Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - February to April 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: October 2025 to April 2026

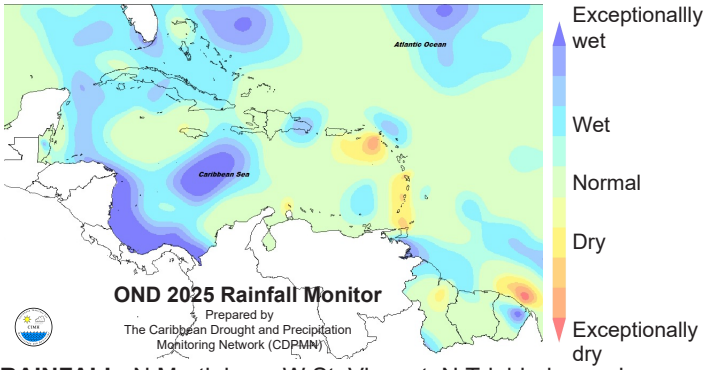
October to December 2025: Though cooling towards December, slightly above-average Tropical North Atlantic ocean temperatures still drove above-average air temperature and humidity. Particularly in the north of the Caribbean, added moisture translated to very wet conditions during the last three months of 2025.

February to April 2026: This part of the Caribbean Dry Season includes its annual peak in March, but also the transition out of the Cool and into the Heat Season. Continued, unusual warmth in the Tropical North Atlantic Ocean implies: (**i**) the occurrence severe weather activity as soon as April in southern Belize, the Guianas, the Greater Antilles and mountainous areas of the Lesser Antilles, implying *high* or even *extremely high* potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts after March; (**ii**) short dry spells increase in frequency, particularly in the ABC Islands and Lesser Antilles; (**iii**) comfortable temperatures in February making way to episodes of heat discomfort by March in inland portions of Belize, the Guianas and Trinidad, or April elsewhere; (**iv**) rainfall totals *unlikely* to mitigate long-term drought impacts in the ABC Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis and the Windward Islands caused by large rainfall deficits during the 2025 Wet Season.

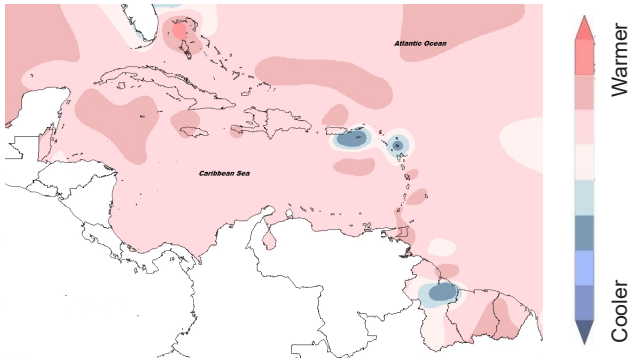
LOOKING BACK:

Oct. - Nov. - Dec. (OND) 2025

Observations



RAINFALL: N Martinique, W St. Vincent, N Trinidad very dry; Central & NW Bahamas, Cuba, E Dominican Rep., NE interior of French Guiana, far N and SW Guyana, S Trinidad very wet.



TEMPERATURE: N & NW Bahamas, Barbados, Grand Cayman, Grenada, several areas in the Guianas, W Haiti, W Jamaica, Martinique, Trinidad close to 1°C warmer than usual; Antigua, parts of N Guyana and St. Croix cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in OND 2025:

WET: Two locations in Jamaica reported record-high rainfall totals (~145-235% of average) for this period.

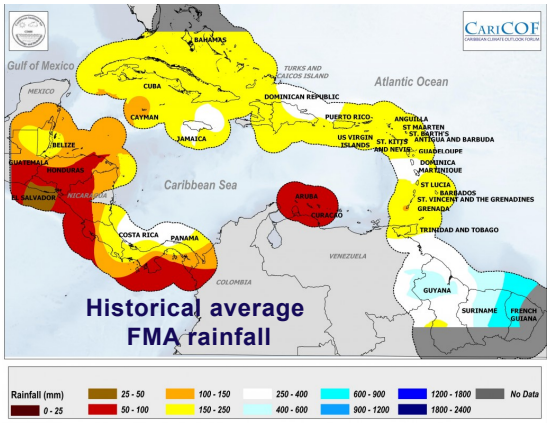
DRY: No location reported record-low rainfall totals for this period.

HOT: 1 location in Guyana, reported record-high mean temperatures.

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

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns February - March - April (FMA)



Belize : Feb to Apr - dry season. Mostly without heavy rainfall.

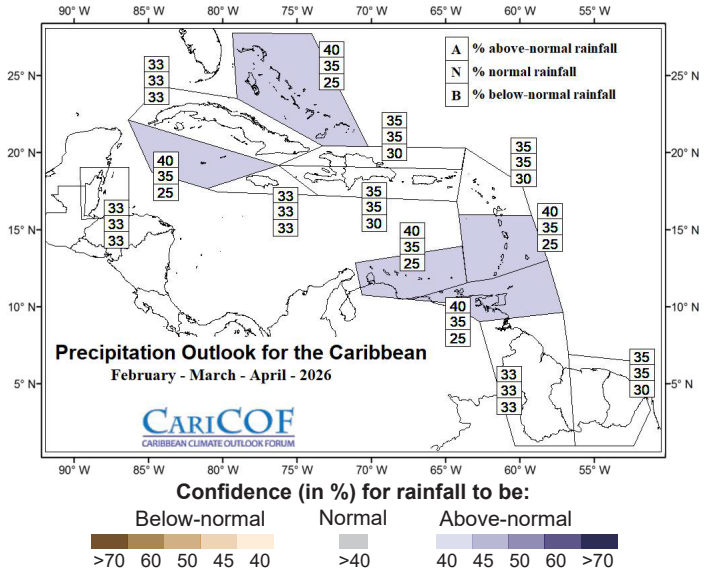
C'bean Islands north of 16ºN: Feb to Apr - sunny days and some days with showers.

C'bean Islands south of 16ºN (except ABC Islands): Feb to Apr - sunny days and some days with showers.

ABC Islands: Feb to Apr - generally dry.

Guianas: Feb to Apr - End of dry season with occasional heavy showers

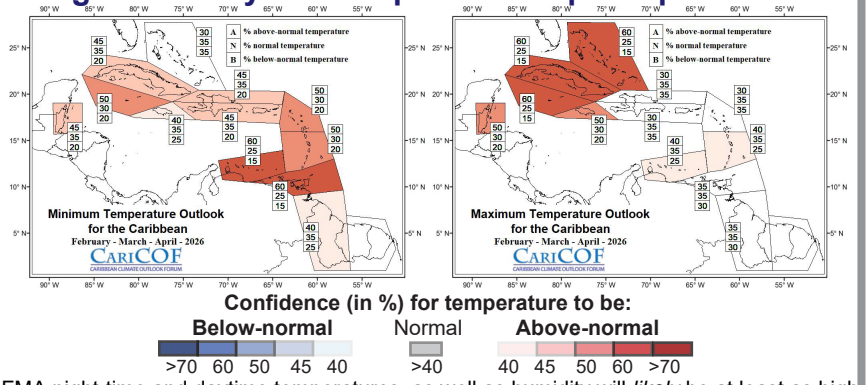
FMA 2026 Rainfall Outlook



Rainfall totals from February to April are *likely* to be the usual or higher in the ABC Islands, the Bahamas, Barbados, Grand Cayman, Trinidad & Tobago and the Windward Islands.

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

Night- and daytime temperatures up to April



FMA night-time and daytime temperatures, as well as humidity will *likely* be at least as high as usual throughout the Antilles islands and Belize (*medium confidence*). Episodes of hazardous heat stress can develop as early as March in inland areas in Belize, southern Guiana and Trinidad, or April (elsewhere), with the highest likelihood in the northwest.

Wet days/spells & flash flood potential in FMA

What usually happens from February to April?

- Number of wet days: roughly 15 to 30 (ABC Is.: 5 to 15; northern Guianas: 20 to 45).
- # of wet spells: up to 2 or 3, of which up to 1 is very wet (northern Guianas: up to 2).
- # of excessively wet days: at least 5 in French Guiana, >2 in Guyana and Suriname; up to 1 or 2 elsewhere.

Forecast and Implications up to April 2026:

- *High* to *extremely high* potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards in Cuba, the Guianas, Puerto Rico and mountainous areas of the Greater and Lesser Antilles.
- Usual water depletion rates in surface reservoirs and rivers.
- Few wet days during the core of the dry season, leading to few outdoor activity disruptions, drier surfaces and vegetation, environmental conditions less conducive to moisture-related pests, but heightened wildfire potential.

Drought conditions

Lastest drought situation: (*as of Jan. 1st, 2026*)	*Moderate* (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Aruba, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago; *severe* (or worse) long-term drought in Aruba, Grand Cayman, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, southwest Belize, Martinique, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent.
Short-term drought (*at the end of Apr. 2026*)	Short-term drought is *evolving* in northern Haiti, St. Kitts and Saint Lucia and *might possibly develop* or *continue* in the Northwestern Bahamas, northern Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Martin and St. Barts.
Long-term drought (*at the end of May 2026*)	Long-term drought is *imminent* in the ABC Islands, Grenada, Saint Lucia; is *evolving* in Dominica, Martinique, St. Kitts; *might possibly develop* or *continue* in southwest Belize, N Dom. Rep., SE Puerto Rico, St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Vincent.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - May to July 2026

This period marks the early Heat Season, the Wet Season starting in May or June, as well as the Atlantic Hurricane Season starting in June. While there are increasing odds of El Niño conditions developing in the Pacific, unseasonably high Tropical North Atlantic temperatures are forecast to remain. The heat is set to become uncomfortable in a wide section of the population, potentially even dangerous in the event of prolonged heatwaves. The risk of severe weather impacts from intense shower activity, including flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts should be *high* to *extremely high*, except in the ABC islands. Until wet season rains become abundant, long-term drought impacts in the Windward Islands are *likely* to occur. Incursions of Saharan dust usually are frequent at this time. *Detailed outlooks for MJJ 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 0.5-1°C below average, i.e., indicative of weak La Niña conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models suggest a return to ENSO neutral conditions in FMA (~85% confidence) and MJJ (~55% confid.), but with a possibility of El Niño conditions in MJJ (~35% confid.).

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: El Niño conditions that develop in summer are often associated with reduced heavy shower activity and rainfall totals across the Caribbean, as well as exacerbated heat and humidity, including heat waves.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SSTs around the Caribbean and in the subtropical North Atlantic are 0.2-1°C warmer than usual.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting persistently warm SST anomalies of 0.2-1°C above average in FMA and in MJJ 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. The likelihood of extreme rainfall is higher than usual, even in the late 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:

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 thay may provide.

DISCLAIMER