









Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - December 2025 to February 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.

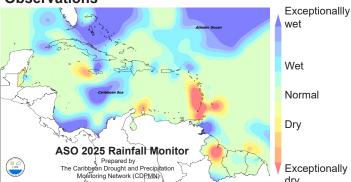
BRIEF SUMMARY: August 2025 to October 2026

August to October 2025: Tropical North Atlantic ocean temperatures were above average, while borderline La Niña conditions were observed in the Equatorial Pacific. However, relatively dry air above the Tropical North Atlantic dominated through September, leading to long-term drought in many areas - particularly in Barbados and the Windward Islands -, with (near-)record heat in several locations.

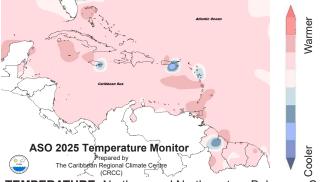
December 2025 to February 2026: The period marks the first half of the Dry Season in the Caribbean Islands and Belize, the transition from the secondary Wet Season into the Short Dry Season in the northeastern two-thirds of the Guianas in February, and a continuation of the long Dry Season in the southwestern third of the Guianas. It also marks the Cool Season throughout the Caribbean. Unusually warm Tropical North Atlantic Ocean temperatures imply: (i) increased severe weather activity through December (January in the Guianas), resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts; (ii) short dry spells are set to increase in frequency, particularly in the northwest of the region; (iii) milder, more comfortable temperatures throughout this Cool Season; (iv) continuation of drought impacts by the end of February in the Windward Islands and potential development of drought in southwest Belize and Grand Cayman.

LOOKING BACK:

August - September - October (ASO) 2025 **Observations**



• RAINFALL: Aruba, Guadeloupe, parts of northern Guyana, south Barbados, Windward Isls. very dry; Central & NW Bahamas, far E & W Cuba, central Jamaica, SE Trinidad and S Guyana very wet.



 TEMPERATURE: Northern and Northwestern Bahamas, Curação, Barbados, Grand Cayman, central Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, the Windward Isls. close to 1°C warmer than usual; parts of N Guyana, SE Jamaica and St. Croix cooler than usual.

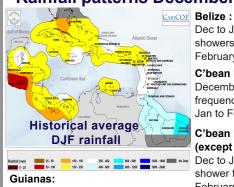
Notable Climate Records in ASO 2025:

WET: No location reported record-high rainfall totals for this period. **DRY**: No location reported record-low rainfall totals for this period. HOT: Curação, Sint Maarten, 1 location in French Guiana, 1 in Guyana, 2 in Puerto Rico, 1 in Saint Lucia, 2 in Suriname reported record-high mean temperatures.

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

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns December-January-February (DJF)



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

February - dry season. Heavy showers on some days.

Dec to Jan - transition to dry season. Heavy showers becoming less frequent. February - dry season. Few heavy showers.

C'bean Islands north of 16°N:

December - early dry season. Decreasing shower frequency & intensity.

Jan to Feb - mostly sunny, some days with showers.

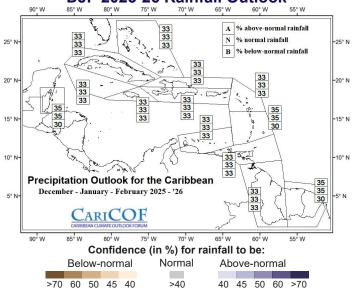
C'bean Islands south of 16°N (except ABC Islands):

Dec to Jan - transition to dry season. Decreasing shower frequency & intensity.

February - peak of dry season. Often sunny, mostly light morning or evening showers on some days.

ABC Islands: transition from to dry season in Feb. Frequent heavy showers December in most years.

DJF 2025-26 Rainfall Outlook



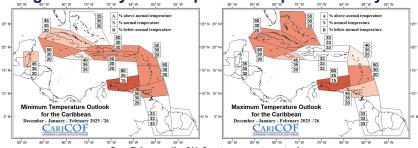
Little information on rainfall totals from December to February is found in the forecast at this time other than that widespread record-low or record-high rainfall totals are unlikely for this period.

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

More on the climate outlook

December 2025 to February 2026

Night- and daytime temperatures up to February



Confidence (in %) for temperature to be:

Below-normal						Norma	al	F	Above-normal				
	>70	60	50	45	40	>40		40	45	50	60	>70	
		_			_		_						

This period marks the Caribbean Cool Season. DJF night-time and daytime temperatures are forecast to be at least as high as usual throughout the islands and Belize (medium to high confidence). Comfortable temperatures should prevail throughout the period, though humidity will often be high in the northeastern two-thirds of the Guianas.

Wet days and wet spells up to February What usually happens from December to February?

- Number of wet days: roughly 25 to 40 (ABC Is: 10 to 35; coastal Guianas: 30 to 50).
- # of wet spells: 1 to 3 (ABC Is.: 2 to 6; Guianas: 1 to 5), of which 1 or 2 are very wet (ABC Is & Guianas: up to 3).
- # of extreme wet spells: up to 1 in Belize & some islands (coastal Guianas: up to 2)

Forecast and Implications:

- High potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards in the Caribbean Islands and Belize in December, decreasing to limited in February; high potential in the Guianas.
- Recharge rates of water reservoirs likely even faster than usual in view of frequent wet spells in the coastal Guianas.
- The number of wet days should decease towards February along with outdoor activity disruptions and environmental conditions conducive to moisture related pests.

Drought conditions

(as of Nov. 1st, 2025)

Lastest drought situation: Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Aruba, Barbados, far northern Belize, Dominica, Grenada, northern Guyana Martinique, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent; severe (or worse) long-term drought in in Aruba, Barbados, southwest Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique and St. Vincent.

Short-term drought (at the end of Feb. 2026) Short-term drought is evolving in northwest Puerto Rico and might possibly develop or continue in ABC Islands,

Dominica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Tobago.

Long-term drought (at the end of May 2026)

Long-term drought is evolving in southwest Belize, Grand Cayman, Grenada, Dominica, Martinique, and Saint Lucia and might possibly develop or continue in ABC islands, southeast Belize, and St. Vincent.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - March to May 2026

This period marks the late Caribbean Dry Season, and the transition into the 2026 Heat Season in April or May. An unseasonably warm Tropical North Atlantic and ENSO neutral conditions are forecast for this period. Temperatures are set to becoming increasingly uncomfortable by April and May, and likely higher and with more humidity than usual transition into the 2026 Heat Season. The risk of severe weather impacts from intense shower activity, including flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts should increase to moderate by May with the likely exception of the ABC islands. Dry season impacts may be exacerbated by increased evapotranspiration rates due to the higher than usual temperatures, particularly in areas where drought is evolving such as the Windward Islands. Detailed outlooks for MAM 2026 are available at 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 near equal chances of La Niña or ENSO neutral conditions in DJF (~45-55% confidence each), returning to ENSO neutral in MAM (~75-80% confid.).

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 DJF, 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 MAM.

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 DJF and in MAM 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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