



The 2026 Wet/Hurricane Season Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

Nassau, The Bahamas

May 25th to 29th, 2026

Concept Note



1. Background

Preparing for climate change and natural climate variability are regional and national priorities established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community. Climate variability and change, as exemplified by the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather and climate events, such as droughts, floods, heat waves and tropical cyclones, continue to pose significant risks for the Caribbean region. The threats from such hazards make early warning information systems critical components of preparedness, risk reduction and adaptation.

Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) were first organized in 1997 in response to a threatening El Niño event, to provide seasonal climate information to help decision-makers reduce climate-related risks, develop technical forecasting capacity, and to strengthen connections between science information providers and decision-makers¹. Thanks to the promotion by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), RCOFs are now active in several parts of the world. The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) is a significant step towards providing those relevant and necessary climate information and services, to support adaptation and disaster risk management in climate sensitive sectors and communities across the Caribbean.

In June 2010, in the wake of one of the most intense droughts in Caribbean history, a workshop was convened to re-establish the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) after its hiatus in the early 2000s. Its intent was to develop a sustained collaborative process to provide credible and authoritative real-time regional climate information products. To cement the re-establishment, the first of many CariCOFs was held in February/March 2012 that consisted of three separate but complementary activities:

- A Technical Training Workshop that developed a draft seasonal (three-month) rainfall outlook,
- A Partnership Workshop that brought together key partners and users of climate information, and
- The Outlook Forum that discussed the rainfall forecast with users, which determined the final product.

Since the 2012 CariCOF, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) has been coordinating seasonal climate forecasting activities leading to a consistently growing body of climate forecasters who: (i) contribute to the monthly production of consensus-based seasonal climate outlooks, and (ii) engage with the user community, both nationally and regionally, to facilitate awareness-building within climate sensitive sectors. At the 2012 CariCOF, it was also agreed that the bi-annual hosting of such forums, roving across the region just prior to the

¹ Gerlak, A. K., et al, 2018: Building a framework for process-oriented evaluation of Regional Climate Outlook Forums. *Wea. Climate Soc.*, 10, 225–239, <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-17-0029.1>



beginning of the wet season and the dry season in the Caribbean, be pursued. Since 2012, CariCOF face to face workshops have been held in:

- Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Saint. Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados. Sint Maarten and Grenada from 2013 to 2019, and 2023 to 2025 prior to region's wet/hurricane seasons.
- Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Dominica prior to the 2014 to 2019, and 2022 to 2024 prior to the dry seasons.

The face-to-face forums followed a similar agenda to that in 2012, but with the partnership workshop and forum merged into one Stakeholder Forum. From May 2020 until May 2022, CariCOFs were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The 2026 Wet/Hurricane Season Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) – the Stakeholder Forum

The Caribbean wet/hurricane season typically has implications for disaster risk management, with perennial threats from tropical cyclones (tropical depressions, tropical 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) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the 2026 Wet/hurricane Season CariCOF is scheduled for 25th to 29th May in Nassau, The Bahamas. The Stakeholder Forum will be held on the 27th and 28th May featuring 6 main sections:

- The delivery of the forecasts for the wet and hurricane season (including 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), extreme heat with implications for human and livestock health, and the Atlantic Hurricane Season activity.
- Sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks in advance, further enhancing decision making with information on this shorter timescale.
- Discussions surrounding current and future climate services for climate sensitive sectors in the Caribbean – gaps in decision making processes related to climate information and services.
- The release of the Caribbean Climate Impacts Database – a centralized evidence-based information archive that compiles the foundational data for examining the impact of climate in the Caribbean. This searchable empirical time series is the basis for (1) economic



& non-economic loss and damage visualizations over space and time; (2) identification of regional, national and local level hotspots of high human vulnerability; (3) tracking changes in vulnerability and/or resilience over space and time; (4) Climate & disaster risk management and adaptation to climate variability, extremes and change; (5) Climate rationale for climate finance proposals; (6) Empirical basis for climate change attribution research; (7) impacts-based forecasting.

- Advancing the proposed Caribbean Climate Impacts Monitoring Network (CCIMNET) - Insufficient climate impacts reporting has limited our understanding of the full extent of the impacts of climate related events on Caribbean societies. To address this gap, the establishment of a Caribbean Climate Impacts Monitoring Network (CCIMNet) jointly coordinated at the regional level by the CIMH and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) from across the Caribbean is proposed. The CCIMNet is envisioned to be a mechanism for the routine and operational coordination of climate impacts reporting at the regional level.
- Coordination Meeting in the Caribbean Basin on the provision of Meteorological and Climate Services - In the framework of the renewed partnership on Disaster Risk Management, including weather forecasting and climate services, between the Caribbean and the European Union, this meeting takes place against a strategic backdrop aimed at expanding cooperation in the Caribbean basin and in preparation for the Ibero-American Summit to be held in November 2026 in Madrid (Spain), which will focus on conservation, sustainable development and the prevention of climate change. Holding this meeting within the framework of CARICOF provides an opportunity to highlight the existing structures and the role of all participating stakeholders. The aim of the meeting is to facilitate discussions among the main regional institutions in the Iberoamerican and Caribbean Region involved in strengthening the provision of meteorological and climate services in the Caribbean basin, in order to identify potential synergies, promote better coordination and optimise the use of financial resources. A smaller meeting to commence the building of this collaboration will take place on Friday 29th May 2026.

3. Pre-CariCOF Training of Caribbean Meteorologists and Climatologists

The technical training workshop, often referred to as the pre-CariCOF training of Caribbean meteorologists and climatologists will take place on May 25th and 26th, 2026. The CariCOF Outlook Generator, integrated with the Climate Predictability Tool that develops statistically downscaled climate products for the Caribbean, continues to be enhanced toward the finalisation of its second version under the Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) project. Personnel from the meteorological services will be updated on the developments to date and additional functions embedded.

Several rounds of feedback for requests for additional or enhancement of existing functionality have been had in the past 3 years either at or between face-to-face pre-CariCOF training



workshops. Meanwhile, the Climate Predictability Tool has also undergone continual improvements, many of which are specifically in view of the need for inclusion of sub-seasonal forecasting functionality. The wealth of feedback from regional climate services providers has facilitated this continuous upgrade that paves the way for context-relevant harmonized experiments that support the provision of seasonal and sub-seasonal outlooks for the Caribbean region. CAROGEN v2 and its continued integration with the CPT tool will be the focus of the training.

During the pre-CariCOF session, as is customary, the region's meteorologists and climatologists will also come to a consensus on the products and information to be delivered during the seasonal outlook presentation at the Stakeholder Forum on the 27th May.

4. The 14th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

Critically important to the climate services agenda in the region, is the implementation of a regional Roadmap and Plan of Action (RPA) 2020 to 2030 - the Caribbean's long-term vision for the co-design, co-development and co-delivery of sector-specific climate services. RPA implementation is being advanced by the Regional Consortium of Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners. These partners include seven regional sector agencies² with mandates related to the six climate sensitive sectors served by the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre at CIMH. Several other regional and international agencies provide support for the work of the Consortium as Observing Members³.

The 14th Consortium Meeting will take place from 25th to 26th November 2026. The objectives of this meeting are:

- To review progress and challenges on RPA implementation over the period November 2025 to May 2026;
- To discuss Consortium support for ClimSA activities until its close in September 2027;

² Including the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA).

³ Including the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Climate Studies Group of the University of the West Indies, Mona campus (UWI CSGM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Agricultural Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI).





- To review the draft Consortium LOA and TOR for Performance Period 3 (2026-2028);
- To showcase and test the further upgraded Caribbean Climate Impacts Database (CCID) in preparation for its release at the Stakeholder Forum;
- To advance discussions toward the establishment of the Caribbean Climate Impacts Monitoring Network in collaboration with National Disaster Management Organizations from across the region.

