

Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - April to June 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: December 2025 to June 2026

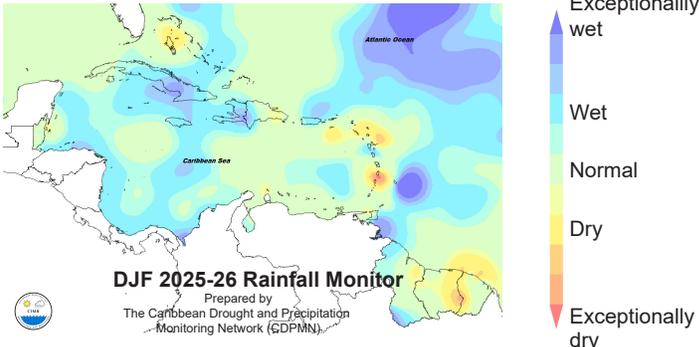
December 2025 to February 2026: The Caribbean cool season, though mostly devoid of excessive heat, still recorded above-average air temperature and humidity. However, Belize, Cuba and Jamaica got impacted by the passage of strong cold fronts in January and February. In the Lesser Antilles, long-term drought has been affecting a growing number of countries, especially Saint Lucia.

April to June 2026: ENSO conditions in the Pacific are forecast to transition to neutral or El Niño by June. This, combined with unusually warm waters around and north of the Caribbean, but seasonably warm waters in around the southern reaches imply: (i) a Caribbean Heat Season with heatwaves occurring as early as April and gradually ramping up, possibly matching AMJ 2024 in the northwest of the region; (ii) high evaporation rates, frequent short dry spells and buildup of any ongoing drought, thus increasing wildfire potential through May or longer; (iii) except for the ABC Islands, rainfall intensity should rise towards June, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts. Episodes of Saharan dust intrusion will likely be frequent; if combined with El Niño, this means more build up of dryness and heat, as well as more erratic occurrence of severe weather.

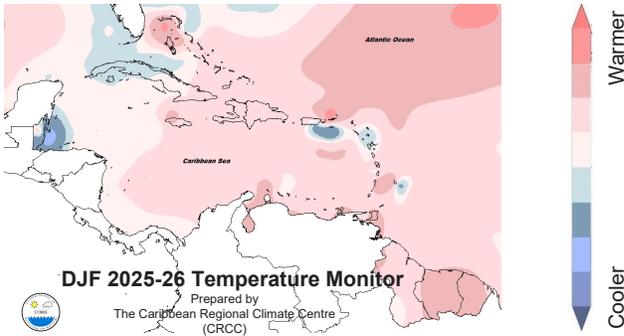
LOOKING BACK:

Dec. - Jan. - Feb. (DJF) 2025-26

Observations



RAINFALL: Southeast Suriname and Saint Lucia Guadeloupe very dry; southeast Barbados, parts of Central Cuba, southeast Haiti, southernmost Trinidad very wet.



TEMPERATURE: Aruba, N. Bahamas, Barbados, several areas in the Guianas, northwest Jamaica, St. Vincent, St. Thomas, Trinidad close to 1°C warmer than usual; central parts of coastal Belize and St. Croix close to 1°C cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in DJF 2025-26:

WET: No location reported record-high rainfall totals for this period.

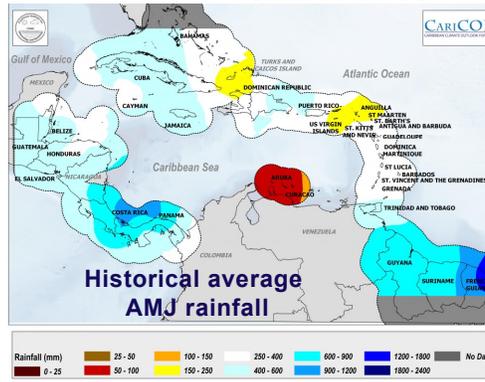
DRY: No location reported record-low rainfall totals for this period.

HOT: No location reported record-high temperatures for this period.

More at <https://carogenv2.cimh.edu.bb/app/stats/>

WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns April-May-June (AMJ)



Belize & C'bean Islands north of 16°N:

Apr - end of the dry season. Limited spatial extent and duration of heavy showers.

May & Jun - usually frequent heavy showers.

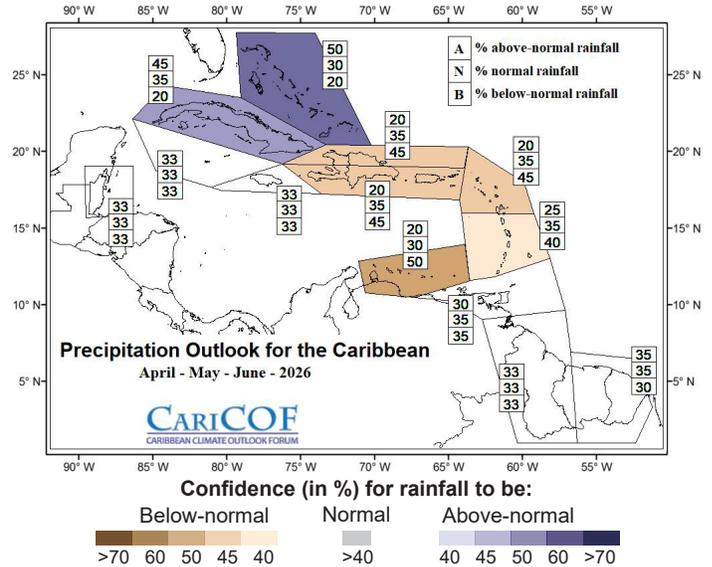
C'bean Islands south of 16°N (except ABC Islands):

Apr to May - end of dry season. Limited spatial extent and duration of heavy showers; occasionally very wet. Jun - onset of wet season. Increasingly heavy showers.

ABC Islands: Apr to Jun - mostly dry.

Guianas: Apr to Jun - transition to wet season; heavy showers more and more frequent.

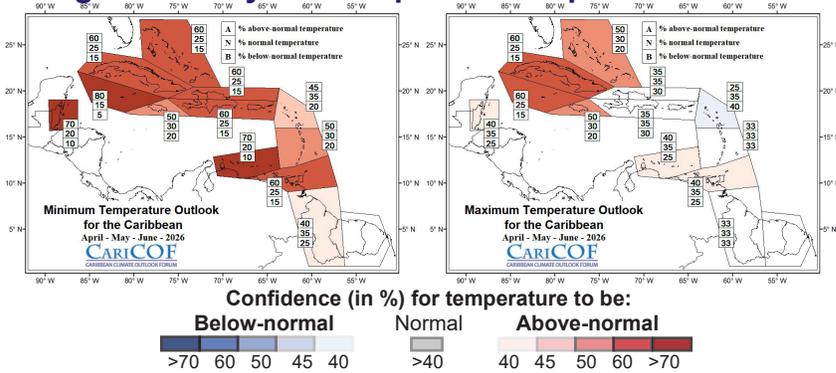
AMJ 2026 Rainfall Outlook



Rainfall totals from April to June are likely to be the usual or more in The Bahamas and Cuba, but the usual or less in the ABC Islands, Hispaniola, the US Caribbean Territories and the Lesser Antilles (medium confidence).

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

Night- and daytime temperatures up to June



AMJ daytime temperatures and humidity will *likely* be at least as high as usual in the ABC Isls., Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, The Bahamas, Cayman Isls., Cuba and Jamaica (*medium to high confidence*); unusually warm nighttime temperatures and humidity can be expected across the region. Episodes of excessive heat stress can develop from April onwards.

Wet days/spells & flash flood potential in AMJ

What usually happens from April to June?

- Number of wet days: roughly 20 to 35, (ABC Isls. 5-10; Guianas: 40-55).
- # of wet spells: up to 4 (ABC Is. up to 1; Guianas: up to 6), of which up to 2 are very wet (ABC Is. up to 1; Guianas: up to 3).
- # of excessively wet days: at least 4 in the Guianas; up to 1 or 2 in The Bahamas, Belize and most areas of the Antilles, none in the ABC Islands.

Forecast and Implications up to May 2026:

- *High* potential for flooding, flash floods, related hazards and compound or cascading impacts due to intense rainfall events, particularly in mountainous areas and in the Guianas.
- Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will *likely* accelerate, particularly in the Guianas.
- Accelerated rise in wet day frequency into May to increasingly disrupt outdoor tourism activities, make conditions conducive to moisture-related pests, but dampen wildfire potential.
- *These trends might be muted, should El Niño develop.*

Drought conditions

Latest drought situation: *Moderate* (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Antigua, the northwest and northern Bahamas, French Guiana, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Suriname; *moderate* (or worse) long-term drought in Aruba, southern Belize, western and eastern Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and southeast Suriname.

Short-term drought (at the end of June 2026) Short-term drought is evolving in northwestern Belize and might possibly develop or continue in The Bahamas, southern Belize, western Cuba, coastal French Guiana, Saint Lucia and coastal Suriname.

Long-term drought (at the end of May 2026) Long-term drought is *imminent* in Grenada, St. Kitts and Saint Lucia, *evolving* in the ABC islands, southwest Belize, Dominica and Martinique, and *might possibly develop or continue* in southeast Belize, St. Martin and St. Vincent.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - July to September 2026

This period marks the buildup into the annual peak of the Caribbean Wet Season and Heat Season, as well as the Atlantic Hurricane Season. Ocean temperatures are forecast to remain unseasonably warm around the Caribbean, especially in the far north, where record levels as experienced in 2023 and 2024 are possible. Meanwhile, increasingly confident forecasts suggest a *likely* transition into (*possibly strong*) El Niño conditions in the Pacific. Unusually high air temperatures will most likely prevail with recurrent, significant heat stress. The *risk* of severe weather impacts, incl. flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts is expected to be *high*. Hurricane season activity should peak in September. However, should a strong El Niño manifest and, especially if compounded by very frequent intrusions of dusty Saharan air, more intense drought and heat, but reduced severe weather and tropical cyclone activity may ensue. *For temperature and precipitation outlooks for JAS 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 have warmed to 0.5°C below average, i.e., fading borderline La Niña conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models suggest a *likely* transition into ENSO neutral conditions by AMJ (~55-85% confidence) and El Niño conditions by JAS (~75% confid.).

Expected implications: El Niño conditions that develop in summer are often associated with reduced tropical cyclone and heavy shower activity 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 0.25-1°C warmer than usual.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting persistently warm SST anomalies of 0.25-1°C above average in AMJ and JAS around the Caribbean region, except in southernmost parts where near average SSTs are forecast.

Expected implications: 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.

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 they may provide.

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