

Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - September to November 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.

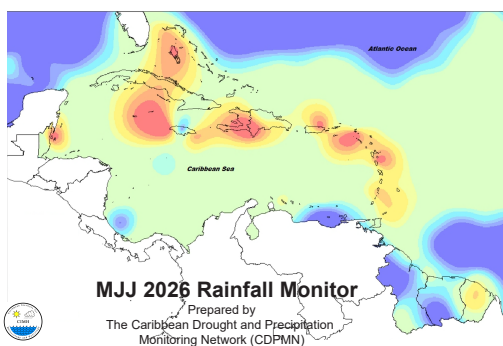
BRIEF SUMMARY: May to November 2026

May to July 2026: The transition into the Caribbean Heat Season and Wet Season Season featured increased evaporation rates due to strong trade winds and below-average rainfall totals across much of the island chain and in portions of the Guianas. This exacerbated surface dryness and prolonged wildfire risk, as well as led to agricultural, short-term and long-term drought in several countries.

September to November 2026: During the second half of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, the late Caribbean Wet and Heat Seasons, very strong El Niño conditions in the Pacific imply: (i) potential expansion of areas with impactful drought; (ii) humid heat peaking in September (and October in the Guianas), culminating in heatwaves; (iii) unusually *irregular* and infrequent tropical cyclone activity; (iv) unusually low shower, wet spell and excessive rainfall event frequency; nevertheless, *high to extremely high* potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts remains across the region, with the possible exception of the ABC Islands and French Guiana; (v) coral reef bleaching potential around the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles. Dusty Saharan air intrusions tend to be infrequent in this period, but they can further inhibit tropical cyclone activity, while exacerbating humid heat and deteriorating air quality.

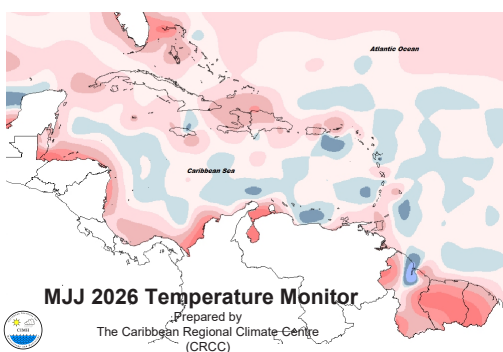
LOOKING BACK:

May - June - July (MJJ) 2026 Observations



Exceptionally wet
Wet
Normal
Dry
Exceptionally dry

• **RAINFALL:** Northern & Northwest Bahamas, coastal N Belize, Cayman, Central Cuba, NE Dominica, SW Dominican Rep., Guadeloupe, central French Guiana, Haiti, far W & SE Jamaica, Leeward Islands, NE Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Vincent very dry; NW and far SE Guyana, S Suriname very wet. (Note: map may contain spurious estimates over the ocean.)



Warmer
Cooler

• **TEMPERATURE:** Northern and Northwest Bahamas, southern Belize, most parts of the Guianas, northern Hispaniola 0.75-2.5°C warmer than usual; part of northern Guyana near the Essequibo river slightly cooler than usual.

Notable Climate Records in MJJ 2026:

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

DRY: Grand Bahama and St. Croix reported record-low rainfall totals for this period (~20-30% of avg.).

HOT: Two locations in The Bahamas and 1 location in Guyana reported record-high mean temperatures for this period.
More at <https://carogen.cimh.edu.bb/app/manage/records>

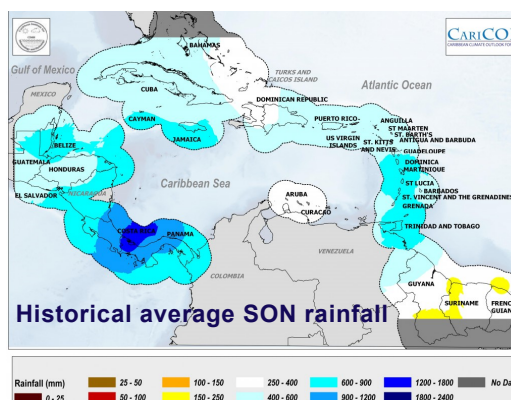
August 2026

find out more by using the clickable images and headings or visit rcc.cimh.edu.bb

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WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns Sept. - Oct. - Nov. (SON)



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

Sep to Nov - wet season. Usually frequent heavy showers.

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

Sep to Nov - wet season. Usually frequent heavy showers.

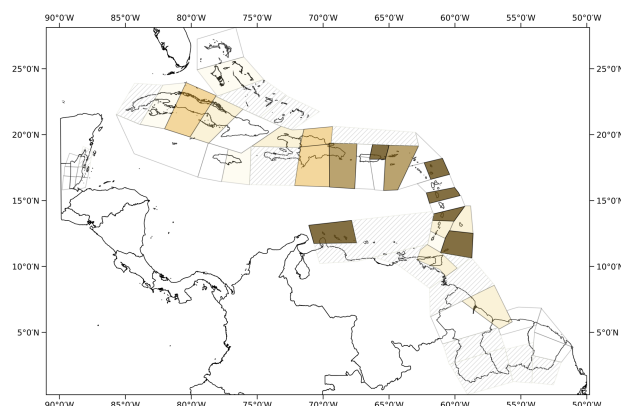
ABC Islands: mostly dry with occasional wet spells.

Guianas:

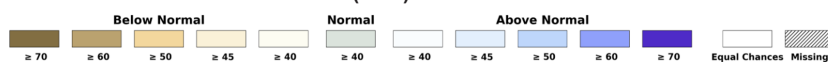
Sep to Oct - Dry season with heavy showers at times.

November - Increase in showers.

SON 2026 Rainfall Outlook

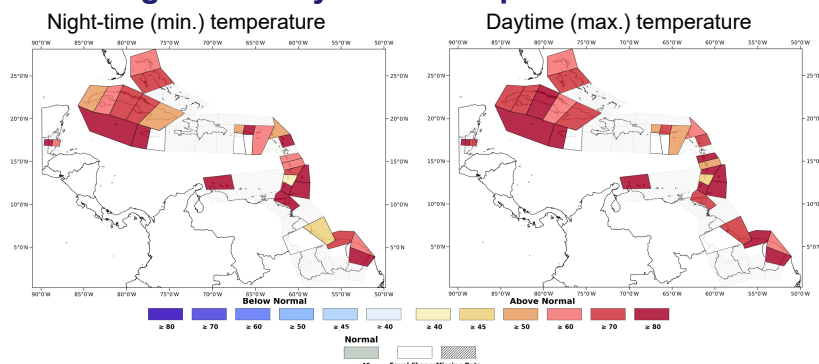


Confidence (in %) for rainfall to be:



Rainfall totals from September to November are *likely* to be the usual or less across most of the Antilles, the Northwest Bahamas, and coastal Guyana (confidence varying from *low* -- cream colour -- to *high* -- saturated brown). White areas show where the forecast indicates little information on rainfall totals.

Night- and daytime heat up to November



SON night-time and daytime temperature will be unusually warm, with recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat -- culminating in heatwaves -- through September (Bahamas), October (Belize and the Antilles) or November (Guianas) causing heat stress, especially in persons in situations of vulnerability for whom adopting cooling strategies is paramount.

Wet days/spells & flash flood potential in SON

What usually happens from September to November?

- Number of wet days: roughly 35-50 (Guianas: 20-35; ABC Islands: 10-20).
- # of wet spells: 3-6 with 1-4 being very wet (Guianas: up to 2).
- # of excessive rainfall events: 4 or more in The Bahamas, Belize, mountainous areas in the Antilles; 3 to 5; elsewhere 4 or fewer.

Forecast and Implications up to November 2026:

- Potential for flooding, flash floods, compound hazards and cascading impacts is *high to extremely high* (ABC Isls., French Guiana: *moderate to high*) despite about 1 very wet spells and 1 excessive rainfall event less than usual.
- Water levels in surface reservoirs/rivers *likely* rising slower (lowering faster) than usual in Belize, the Antilles (the Guianas).
- Unusually low number of wet days (i) dampens the number of rain disruptions of outdoor activities; (ii) only slowly builds up surface & soil moisture which reduce wildfire potential; and (iii) reduces the prevalence of moisture-related pests.

Drought conditions

Lastest drought situation: (as of August 1st, 2026) Severe (or worse) **agricultural drought** has developed in [see p.1 section on MJJ Observations]; **short-term drought** has developed in Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Grand Cayman, Martinique, SW Puerto Rico, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent, Tobago; **severe (or worse) long-term drought** in Grand Cayman, Grenada, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, southwest French Guiana, Tobago, far northern Trinidad.

Agricultural drought (by the end of Sep. 2026) Agricultural drought is *evolving* in ABC Isls., Antigua, NW and central coast of Belize, Northern Bahamas, Dominica, E Dominican Rep., NE Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI, and *might possibly develop or continue* in Barbados, Northwest Bahamas, southern Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique.

Short-term drought (by the end of Nov. 2026) Short-term drought is *imminent* in Dominica, *evolving* in ABC Isls., Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, E Dominican Rep., NE Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI; NW Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI, and *might possibly develop or continue* in N & S Dominican Republic, SE Puerto Rico, elsewhere in the Windward Isls.

Long-term drought (by the end of Nov. 2026) Long-term drought is *imminent* in Saint Lucia, *evolving* in ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Tobago, and *might possibly develop or continue* in the Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, USVI.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - December 2026 to February 2027

In the Caribbean, this period marks the early Dry Season and the Cool Season. Surrounding ocean temperatures are forecast to cool more slowly than average. Meanwhile, this year's *very strong* El Niño will drive higher than usual air temperatures across the Caribbean. Though the unusual heat should be more comfortable, it will compound growing rainfall deficits in the many areas where agricultural and hydrological drought will *likely* build up, expand and/or worsen to result in very significant impacts, with *likely* growing cascading impacts across various sectors of the economy in view of long-term drought. Strong El Niño events tend to decrease the *risk* of severe weather throughout much of the region (except the north). Nonetheless, the risk of flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts is set to remain *high*. Finally, the stronger the El Niño, (i) the more heat and (ii) the more *likely* the regional drought becomes. *For temperature and precipitation outlooks for DJF 2026-27, 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 *very strong* El Niño conditions.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models suggest continued El Niño conditions through SON and DJF (~100% confidence).

Expected implications: *Very strong* El Niño conditions in SON are most often associated with reduced shower and tropical cyclone activity, but exacerbated heat and air humidity, including heat waves, whereas rainfall deficits tend to grow and become more widespread, particularly in the eastern & southern Caribbean and in the Guianas. In DJF, excessive dryness tends to worsen in the latter areas, but shower activity is typically increased in the far northern Caribbean.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SSTs hovering around average in the Main Development Region for hurricanes (MDR), but running 0.5-1°C warmer than usual in the subtropical North Atlantic.

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

Expected implications: The anticipated warmer than average SSTs in the MDR tend to increase air temperature and humidity, as well as severe weather activity during the Wet Season. While these impacts are less dominant compared to those caused by a *very strong* El Niño, in the northern Caribbean, unseasonably warm SSTs would tend to further increase rainfall totals in DJF.

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. CariCOF Outlooks offer region-wide objective seasonal forecasts as well as the necessary contextual information. National Outlooks may, at times, differ from regional outlooks. 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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