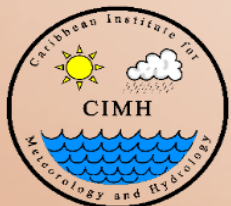


Heat Outlook for August 2026 to January 2027

Episodes of excessive heat expected to ramp up as the Caribbean is experiencing another unusually hot Heat Season

Participating countries and territories

Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



caricof@cimh.edu.bb

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CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

Health: Greater frequency of heat symptoms due to excessive heat particularly in The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles (peaking in August-September)

Public health:

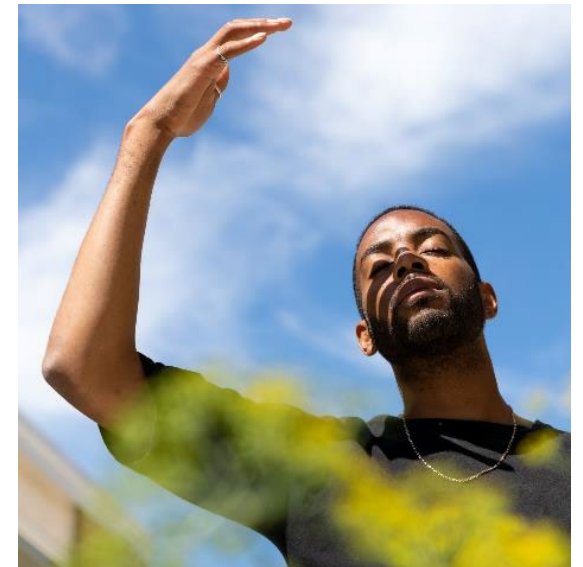
- *strong* increase in mild heat symptoms
- *strong* increase in heat illnesses, fainting episodes, hospitalisations, health services
- *likely* increase in biological risk (e.g. Aedes mosquito borne diseases, gastrointestinal disease)
- *exacerbation* of vulnerability in patients with chronic illness, children, pregnant women and the elderly

Occupational health:

- *potential* increase in exhaustion during intense outdoor activity
- *strongly* reduced labour performance and productivity if unprotected

Well-being:

- *significantly* increased sweating and water consumption
- snacking/binge eating leading to acute negative health impacts (hypertension, diabetes) and weight gain
- *increased* fatigue, irritability and aggression during prolonged heatwaves



Agriculture: Expect *significant* impacts from excessive heat particularly in The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles (peaking in August-September)



Livestock:

- *increased* cooling and ventilation need to mitigate heat stress in small and large livestock
- stunted growth rate of broilers and egg production of layers
- *likely* reduced dairy production

Crop agriculture:

- *exacerbation* of any evolving drought conditions leading to increased wilting
- *strongly* reduced productivity between 10 AM and 3 PM

Fisheries:

- *increased* water temperatures potentially reducing catch of reef fish, die-off and migration of pelagic fish
- *significant* potential for coral reef bleaching as early as August

Forestry:

- *exacerbation* of any evolving drought conditions
- increased wildfire potential if fuel stock is dry

Tourism – Energy – Water:

Expect *significant* impacts from excessive heat
particularly in The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles (peaking in August-September)

Tourism:

- **Heat adaptation** – *significantly* increased demand for AC and refrigeration and associated costs in hotels
- **Diving operations** – *strong* potential coral reef bleaching in the northern parts of the Caribbean, *possibly* reducing demand in the long term



Energy:

- **Production** – reduced efficiency of power generation; *potential* increase in interruptions as a result of spikes in cooling demand
- **Demand and consumption** – *strongly* increased cooling need in households, hotels, restaurants



Water:

- **Quantity and quality** – recharge of water reservoirs along the wet season slowed down due to increased evapotranspiration; *potential* increase in algal blooms
- **Consumption** – *likely* increase in households, hotels and power utilities



DRM – Child Care & Education

Expect *significant* impacts from excessive heat particularly in The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles (peaking in August-September)



DRM:

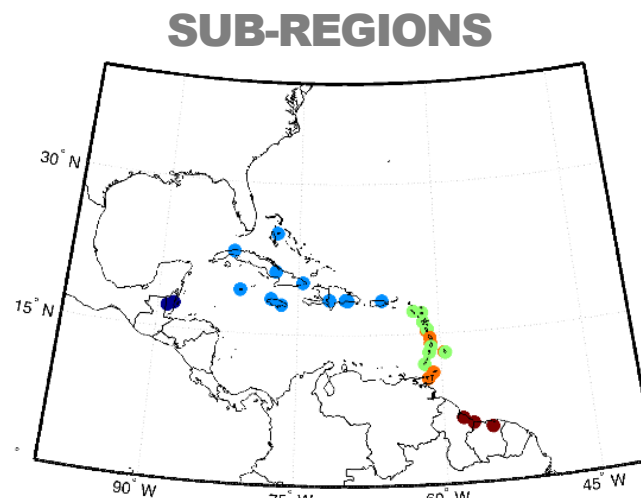
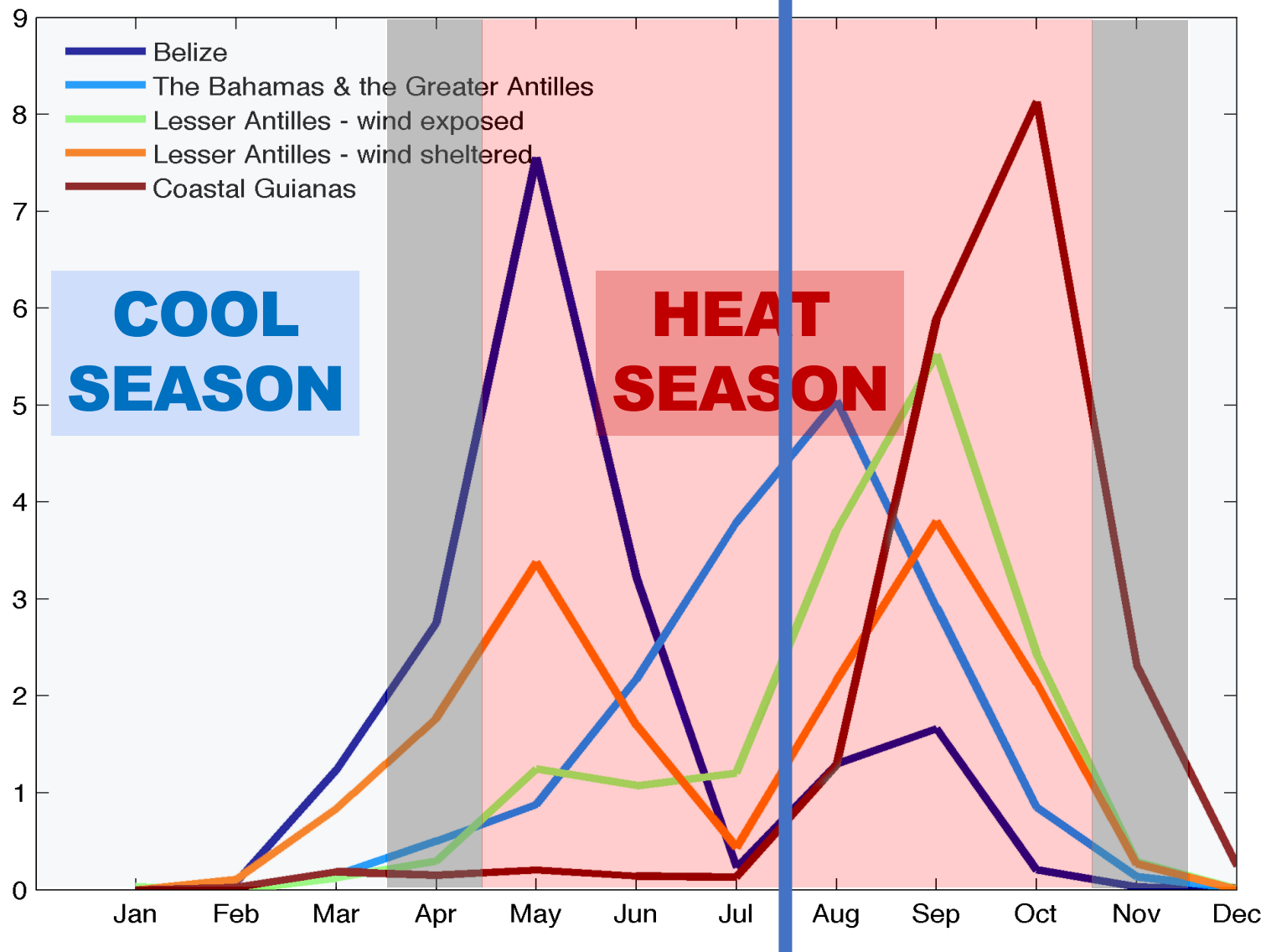
- **Risk:** *potentially* increased mortality and increased need for cooling strategies immediately post disaster (e.g. intense heat after passage of tropical cyclone); increased wildfire potential (if fuel stock is dry)
- **Operations:** *likely* reduced productivity of warehouse staff if unprotected



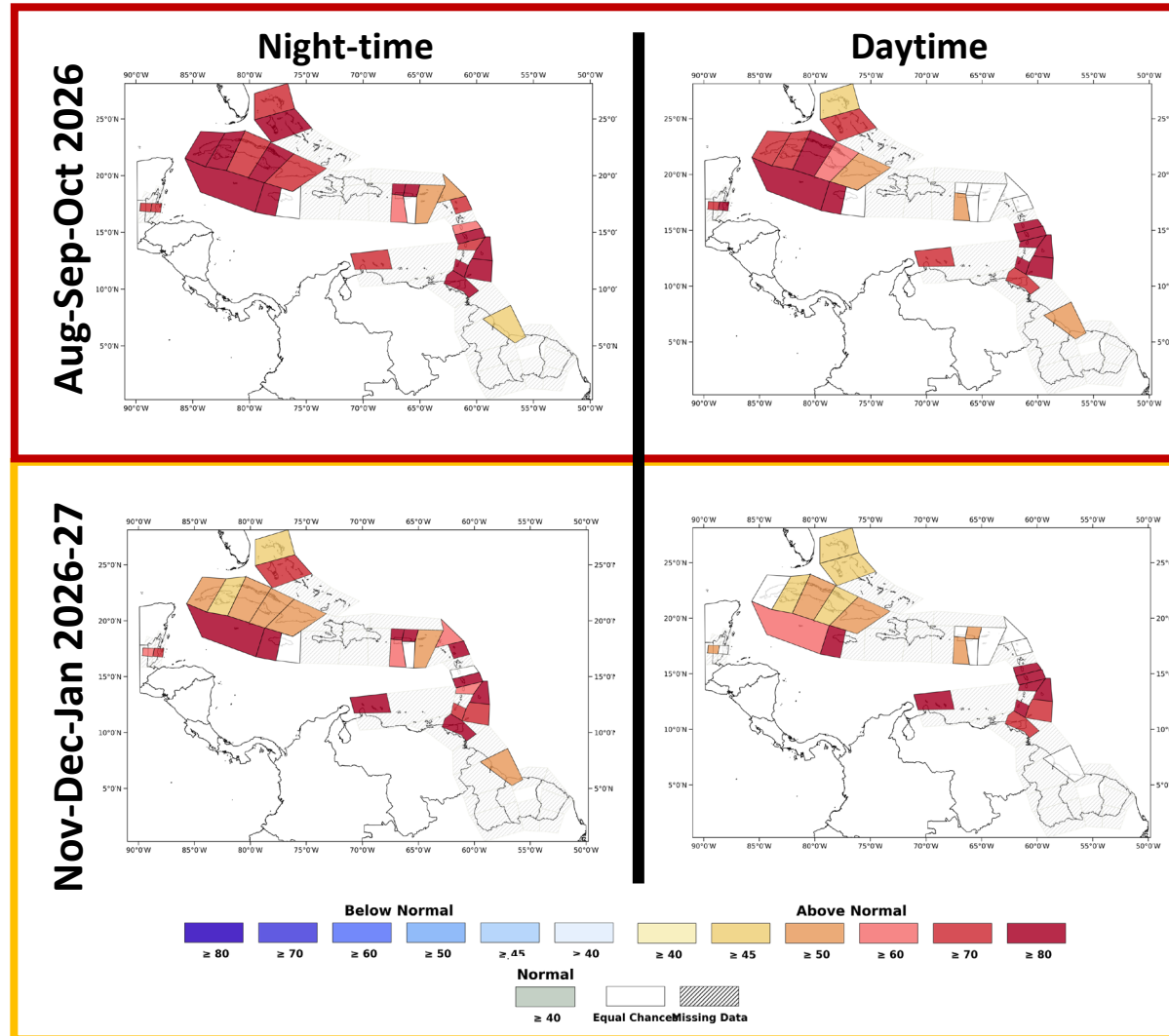
Child care and education:

- **Learning:** *significantly* reduced productivity and reduced learning ability of students during the summer semester and at the start of the 2026-2027 school year
- **Child Protection:** *potential* increase in aggression during prolonged heatwaves

Number of days per month
spent in hot spells



Overall, how hot will the next three to six months be?



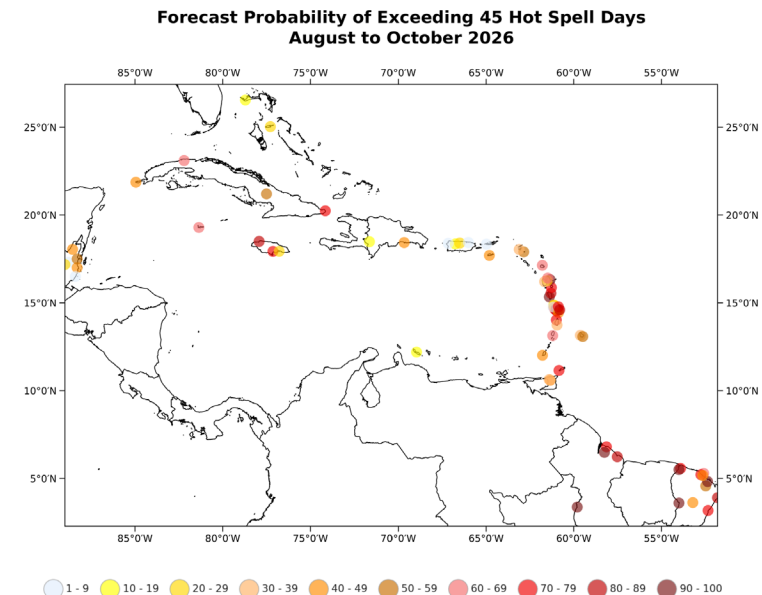
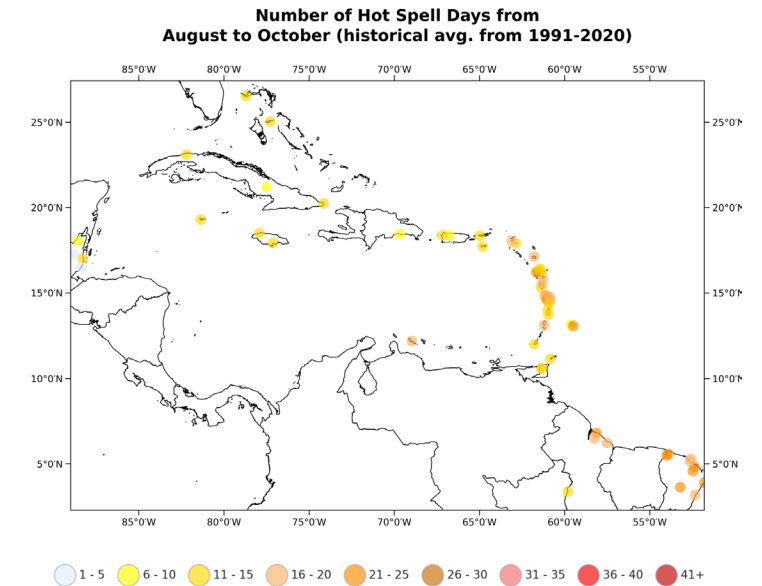
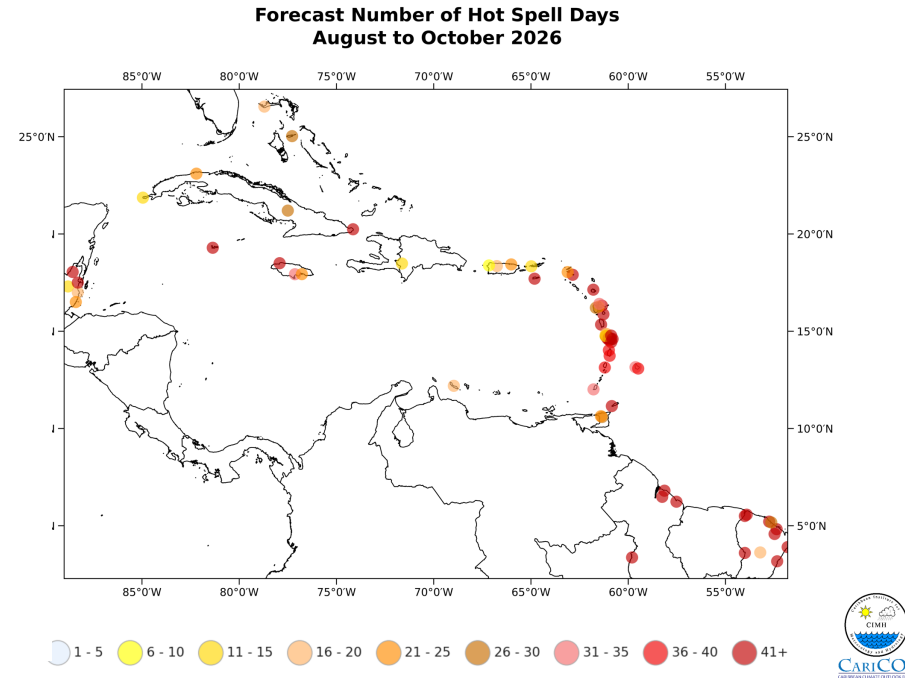
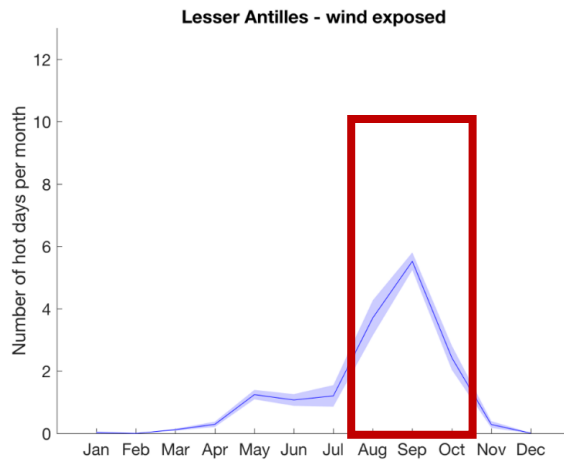
FORECAST:

1. August to October is forecast to *likely* be at least as warm as usual, with intense night-time and daytime heat expected, especially in August and September (in the Guianas: September & October).
2. The Cool Season is set to start in December, but the period November to January will *likely* still be at least as warm as usual.

IMPLICATIONS:

- Frequent and intense episodes of excessive heat exposure leading to severe heat stress in the vulnerable population & small livestock because of high temperature, increasing humidity and intense hot spells through October.
- A greater than usual cooling need peaking in August and September in the Islands and Belize (September and October in the Guianas), but progressively decreasing thereafter.

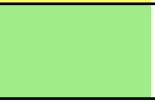
How many days spent in hot spells to expect for August to October 2026?

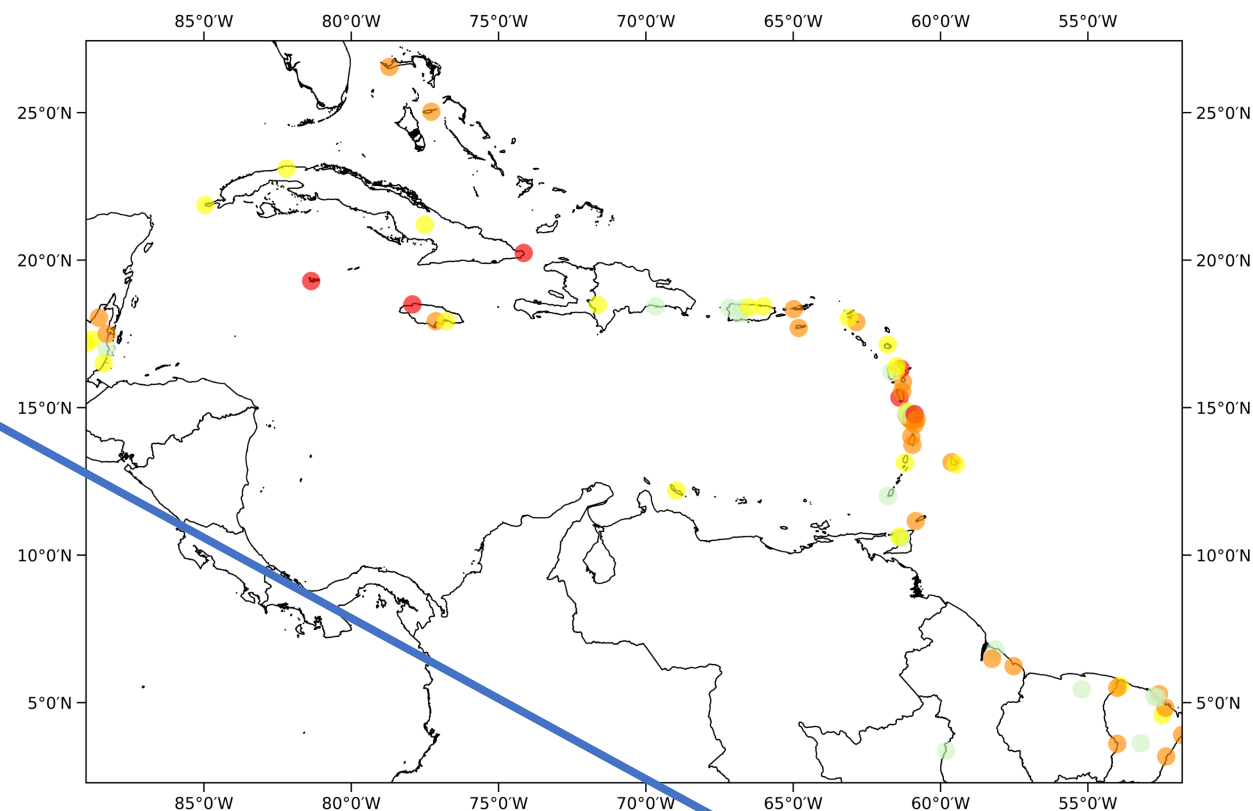


USUALLY: 15-30 hot-spell days in Puerto Rico, the Guianas and the Lesser Antilles; 5-20 hot-spell days elsewhere.

FORECAST: *Strong* increase in hot-spells across the region with *a strong probability* for 45 or more hot-spell days in the Guianas, many parts of the Lesser Antilles and several areas of Belize and the Greater Antilles.

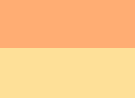
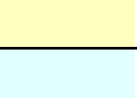
Forecast Heat impact potential due to hot spells July to September 2026

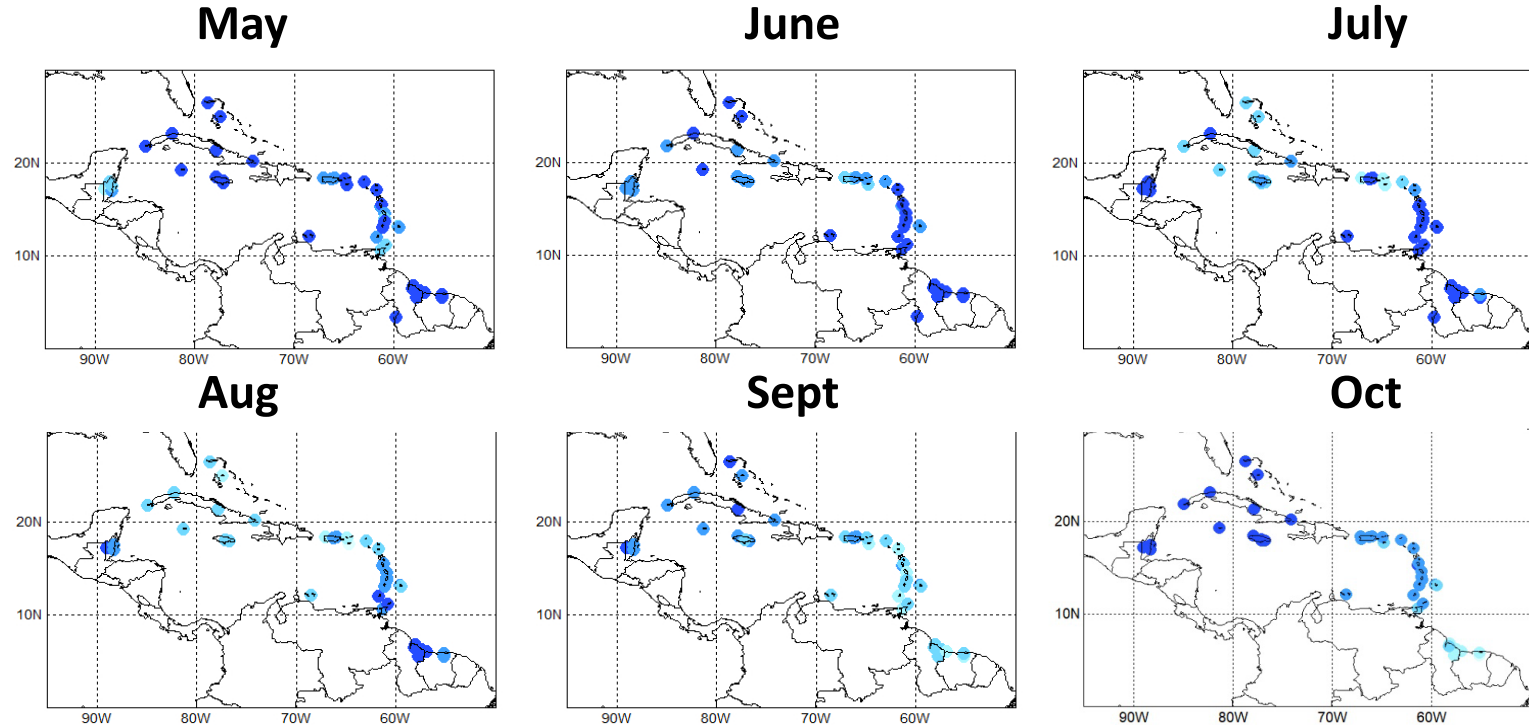
Heat Impact Potential	Colour Codes	Percentage of hot-spell days
EXTREMELY HIGH		>80%
HIGH		50-80%
MODERATE		20-50%
SLIGHT		10-20%
MARGINAL		0-10%



FORECAST: *High* potential in Grand Cayman, eastern-most Cuba and northwest Jamaica;
moderate potential in The Bahamas, northern Belize, the USVI, wind-sheltered areas in other islands of the Antilles, in some areas in French Guiana and coastal Guyana;
slight potential in the majority of wind-exposed areas of the Antilles, western and southern Belize.

Heat impact potential due to heatwaves during the Heat Season (historical averages 1985-2014)

Heat impact potential	Colour codes	Percentage of time spent in heatwaves
EXTREMELY HIGH		>80%
HIGH		50-80%
MODERATE		20-50%
SLIGHT		10-20%
MARGINAL		0-10%



- May: Moderate potential in Belize; marginal to slight elsewhere.
- Jun.: Slight potential in Barbados and areas from St. Martin westwards; marginal elsewhere.
- Jul.: Slight to moderate potential in the Greater Antilles & Leeward Is.; marginal to slight elsewhere.
- Aug.: Moderate potential in Barbados & islands westwards of Guadeloupe; marginal elsewhere.
- Sep.: Moderate potential in the ABC Is., Lesser Antilles, Guianas; marginal to slight elsewhere.
- Oct.: Moderate potential in Barbados, the Guianas & St. Croix; marginal westwards of Hispaniola; slight elsewhere.



**Regional climate data, information, tools,
experimental and operational products
are available at**

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

Coordination: Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology
Contact: caricof@cimh.edu.bb

Author(s): Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck – *Climatologist*
(cmeerbeeck@cimh.edu.bb)

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Development Team: Dr. Cedric J. VAN MEERBEECK¹ (cmeerbeeck@cimh.edu.bb), Dr. Simon MASON², Dr. Hannah Nissan², Dr. Teddy ALLEN², Ms. Wazita Scott¹

¹Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Barbados

²At the time of development: International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), USA