The 2025 Wet Season Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

Stakeholder Forum

Radisson Hotel, St. George's, Grenada

May 22nd – 23rd, 2025

Final Report

Background

The Caribbean wet/hurricane season typically has implications for disaster risk management, with perennial threats from tropical cyclones (tropical depressions and storms, and hurricanes), floods, landslides and, increasingly, heat. It is customary, therefore, to have significant participation from practitioners from national disaster management organizations in the Caribbean for this season's CariCOF.

In collaboration with our partners the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Columbia Climate School International Research Institute for Climate and Society, the 2025 Wet/hurricane Season CariCOF took place from 19th to 23rd May in St. Georges, Grenada. The Stakeholder Forum was held on the 22nd and 23rd May featuring:

1. The delivery of the forecasts for the season (which includes rainfall and temperature forecasts, as well as forecasts of drought and dry spells that limit water availability, wet days, wet spells, extremely wet days and extreme wet spells that provide insight into the potential for flooding), the Atlantic Hurricane Season activity, heatwaves at both seasonal and sub-seasonal (weekly forecasts from 2 to 4 weeks in advance).
2. Focus on heat forecast information at the seasonal to sub-seasonal timescales. Sub-seasonal heat information to follow the approach adopted for sub-seasonal forecasting of excessive rainfall and dry days developed in 2023.
3. After training the region's media practitioners and meteorologists preceding the Forum, these two groups joined national and regional sector practitioners and other stakeholders in an engaging session that continued the awareness and capacity building to enhance communication of climate information in the Caribbean.
4. Fun, interactive game show reflecting on the seasonal forecasts and recent climate conditions.

This agenda reflects strides to transition the global RCOF to Regional Climate Forums where the focus moves beyond just the outlooks for the season, but broader climate related issues.

The technical training workshop, often referred to as the pre-CariCOF training of Caribbean meteorologists and climatologists took place on May 19th and 20th, 2025. After training in sub-seasonal forecasting of water-related extremes of dry spells and excessive rainfall (as relates to the potential for flash flood occurrence) at the two 2023 pre-CariCOF sessions, the same research and development methodology has been used to develop sub-seasonal extreme temperature and heat products.

The CariCOF Outlook Generator, integrated with the Climate Predictability Tool that develops statistically downscaled climate products for the Caribbean, has been going through enhancement for the delivery of its second version. Personnel from the meteorological services were updated on the developments to date and the new functions embedded. Several rounds of feedback for requests of additional or enhancement of existing functionality have been had in the past 2.5 half years (and in the past year for training in its use) either at or between face-to-face pre-CariCOF training workshops. Meanwhile, the Climate Predictability Tool has also undergone continual improvements, many of which specifically in view of the need for inclusion of sub-seasonal forecasting functionality. The wealth

of feedback had been implemented and, barring any remaining infancy challenges which always form part of tool operationalisation, CAROGEN version 2 was now ready for adoption into operations.

During the pre-CariCOF session, as is customary, the region's meteorologists and climatologists also came to a consensus on the products and information that were to be delivered during the seasonal outlook presentation at the Stakeholder Forum on the 22nd May.

Awareness and capacity building seminars for regional media practitioners and NMHSs took place from the 20th to 21st May with specific objectives to:

- Strengthen the capacity and awareness among regional media of climate services, products, and applications including sector-specific forecasts and their value in policymaking to improve the frequency of climate-related news coverage and the accuracy of reporting.

- Strengthen the communications capacity of NMHSs to improve how they engage and share information with their national policymakers, sectoral partners, media, the public and other stakeholders.

A copy of the 2025 Wet/Hurricane Season concept note can be accessed here. The agenda and a list of the participants in Appendix I and Appendix II respectively. Day 1 May 22nd

1. 0 Introduction

The first day of the stakeholder meeting commenced with an official welcome by Mr. Adrian Trotman, Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology at the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and Head of the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre (RCC). He greeted participants to the 2025 Wet/Hurricane Season Forum on behalf of the Principal and staff of the CIMH, including representatives from the European Union, the media, meteorologists and other regional organizations. Special thanks were extended to the European Union for their continued support of the forum, particularly the delegation from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. He also acknowledged the presence of meteorologists, regional organizations, media trainers and participants. In addition, recognition was given to staff from the Disaster Management sectors and to the various agencies attending from Grenada.

This was followed by greetings from Mr. Gerard Tamar, Manager of the Meteorology Department in Grenada, who warmly welcomed all participants, with special acknowledgement to the entire family of climate services present. He spoke about the importance of interactions between participants and the need to forge partnerships and synergies between organizations. With the hurricane season only days away, he emphasized the critical importance of preparedness.

Ms. Virgine Andre, representative from the European Union, extended greetings on behalf of the Ambassador and expressed sincere gratitude to the people of Grenada for their hospitality. She emphasized the need to approach the upcoming hurricane season with a sense of urgency, referencing the impact of Hurricane Beryl on Grenada and underscoring the importance of

collective action. Ms. Andre noted that the European Union responded swiftly in the aftermath of Beryl and reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting the Caribbean in times of need. She highlighted ongoing investments in scientific capacity to help reduce risks, recognizing that the region and the EU face shared threats. She further acknowledged the value of the CariCOF meetings in bridging science and Climate Risk Management, and offered congratulations to the CIMH team, stressing that the EU remains dedicated to supporting the Caribbean before, during, and after such devastating events.

Participants were also welcomed by the Permanent Secretary Mr. Brown, who conveyed greetings on behalf of the Prime Minister of Grenada, who was unable to attend. In his remarks, he extended an official welcome to all and began by recalling the record-breaking drought of 2009/2010, along with other extreme weather events that have affected the region. He expressed appreciation and respect for the work of the CIMH, noting that the RCC has developed products that have become essential tools, stressing the need to act based on science.

Mr. Brown highlighted the importance of safeguarding lives and livelihoods while finding solutions to address changing weather patterns. He further underscored the importance of international support, particularly from partners such as the EU, as we continue to build a culture of resilience. He emphasized that this effort is a shared responsibility, requiring unity and collective action to achieve our common goals.

2. 0 Presentations

2.1 Wet/Hurricane Season Climatology of the Caribbean and Review of recent impacts in the Caribbean (Mrs. Shontelle Stoute, CIMH)

In this presentation, an overview of the Wet/Hurricane season Climatology was provided, along with a review of recent impacts. It was noted that the Caribbean Wet Season generally starts in May or June and ends through October or November, with variations across the region. Mrs. Stoute highlighted that the Caribbean Wet season coincides with the Caribbean Hurricane Season (June to November) as well as with the Caribbean Heat Season (May to October). Mrs. Stoute looked at the drivers of the wet/Hurricane Season. She explained factors such as the northward migration of the ITCZ and increased sea surface temperatures play key roles, among others.

In discussing seasonal rainfall patterns across the region, it was highlighted that the latter half of the season is typically the wettest and plays a crucial role in replenishing water catchments. Regarding temperature variations, it was noted that there is generally little variability across the region.

Mrs. Stoute went on to outline several impacts observed in 2024. She referenced the drought conditions in Belize during June 2024, which severely affected the agricultural sector and contributed to one of the most severe wildfire events on record – triggered by prolonged drought and heatwaves. She also mentioned the impacts of Hurricane Beryl, the earliest hurricane on record to reach category 5 status. On a global scale, temperature trends for 2025 remain consistent with those of the previous year, even though the heat may not be as intense.

2.2 Wet/Hurricane Season Climate Outlook (rainfall, temperature, heat, wet days/wet spells, flood, drought, dry spells, coral reef) (Ms. Trisha Miller, Grenada Met service)

Ms. Miller began her presentation by posing the question "Another year of extremes?", referring to the possibility that 2025 in the Caribbean would again be characterized by different facets of extreme climate conditions. She noted that we are once again experiencing an active hurricane season, with a heightened potential for flooding and other cascading hazards.

She then reflected on the 2024 season, explaining that as climate conditions in the Pacific transitioned from El Nino to a weak La Nina, the North Atlantic remained record warm. Across the Caribbean, temperatures were exceptionally high, with reference to Hurricane Beryl - the earliest occurrence of a Category 5 hurricane of any calendar year on record. It was also highlighted that tropical cyclone activity can occur outside of the traditional hurricane season.

Attention was next given to episodes of Saharan dust, with emphasis on the fact that dust traps heat, leading to an intense Heat Season – though it was not expected to be as intense as the record-breaking heat seasons of 2023 and 2024.

In response to the question "What's next?" with respect to drought concerns, Ms. Miller indicated that there are currently no major concerns, as Pacific Ocean temperatures are near average, and the likelihood of drought remains low.

A summary of the June-July-August 2025 and September-October-November outlooks are below in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

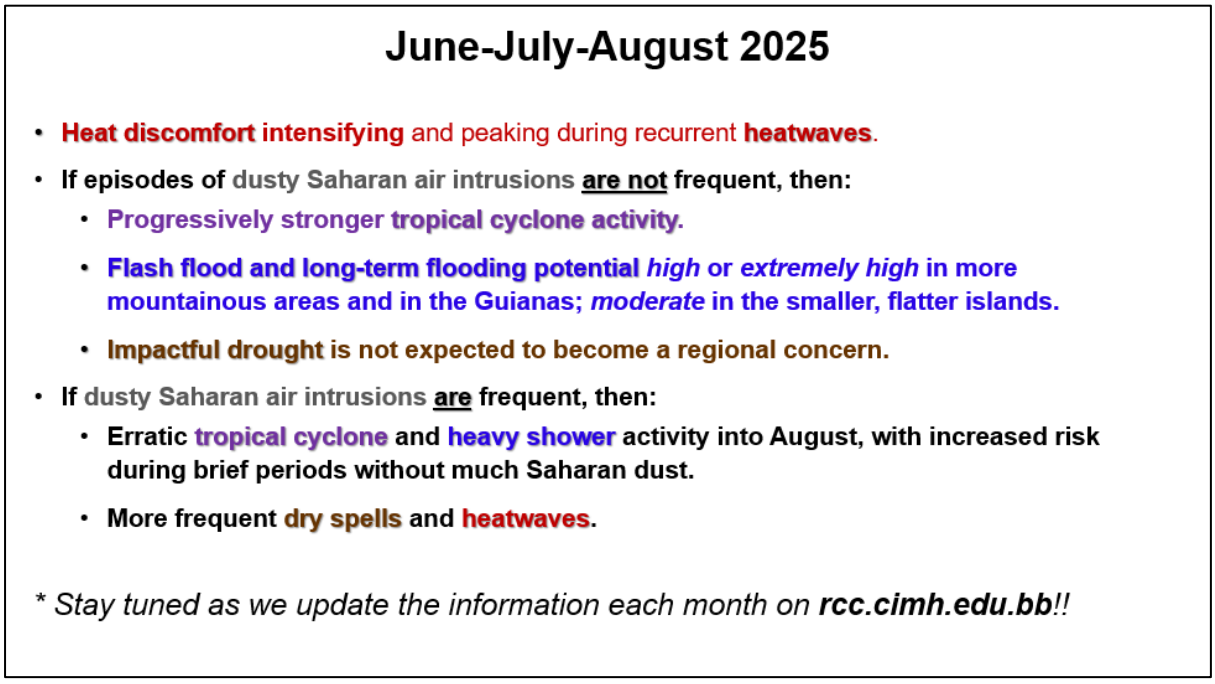

Figure 1: June-July-August 2025 Summary Outlook

(summary continued)

September-October-November 2025

- **Strong tropical cyclone activity through October.**
- **Heat stress peaking in September**, with recurrent **heatwaves**.
- **If unusually warm ocean temperatures maintain through October, there is increased risk of coral bleaching.**
- Cooler air temperatures expected from November onwards, when heat discomfort should sharply decrease.
- **The potential for flooding, flash floods, associated hazards and cascading impacts is *extremely high* in mountainous areas of Belize and the Antilles, *high* in low-lying, smaller islands, and *moderate* to *high* in the Guianas.**
- **Region-wide, long-term drought is not expected to be a major concern by the end of November.**

** Stay tuned as we update the information each month on **rcc.cimh.edu.bb**!!*

Figure 2: September-October-November 2025 Summary Outlook

2.3 Discussion

During this brief session, participants expressed concerns regarding the future financing of the project and questioned whether this year is expected to be hotter than the previous one.

2.4 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook (Dr. Cedric Van Meerbeeck, CIMH)

Dr Cedric van Meerbeeck described the upcoming Atlantic Hurricane Season as potentially intense but erratic, emphasizing the need to first define what is considered “normal” before identifying deviations. He presented the forecasted averages for the 1991-2020 period, which fall within a 70% confidence range as of May 22, 2025.

Dr. Van Meerbeeck then turned to the current state and forecast climate conditions which are known to influence the level of hurricane activity. He first suggested that the waters of the North Atlantic were expected to be warmer than average, but not quite as warm as during the 2024 Season.

He went on to highlight areas of uncertainty, particularly regarding the frequency of intrusion of dry, dusty Saharan air layer that may suppress tropical cyclone activity. Scientists are currently unable to skillfully forecast the frequency of Saharan air layer intrusion at the seasonal timescale, hence reducing the predictability of storm development.

Dr. van Meerbeeck also reminded participants that the WMO discontinued the use of the Greek alphabet for storm naming in 2021, replacing it with a supplemental list of names.

In reviewing the quality of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook, he noted that fewer storms and hurricanes occurred than initially forecasted, attributing this discrepancy largely to the Saharan dust episodes. He concluded by encouraging everyone to remain attentive to forecasts and follow official updates and advisories.

2.5 Climate Jeopardy (Jodi-Ann Petrie, Dr. Roché Mahon, and Dr Teddy Allen, CIMH)

The 2025 Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season Climate Jeopardy game provided an opportunity for interactive peer-to-peer learning based in part on the suite of 2025 Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlooks in a fun, fast-paced quiz game inspired by the classic TV show *Jeopardy!* Designed to spark learning and friendly competition, participants were divided into seven mixed teams of Met and sector professionals and provided with buzzers. A series of 30 multiple-choice questions related to 6 climate categories were posed as follows:

Part 1: 2024/2025 Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlooks categories:

1. Forecasted conditions, Early Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season, June 2025 - August 2025
2. Forecasted conditions, Late Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season, September 2025 - November 2025
3. Sectoral implications and decisions based on the 2025 Wet/Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlooks

Part 2: General Questions categories:

1. Definitions (Statistical Interpretation)
2. Outlook Products
3. Climatological Seasonality/ Timescales

Teams eagerly competed to answer – often buzzing in even before the questions were fully asked. In the end, Group 1 emerged victorious, achieving the highest overall score.

2.6 Press Conference Simulation (Dr. Patrick Prendergast and Ms. Gail Hoad (CARIMAC; UWI); and Dr. Nicola Golding and Dr. Jane Strachan (UK Meteorological Services)

A press conference simulation activity was conducted, during which Dr. Nicola Golding of the UK Met Office, WMO, introduced the Communicating Climate Science Gap exercise. She began by posing the question “Why is good science communication important?” and explained that effective communication requires identifying both the challenges and key principles involved.

The activity aimed to help stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of the various roles and actors involved in communicating climate forecasts effectively. Each team consisted of a journalist, a meteorological expert, a sector specialist, and a disaster response professional. Participants were asked to assume roles outside their usual areas of expertise, encouraging them to appreciate different perspectives in the communication process.

This lead to the formation of six groups, with this session facilitated by Dr. Patrick Prendergast from CARIMAC and Dr. Jane Strachan. Each group represented a specific sector - Agriculture, Tourism, Health, Water and Energy – and engaged in interview-style interactions conducted by members of other groups. The exercise aimed to assess participants’ ability to think critically and respond effectively under pressure.

The main objective was to allow participants an opportunity to observe and understand responses from different perspectives, which was the rationale behind the role-switching approach. Key lessons emerging from the group sessions highlighted the need for language interpreters and the importance of making provisions for persons with disabilities to ensure inclusivity in communication.

2.7 Audio-visual Prototypes of Climatic Bulletins (Ms. Lyn-Marie Deane and Ms. Tracy Marshall, CIMH)

This presentation focused on audio-visual prototypes of climate bulletins, with the main objective being to enhance their accessibility and engagement, ensuring that critical climate information reached those who need it most.

Participants were shown a prototype of the Caribbean Health Climate Bulletin, after which a QR code was provided to facilitate real-time feedback via their mobile devices. They were invited to share their views on several aspects, including whether the message was effectively conveyed to the viewers, and whether the video successfully communicated the prevailing climate conditions, among other factors.

3.0 Close of Day 1 (Mr. Adrian Trotman, CIMH)

Mr. Trotman expressed his appreciation to the participants at the close of the first day of the stakeholder meeting. He also extended thanks and farewell to the media representatives in attendance, noting that he looks forward to continued engagement with them in the near future.

Day 2 May 23rd

4.0 Welcome and Recap Presentation (Mrs. Lisa Kirton-Reed, CIMH)

The second day of the stakeholder forum commenced with a brief recap of the previous day's events, during which summaries of the various presentations were shared as a reminder for all participants.

5.0 Presentations

5.1 Caribbean ClimSA Update (Ms. Sherri Frederick, CIMH)

Ms. Frederick began by highlighting pilot activities aimed at supporting the CariCOF initiative. She referenced several key meetings where these efforts were discussed, including those held in Dominica (November 2023), Guyana (May 2024) and Grenada (May2025).

She outlined a range of activities currently underway or planned, including:

- Engagement of an IT Consultant for the development of version 2 of the CariCOF Outlook Generator

- Upgrades to the RCC website
- Development of a Heat Stress Forecast System for livestock and poultry
- Creation of forecasting models to assess heat stress risks
- Monitoring and analysis of related illnesses at seasonal and sub-seasonal scales
- Support for the operations of the EWISACTS Consortium
- Data management, enhancement and strengthening of the Climate database
- implementation of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA)
- Purchase of dust monitoring equipment

- Upgrade of observation networks, with installations already completed in Dominica and Guyana
- Organization of the annual CLIMSA forum in Jamaica,
- A series of training planned for 2025-2026
- Initiatives to promote awareness and engagement
- An upcoming Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study to inform communications campaigns and products

Ms. Frederick also emphasized the need for continued support for the role of the EWISACTS Consortium, along with the importance of developing a comprehensive communications strategy, conducting an independent evaluation, and formulating a sustainable plan. She concluded by outlining upcoming activities, including a consultancy focused on assessing the impacts of drought on the agriculture and health sectors, as well as the development of regional and national IT portals to support the health sector.

5.2 Operationalisation of the Caribbean Climate Impacts Monitoring Network (CCIMNET): A Proposal (Dr. Roché Mahon, CIMH; Ms. Allana Walters, CDEMA)

Dr. Mahon began the joint presentation with Ms. Allana Walters of CDEMA by focusing on the rationale for establishing a new technical network around the harvesting, collation, analysis and visualization of Caribbean climate impacts data. Dr. Mahon emphasized that the Caribbean is among the most climate-sensitive and disaster-prone regions globally. She highlighted that regional data consistently linked weather and climate-related events to significant economic losses and damage. Dr. Mahon underscored the value of historical climate impact observations, noting that aggregated, and searchable time series provide the empirical basis for visualizing both economic and non-economic loss and damage across space and time. She also stressed the important role of aggregated and searchable historical observations in identifying regional, national and local hotspots of human vulnerability, as well as monitoring changes in vulnerability and resilience over space and time. For CIMH, she noted that these observations are foundational in supporting the transition to impacts based forecasting and the associated development of the next generation of sector specific climate early warning information products. Dr. Mahon showed previous research results with the 6 climate-sensitive sectoral communities served by CIMH - highlighting high demand for these next generation products. However, Dr. Mahon made clear that one of the current barriers to transitioning to impacts-based forecasting is the inadequacy of climate impacts data.

It was against this contextual background that Dr Mahon showcased the long-term investment (since 2014) of the CIMH in the continued development of the Caribbean Climate Impacts Database (CCID) – a centralized evidence-based information archive that compiles the foundational data for examining the impact of climate in the Caribbean. The database has over 5000 (5,731) georeferenced impacts over the period 1780-2024 across 29 Caribbean countries and territories. However, despite this long-standing effort with the CID, Dr. Mahon showed that insufficient climate impacts reporting has still limited our understanding of the full extent of the impacts of climate on Caribbean societies. Dr. Mahon showcased preliminary analysis of the CCID dataset showing that many countries and territories are underrepresented in the data set. For example, of the 29 countries and territories in the

CCID, 22 have less than 100 climate impacts records currently available in the CCID for the period 1780-2024.

Dr. Mahon then introduced the Caribbean Climate Impacts Monitoring Network (CCIMNet), explaining that its intended purpose is to systematically collate and analyse climate-related impact data at the national level, which would then be reported regionally. Regional Consortium members would contribute to this process as appropriate. This Network would potentially be jointly coordinated at the regional level by CIMH and CDEMA in collaboration with each organisation's network of Met Offices and National Disaster Management Offices. The CCIMNet initiative simultaneously operationalizes a method for updating the impacts-related content of the Caribbean Climate Impacts Database and/or Dewetra platform, while also providing the enabling environment for operational knowledge sharing on climate-related impacts across disaster managers and Met Service staff who increasingly must play a central role in using vulnerability data. Data will also be used to drive research that will enhance impacts-based forecasting in the Caribbean.

To close, Dr. Mahon showcased the results of the end-of-day poll from the May 21 CCIMNet Regional Workshop which asked: "Do you think it is feasible to establish the CCIMNet going forward?" At the Workshop, the response indicated relatively strong support from participants, with 18 participants saying "yes", 5 saying "maybe", and none responding "no" or "don't know".

5.3 CCID, CCIMNet and Comprehensive Disaster management (Ms. Allana Walters, CDEMA)

In her brief presentation, Ms. Allana Walters of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) provided the DRM community perspective on the links between the CCID, CCIMNet and the Caribbean's disaster management framework and tools at regional and national levels.

Ms. Walters noted that the CCID supports the data needs of Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) and is being developed by CDEMA. CRIS is a comprehensive virtual platform that provides access to risk management data and tools. It supports stakeholder analysis, research, and promotes greater awareness of risk reduction and climate change adaptation across the region. She noted that the future collaborative development of the CCID and the CCIMNet across the Met and disaster management communities ensures integration into the existing CRIS and avoids duplication of efforts among CDEMA participating states.

In closing the joint CIMH/CDEMA presentation, Dr. Mahon outlined next steps re: CCID and CCIMNet development including upgrades to both the graphical user interface (GUI) and backend functionality of the CCID, as well as updates to the CCID dataset. The dataset population will also be strengthened through a multi-pronged approach involving interns, consortium partners, and national-level support. Among other things, Dr. Mahon proposed the possibility of convening a 2nd Regional Workshop towards the development of the CCIMNet sometime in 2026 to focus on the following:

- Formal establishment of the CCIMNet
- Adoption of augmented CCIMNet Concept Note
- Adoption of CCIMNet Terms of Reference
- Adoption of Work programme: 1 year? 3 year? 5 year?
- Upgraded CCID GUI Launch

5.4 Capacity Building and Sector-Specific Bulletin Development in ClimSA Pilot Countries (Dr. Wazita Scott, CIMH)

Dr. Scott provided an update on pilot activities under the ClimSA program, focusing on initiatives in Dominica, Jamaica, and Guyana, with particular emphasis on developing National Climate Services product chains.

In Jamaica, she highlighted the strengthening of the Climate Section within the Meteorological Service to enhance its capacity for producing climate products. Over a three-week period of in-country mentoring, Dr. Scott supported the team in improving climate monitoring and refining national seasonal outlook products. These efforts led to several key accomplishments, including the refinement of the monthly rainfall summary bulletin and the development of new climate products tailored for the water sector, in direct response to stakeholder requests. She further noted that the enhanced rainfall product was applied at the highest national level, having been referenced by the Prime Minister of Jamaica during a parliamentary address on the country's ongoing drought situation.

Regarding Dominica, Dr. Scott shared that she is currently supporting the national team in the development of a National Health-Climatic Bulletin. Approval of this initiative has been granted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services, and a dedicated team has been assigned to co-develop the product. Work has already begun on reviewing the relevant guidelines to inform its development. She noted a prototype of the bulletin will be presented at the Dominica National Climate Forum, scheduled for June 2025.

5.5 Developing seasonal to sub-seasonal heat forecasts (Dr. Simon Mason, IRI)

In his presentation, Dr. Mason used paper planes as a visual metaphor to demonstrate the concept of forecast variability. He illustrated that while the planes may be thrown the same way, they land in different spots – much like forecasts. Changing the design alters their trajectory entirely. This demonstration highlighted the value of generating multiple forecasts to improve accuracy.

He went on to briefly discuss the Seasonal to Sub-seasonal (S2S) Prediction Project for the Caribbean, referencing models used in the process. These included US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s CFSv2 model , which has been run January through December, every six hours from 1999 to 2025, and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) IFS model, utilized from November to May, every odd-numbered day, with a 2-3 day lag, covering the period from 2005 to 2025.

Dr. Mason explained that excess heat is determined relative to the local climatology of a specific location. He noted that sub-seasonal forecasts of the number of high heat stress days will be produced for the period June 1 to August 31, 2025.

5.6 Sub-seasonal rainfall extremes and heat forecasts (Dr. Wazita Scott, CIMH)

The focus of this presentation was to provide the sub-seasonal forecasts of rainfall and temperature extremes for the week of May 26 to June 1, 2025, as well as the temperature forecast for June 2 -15 2025. In her presentation, Dr Scott used questions to illustrate the practical value of sub-seasonal forecasting:

- "What is the chance of it being wetter than usual next week?"
    - Most of the region was forecasted to be as wet as usual.
- "What is the probability of exceeding 100mm of rainfall next week?"
    - The likelihood of such an occurrence was high in the Guianas.
- "What is the risk of at least one day experiencing rainfall above 30 mm?"
    - There was a medium to high chance in Guyana, Southern Belize and Cayman Islands.
- "What is the chance of the temperatures being unusually warm next week?"
    - Temperatures were forecasted to be high across the region, with the exception of most of the Guianas and Trinidad.
- • "What is the probability of having a day with high heat stress?"
    - Maps were shown where areas across the region were expected to experience excessive heat during the weeks of May 26 to June 15, 2025.

These insights highlighted the practical value of sub-seasonal forecasts in supporting planning and decision-making across multiple sectors.

5.7 CARICOM coordination on Climate Issues Key Takeaways (Mr. David Prendergast)

In this presentation, Mr. Prendergast emphasized that climate change remains a top priority for CARICOM member states. He mentioned that the CARICOM Secretariat works in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which is mandated to coordinate the region's position on climate change, and with other regional institutions to support and guide member states in their preparations for global climate negotiations, including the Conference of the Parties (COP).

On the technical side, he highlighted the Updated CARICOM Regional Framework for Climate Resilience as a comprehensive strategy that guides the region's efforts in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and policy development.

Mr. Prendergast also underscored two key areas for mobilizing financial support: donor engagement and project development, with the CCCCC playing a central role in developing and implementing climate change adaptation initiatives.

He concluded by briefly highlighting ongoing sectoral coordination efforts – though not an exhaustive list - including the CARICOM Energy Policy, Climate-Smart Agriculture, and Maritime Climate Resilience initiatives.

5.8 The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) (Mr. Keith Nichols, CCCCC)

Mr. Nichols provided insight into the organization of the CCCCC. He highlighted that it was established in 2002 and became operational in 2005 with over 40 staff members, collaborating with regional organizations and member states. He noted that the vision is transformation change, with water being the focus of their attention, as no country can function without water. It was pointed out that automatic weather stations were invested across the region as well as the Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) stations. Mr. Nichols concluded by stating that "everything is not climate change, but climate change is everything".

5.9 The Agricultural Bulletin (Ms. Tracy Marshall, CIMH)

Ms. Marshall discussed the climatic bulletin produced by the CIMH and presented a prototype video demonstration. A QR Code was shared with participants, allowing them to access and respond to a series of follow-up questions.

In terms of hazards, some of the suggestions made by participants with regards to the bulletin included:

Suriname

- A request for a warning alert to be sent to the Ministry of Public Works as well as to the Disaster Management Agency.

Bahamas

- A request for the information to be read out to media houses, on the news and for the information to be placed on web pages, distributed via emails, Facebook and Instagram.

St Vincent

- A request for the color coding of the information sent out to the various sectors, for example specific for the marine group, or grouped client stakeholders, with this information being issued on Facebook, websites or via emails.

In terms of Challenges, some of the suggestions made by participants with regards to the bulletin included:

The Bahamas

- An Insufficient number of Automatic Weather stations provided
- Data Loss

Dominica

- A request for tailored information to be provided, as information is too general

The Dominican Republic

- It was mentioned that bulletins are issued but the information isn't received. Problems encountered with communication, as people who are not meteorologists try to give advice.

In terms of Communication, some of the suggestions made by participants with regards to the bulletin included:

Suriname

- It was mentioned that there is a good relationship with the stakeholders, as there is regular contact with the Meteorological services.

Curacao

- It was pointed out that communication only takes place during the hurricane season

Cuba

- Information is easily received as offices are close together.

Antigua

- Information is shared between the Meteorologists and stakeholders

St Vincent

- There is no set reporting system in place for reporting the impacts. Hurricane information is accessed from Disaster management, with social media being checked to get feedback from the public.

5.10 Focus Groups/Survey (Dr. Roche Mahon and Ms. Jodi-Ann Petrie, CIMH)

This session, held as the final activity on Day 2 of CariCOF, was designed to gather updated information on user needs and experiences related to climate services across the Caribbean, as well as to assess current climate impacts reporting processes at the national level. The session was divided into two components including a survey exercise and a set of focus group discussions (FGDs) targeting different stakeholder groups.

Miss Jodi-Ann Petrie provided a brief background to the Caribbean Climate Services User Needs Survey noting that it was originally launched in 2015 and phase 2 relaunched in 2021 following COVID-19-related delays. She noted that the survey forms a core part of the regional User Needs and Provider Capacity Assessment and collects data on climate service delivery and use in climate-sensitive sectors.

She emphasized that only 59 responses have been received since the survey's relaunch noting that it was considerably fewer than the 198 responses collected in phase 1 in 2015. This highlighted the importance of active participation during the session. Participants were reminded that their input would directly inform regional and national climate adaptation planning, help tailor climate information products to sectoral needs, and guide investment and project development efforts. Importantly she noted that the survey helps in understanding how climate service provision has improved, or where it still needs work.

The Caribbean Climate Services User Needs Survey, led by Ms. Jodi-Ann Petrie, was administered to participants who had not yet completed it. Simultaneously, Met Services, along with participants who had already completed the survey joined focus group discussions facilitated by Dr. Roché Mahon, Mrs. Lisa Kirton-Reed and Mrs. Shontelle Stoute.

The following questions were explored in the Focus Group Discussions:

1. Please describe the current impacts reporting process for your Met Service (if any)
2. What are the challenges to reporting climate and/or disaster impacts?

3. How can your Met Service work with the NDMO on strengthening climate impacts reporting going forward?

6.0 Summary and Close out (Mr. Adrian Trotman, CIMH)

The second day of the stakeholder forum was brought to a close by Mr. Adrian Trotman, whereby he thanked all participants and the respective agencies for their much-valued input and yet another successful and productive CariCOF.

Appendix I: Agenda

May 22nd 2025

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER/FACILITATOR
0900 - 0940	Welcome and Featured Remarks	Adrian Trotman (CIMH) Gerard Tamar (GAA/Met Dept) Hon. Prime Minister (TBC)
0940 - 1000	Wet/Hurricane Season Climatology of the Caribbean & Review of recent impacts in the Caribbean	Shontelle Stoute (CIMH)
1000 - 1025	Wet/Hurricane Season Climate Outlook (rainfall, temperature, heat, wet days/wet spells, flood, drought, dry spells, coral reef,)	Grenada Meteorological Services
1025 - 1035	Open discussion on the Seasonal Forecast	Adrian Trotman (CIMH)
1035 - 1100	**COFFEE BREAK**	
1100 - 1130	Hurricane Season Outlook	Cedric Van Meerbeeck (CIMH)
1130 – 1230	Interactive Session on the Seasonal Outlooks	Roché Mahon and Jodi-Ann Petrie (CIMH)
1230 - 1330	**LUNCH**	
1330 - 1445	Press Conference Simulation	CARIMAC, UWI and UK Met
1445 - 1500	COFFEE BREAK	
1500 - 1530	Press Conference Simulation Contd.	CARIMAC, UWI and UK Met
1530 - 1550	Audio-visual Prototypes of Climatic Bulletins	Lyn-Marie Deane and Tracy Marshall (CIMH)
1550 - 1600	Close of Day 1	Adrian Trotman (CIMH)

May 23rd 2025

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER/FACILITATOR
0900 - 0910	Welcome & Recap of Day 1	Lisa Kirton-Reed (CIMH)
0910 - 0925	Caribbean ClimSA Update	Sherri Frederick (CIMH)
0925 - 1000	CCIMNET	Roché Mahon (CIMH) and Allana Walters (CDEMA)
1000 - 1030	Working with ClimSA NMHSs – awaiting title	W Scott (CIMH)
1030 - 1055	COFFEE BREAK	
1055 - 1125	Presentation on CAROGEN	C Van Meerbeeck (CIMH)
1125 - 1200	Developing seasonal to sub-seasonal heat forecasts	S Mason, C Van Meerbeeck
1200 - 1230	Sub-seasonal rainfall extremes and heat forecasts	W Scott
1230 - 1330	LUNCH	
1330 - 1445	Focus Groups/Survey	Roche Mahon and Jodi-Ann Petrie (CIMH)
1445 - 1500	COFFEE BREAK	
1500 - 1545	Focus Groups/Survey	Roché Mahon and Jodi-Ann Petrie (CIMH)
1545 - 1600	Summary and Close-out	Adrian Trotman CIMH

Appendix II: Participant List

	Organisation	Last Name	First Name
1	Antigua and Barbuda Met	Paige	Orvin
2	Antigua and Barbuda Met	Alvarez Guerrero	Magela
3	Bahamas Met	Maura	Shenika
4	Barbados Met	Martin	Christophe
5	Belize Met	Young	Shanea
6	Cuba Met	Garcia	Idelmis
7	Dominica Met	Marcellin-Honore	Vernie
8	Dominican Rep Met	Matos	Miriam
9	Grenada Met		
10	Guyana Met	Samaroo	Kelvin
11	Jamaica Met	Hibbert	Nikeisha
12	St. Kitts and Nevis Met	Benjamin	Vincere
13	St. Kitts and Nevis Met	Dixon	Denel
14	St. Lucia Met	Napoleon	Renlee
15	St. Maarten Met (Zoom)	Le Blanc	Sheryl
16	St. Vincent and the Grenadines Met	McDonald	Joan
17	Suriname Met	Samuel	Dwight
18	Trinidad Met	Wallace	Ean
19	UWI - CSGM	Hendricks	Toni Ann
20	Trainer	Mason	Simon
21	CIMH	Trotman	Adrian
22	CIMH	vanMeerbeeck	Cedric
23	CIMH	Allen	Teddy
24	CIMH	Stoute	Shontelle
25	CIMH	Kirton-Reed	Lisa
26	CIMH	Scott	Wazita
27	CIMH	Applewhaite	Andrea
28	CIMH	Lowe	Daison

	Organisation	Last Name	First Name
29	AACARI	Thompson	Errington
30	CARDI	Thom	Mitchroy
31	CARICOM	Prendergast	David
32	CARPHA	Kirton	Shane

33	CCCCC	Nichols	Keith
34	CCREEE	Andalcio	Jason
35	CDEMA	Walters	Allana
36	CHTA	Duffy-Mayers	Loreto
37	CMO HQU	Kerr	Kenneth
38	CTO	Ramgulam	Narendra
39	CWWA	Beharry	Sweeta
40	GWP-C	Martinez	Kerron
41	OECS	Isaac	Cornelius
42	CSGM-UWI	Jones	Jhordanne
43	CIMH	Mahon	Roché
44	CIMH	Petrie	Jodi-Ann
45	CIMH	Deane	Lyn-Marie
46	CIMH	Frederick	Sherri
47	CIMH	Marshall	Tracy
48	CCH Fellow	Persaud	Nayan
49	CCH Fellow	Hazel	Nicole
50	Antigua and Barbuda NDO	Williams-Carvalho	Naomi
51	Bahamas NDO	Hepburn	Bahiyyah
52	Barbados NDO	Alleyne	Simon
53	Dominica NDO	Pascal	Fitzroy
54	Dominican Rep NDO		Cecilia
55	Grenada NDO	Walters	Terence
56	St. Kitts and Nevis NDO	Pemberton	Livingston
57	St Lucia NDO	Jeffrey-Isembert	Kenisha
58	St. Vincent and the Grenadines NDO	Stoddard	Kenson
59	Suriname NDO	Komproe	Gillio
60	Trinidad and Tobago NDO	Gulston	Curmira
61	PAHO	Alleyne	Marium

	Organisation	Last Name	First Name
62	CMC Media	Chance	Kenton
63	UK MET	Strachan	Jane
64	UK MET	Golding	Nicola
65	Belize Media	Keme-Palacio	Benita
66	Grenada Media	Pierre-Thomas	Rena
67	Barbados Media	Cumberbatch	Shawn
68	Dom Media	Langford	Laila

69	Bahamas Media	Dorsett	Diane
70	Guyana Media	Swain	Danielle
71	Jamaica Media	Harriott	Amoy
72	Jamaica Medis	Prendergast	Patrick
73	Jamaica Media	Hoad	Gail
74	Dominica Rep Media	Wisky	Paola
75	Grenada Media	Low Chew Tung	Suelin
76	St. Lucia Media	Nicholas	Tony
77	Antigua and Barbuda Media	Roacher	Jamie

	Organisation	Last Name	First Name
78	Grenada Agriculture	Jessamy	Merina
79	Grenada Economic Development	Haynes	Mervyn
80	Grenada Health	Ramkhelawan	Dhanraj
81	Grenada Health	Morain	Kathyann
82	Grenada Statistical Office	George	Tamika
83	St. Georges University/CCH Fellow	Winchester	Nyoni
84	Aruba Met	Irausquin	Lothar

Met – National Meteorological Service

NDO – National Disaster Office

CCH Fellow – Climate Change and Health Fellow