transition out of the Cool Season after February and into the early Heat Season in April. Unseasonably warm waters around the Caribbean and a likely return to neutral ENSO conditions do not provide much insight into rainfall totals through April. Nevertheless, the forecasts are confident that comfortable temperatures should prevail in February. Also, the impact of intense shower activity - i.e., flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts - should increase from limited in February and March to moderate or high by April (except in the ABC Islands). Finally, drought impacts are to be expected by April wherever current drought conditions are not mitigated by plentiful rains by December. For temperature and precipitation outlooks for FMA 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 0.5°C below average, i.e., borderline La Niña conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models forecast more likely than not a transition to La Niña conditions in NDJ (~60-70% confidence), returning to ENSO neutral in FMA (~65-70% 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 NDJ, 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 FMA.

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.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting persistently warm SST anomalies of 0.2-1°C above average in NDJ and in FMA around the Caribbean region.

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. The likelihood of extreme rainfall is higher than usual, even in the Dry Season.

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:

- within the wettest/hottest third of the historical record Above-normal (A)

- within the middle third of the historical record, i.e. a range called the 'usual' (N) Near-normal

- within the driest/coldest third of the historical record (B)

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 thay may provide.

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