Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - June to August 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: February to August 2026

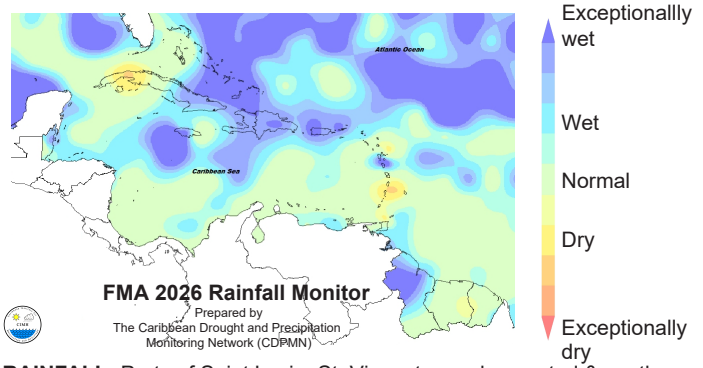
February to April 2026: The peak of the Caribbean Dry Season and transition out of the Cool Season featured increased evaporation rates due to strong trade winds exacerbated surface dryness, long-term drought and wildfire risk around the Windward Islands. By contrast, most of the Greater Antilles, central & south Bahamas, Dominica, Guadeloupe and northern Guyana were wetter than usual.

June to August 2026: El Niño is developing and strengthening in the Pacific. This, alongside forecasted rapid warming of waters in and around the Caribbean implies: (**i**) a Caribbean Heat Season with heatwaves gradually ramping up, and night- and daytime temperatures *possibly* matching JJA 2024 records in the northwest of the region; (**ii**) *potentially* increased Atlantic Hurricane Season activity in the northern Caribbean; (**iii**) progressive, though likely slower than usual alleviation of drought impacts and wildfire risk into August in the southeastern Caribbean; (**iv**) slower than usual increase in rainfall frequency than in most years, although shower intensity should rise, resulting in *high* to *extremely high* potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts. Intrusions of dusty Saharan air will *likely* be frequent and inhibit tropical cyclone activity, but exacerbate humid heat and deteriorate air quality.

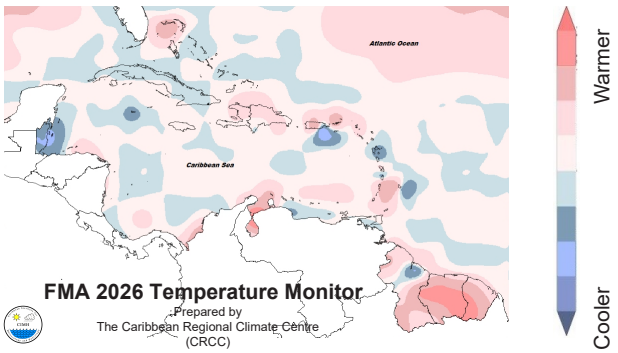
LOOKING BACK:

February - March - April (FMA) 2026

Observations



- **RAINFALL:** Parts of Saint Lucia, St. Vincent very dry; central & southern Bahamas, Eastern Cuba, Dominica, southwest Guadeloupe, northern interior of Guyana, Hispaniola, western Jamaica, US Caribbean Territories very wet.



- **TEMPERATURE:** Aruba, most areas in the Guianas, Northern Bahamas, western Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Vincent 0.25-1.5ºC warmer than usual; eastern Barbados, central Belize, Grand Cayman, Guadeloupe, area surrounding Timehri in Guyana slightly cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in FMA 2026:

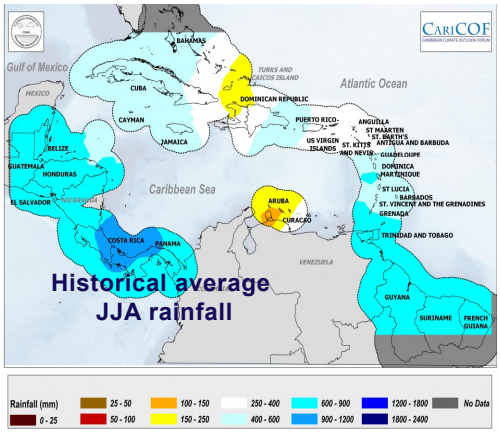
WET: Dominica and 1 location in Puerto Rico reported record-high rainfall totals for this period (~230-245% of avg.).

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 June-July-August (JJA)



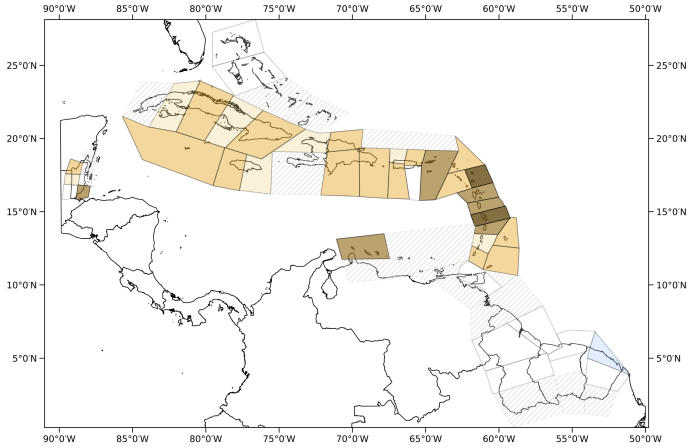
Belize & C'bean Islands north of 16ºN:
Jun - wet season. Usually frequent heavy showers.
Jul to Aug - wet season. Often includes a mid-summer dry spell.

C'bean Islands south of 16ºN (except ABC Islands):
Jun to Aug - first half of wet season. Increasingly heavy showers.

ABC Islands: *Mostly dry*

Guianas: Jun to Jul - long wet season; Frequent heavy showers. Aug - transition to dry season. Heavy showers become less frequent.

JJA 2026 Rainfall Outlook

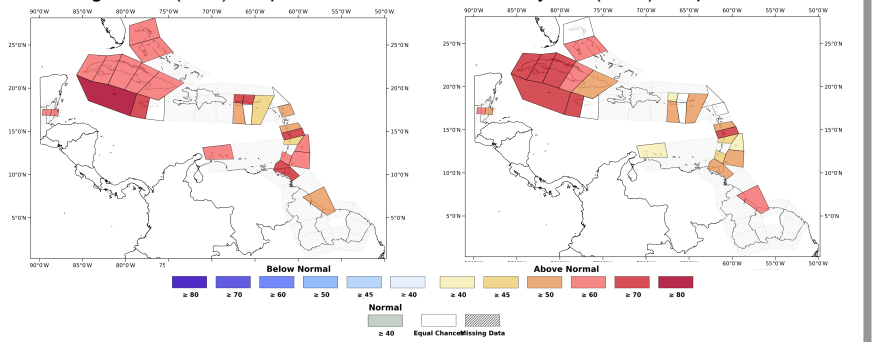


Rainfall totals from June to August are *unlikely* to be higher than usual across The Bahamas, Belize and the Antilles (*medium to high confidence*), but possibly higher than usual in coastal French Guiana (*low confidence*).
White areas show where the forecast indicates little information on rainfall totals.

Night- and daytime temperatures up to August

Night-time (min.) temperature

Daytime (max.) temperature



JJA night-time and daytime temperature will *likely* be at least as warm as usual, with heat becoming particularly intense and recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat -- incl. heatwaves -- causing heat stress in the vulnerable population. The risk of extreme heat exposure is highest in the northern Caribbean, where cooling strategies are paramount.

Wet days/spells & flash flood potential in JJA

What usually happens from June to August?

- Number of wet days: roughly 20 to 40, (ABC Isls. 5-15; Guianas: 45-65).
- # of wet spells: 1 to 5 (Guianas: 4 to 7), of which 2 to 3 are very wet are very wet (ABC Is. up to 1; Guianas: 1 to 5).
- # of excessively wet days: 5 or more in The Bahamas, southern Belize & Cuba; Guianas and mountainous Islands: 2-5, elsewhere no more than 3.

Forecast and Implications up to August 2026:

- The potential for flooding, flash floods, related hazards and compound or cascading impacts due to excessive rains will be *high* to *extremely high* in most areas except the ABC Islands, far Eastern Cuba, drier valleys of Hispaniola, St. Martin.
- Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will *likely* accelerate slower than usual in Belize and the Antilles.
- A slower than usual increase in wet days into August dampens the increase in rainfall disruptions of outdoor activities, slowly builds up soil moisture and reduces wildfire potential.

Drought conditions

Lastest drought situation: *(as of May 1st, 2026)*	*Severe* (or worse) short-term drought has developed in parts of Western Cuba, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent; *severe* (or worse) long-term drought in Aruba, southern Belize, western
Agricultural drought	There is no concern for widespread agricultural drought at the end of June 2026.
Short-term drought (at the end of Aug. 2026)	There is no concern for widespread short-term drought at the end of August 2026.
Long-term drought (at the end of Nov. 2026)	Long-term drought is *evolving* in Saint Lucia and might possible continue in Martinique and St. Kitts.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - September to November 2026

This period marks the annual peak of the Caribbean Wet Season, the second half of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, as well as the peak and end of the Heat Season. Ocean temperatures around the Caribbean are forecast to warm into September -- especially in the far north, where record heat is possible. Meanwhile, this year's El Niño is forecast to *likely* be *strong* to *very strong*. Higher than usual air temperatures are expected across the Caribbean, recurrently peaking during heatwaves and leading to *significant* heat stress. Despite that El Niño tends to decrease the *risk* of severe weather including tropical cyclone activity, the risk of flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts remains *high*. Finally, the stronger the El Niño becomes, (**i**) the more intense the heat, (**ii**) the more *likely* widespread drought impacting the region during the 2026-27 Dry Season, but (**iii**) the less severe weather and tropical cyclone activity. *For temperature and precipitation outlooks for SON 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 weak El Niño conditions in recent weeks.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models suggest *very likely* continued El Niño conditions by JJA (>90% confidence), *likely* further strengthening into a *strong* El Niño into SON (~60% confid.).

Expected implications: Strengthening El Niño conditions in summer are often associated with reduced tropical cyclone and reduced shower activity across the Caribbean, but exacerbated heat and air humidity, including heat waves.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SSTs below-average in much of the Main Development Region for hurricanes (MDR), but 0.5-2°C warmer than usual in the northern Caribbean, as well as in the subtropical North Atlantic.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting warming SST anomalies into JJA, further increasing to 0.5-2°C above average by SON.

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. By contrast, cooler than average SSTs in the MDR tends to decrease tropical cyclone and severe weather activity.

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.

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