

Caribbean Climate Outlook Newsletter - November 2026 to January 2027

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.

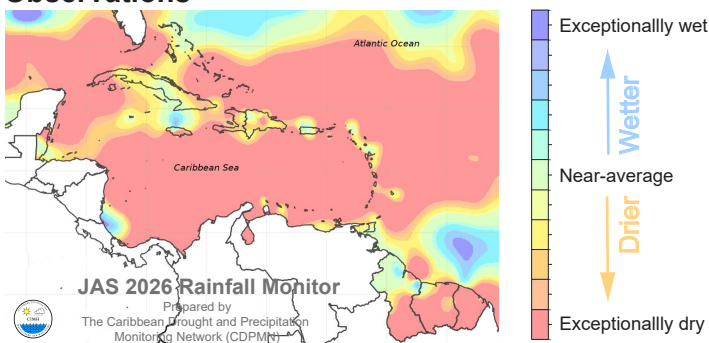
BRIEF SUMMARY: July 2026 to January 2027

July to September 2026: The summer portions of the Caribbean Heat and Wet Seasons featured unusually high temperatures combined with below-average rainfall totals in most parts of the Caribbean and Guianas. This led to agricultural, short-term and long-term drought in many countries. Along with little tropical cyclone activity, such patterns are typical during strengthening El Niño events.

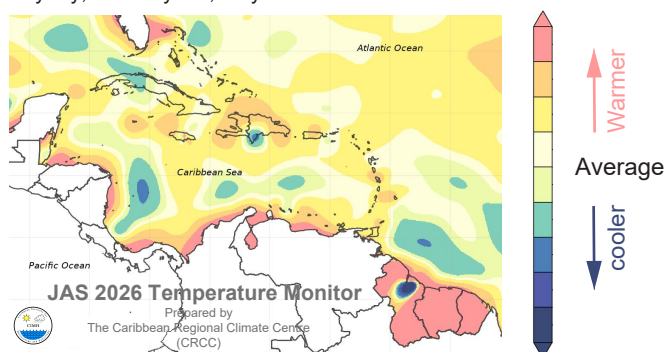
November to January 2026-27: During the transition out of the Atlantic Hurricane Season and the Caribbean Wet Season, and into the cool season, a *very strong* El Niño event implies: (i) potential expansion and/or intensification of drought; (ii) fewer episodes of excessive heat, though unseasonably high temperatures for the cool season are *very likely*; (iii) unusually low shower, wet spell and excessive rainfall frequency, except in the far northwest of the region; (iv) *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 through December. Dusty Saharan air intrusions, though not so frequent in this season, can temporarily exacerbate heat and deteriorate air quality while inhibiting intense shower activity.

LOOKING BACK:

July - August - September (JAS) 2026 Observations



♦ **RAINFALL:** Northwest Bahamas, northern Belize, Grand Cayman, Central Cuba, SW & E Dominican Republic, French Guiana, E Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Windward Islands very dry; NW Guyana, very wet.



♦ **TEMPERATURE:** Northern Bahamas, Barbados, northern Belize, Grand Cayman, most parts of the Guianas & Hispaniola, northwest Jamaica, Martinique, parts of Puerto Rico, Tobago 0.75-2.5°C warmer than usual.

Notable Climate Records in JAS 2026:

WET: One location in Jamaica reported record-high rainfall totals for this period (~255% of average).

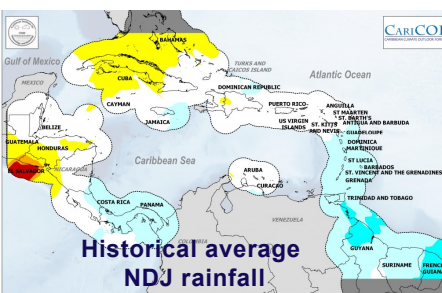
DRY: One location in Belize, 2 in Dominican Rep., 5 in French Guiana, 3 in Guyana, 10 in Jamaica, 6 in Martinique, 1 in Puerto Rico reported record-low rainfall totals for this period (~5-55% of avg.).

HOT: Six locations in Guyana, 2 in Jamaica, 1 in Martinique, 1 in Puerto Rico, 1 in Saint Lucia, 1 in Trinidad reported record-high mean temperatures for this period.

More at <https://carogen.cimh.edu.bb/app/manage/records>

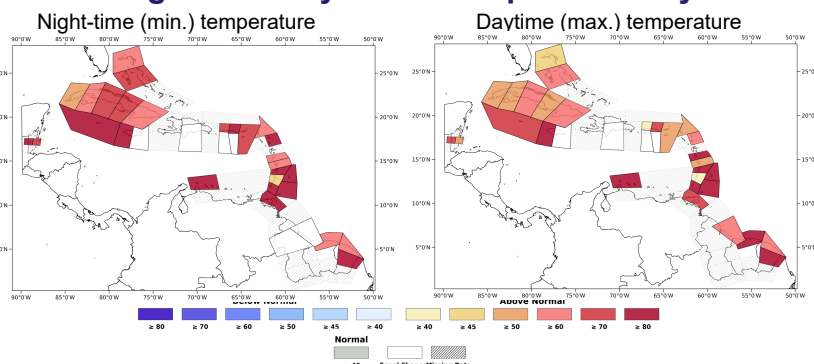
WHAT NEXT?

Rainfall patterns November-December-January (NDJ)



Rainfall (mm): 0-25, 25-50, 50-100, 100-150, 150-200, 200-250, 250-300, 300-350, 350-400, 400-450, 450-500, 500-550, 550-600, 600-650, 650-700, 700-750, 750-800, 800-850, 850-900, 900-950, 950-1000, 1000-1050, 1050-1100, 1100-1150, 1150-1200, 1200-1250, 1250-1300, 1300-1350, 1350-1400, 1400-1450, 1450-1500, 1500-1550, 1550-1600, 1600-1650, 1650-1700, 1700-1750, 1750-1800, 1800-1850, 1850-1900, 1900-1950, 1950-2000, 2000-2050, 2050-2100, 2100-2150, 2150-2200, 2200-2250, 2250-2300, 2300-2350, 2350-2400, 2400-2450, 2450-2500, 2500-2550, 2550-2600, 2600-2650, 2650-2700, 2700-2750, 2750-2800, 2800-2850, 2850-2900, 2900-2950, 2950-3000, 3000-3050, 3050-3100, 3100-3150, 3150-3200, 3200-3250, 3250-3300, 3300-3350, 3350-3400, 3400-3450, 3450-3500, 3500-3550, 3550-3600, 3600-3650, 3650-3700, 3700-3750, 3750-3800, 3800-3850, 3850-3900, 3900-3950, 3950-4000, 4000-4050, 4050-4100, 4100-4150, 4150-4200, 4200-4250, 4250-4300, 4300-4350, 4350-4400, 4400-4450, 4450-4500, 4500-4550, 4550-4600, 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Night- and daytime heat up to January



NDJ night-time and daytime temperature are forecast to be unusually warm (*medium to high confidence*). However, with the cool season set to start in December, recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat should be infrequent particularly after November in the Caribbean Islands and Belize. The Guianas may continue to experience hot spells through or even beyond November.

Wet days/spells & flash flood potential in NDJ

What usually happens from November to January?

- Number of wet days: roughly 35-50 (Guianas: 30-55; ABC Islands: 20-45).
- # of wet spells: 2-5 with 1-3 being very wet (Guianas: up to 3).
- # of excessive rainfall events: 4 or more in south & central Belize, 2-5 in the Guianas; easternmost Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Windward Islands, mountainous areas in the Antilles; elsewhere 2 or fewer.

Forecast and Implications through January 2027:

- Potential for flooding, flash floods, compound hazards and cascading impacts *moderate to high*; dampened risk with fewer very wet spells & excessive rainfall events, except in Belize.
- Except in the far northwest, less frequent wet spells translate to *likely* slower rise in water levels of surface reservoirs/rivers along the wet season in most areas (esp. 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

Latest drought situation: (as of Oct. 1st, 2026) Severe (or worse) **agricultural drought** has developed in [see p.1 section on JAS Observations]; **short-term drought** has developed across the Antilles (except SE Barbados, NE Dominica, Dominican Rep., NE Guadeloupe, N&W Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad), SE & parts of NW Bahamas, N Belize, French Guiana, S Guyana; **severe (or worse) long-term drought** in ABC Isls., SE Bahamas, N Belize, Central Cuba, Haiti, W French Guiana, Leeward Isls. (except Antigua, E Guadeloupe), SE Puerto Rico, Windward Isls. (except Martinique), Tobago, N Trinidad, TCI

Agricultural drought (at the end of Nov. 2026) Agricultural drought is *evolving* in N Belize, Dominica, Martinique, and *might possibly develop or continue* in Antigua, N&W Belize, E Cuba, N&E Dominican Rep., French Guiana, Guadeloupe, E Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago.

Short-term drought (at the end of Jan. 2027) Short-term drought is *evolving* in ABC Isls., Antigua, N Belize, Dominica, interior French Guiana, Grenada, coastal Guyana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI, and *might possibly develop or continue* in Dominican Rep., Guadeloupe, S Guyana, Jamaica, NE Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Martin, St. Vincent, coastal Suriname, Trinidad.

Long-term drought (at the end of Nov. 2026) Long-term drought is *imminent* in St. Lucia, *evolving* in ABC Isls., Antigua, N&NW Bahamas, N Belize, USVI, and *might possibly develop or continue* in Grand Cayman, Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, Tobago.

BRIEF CLIMATE OUTLOOK - February to April 2027

This period marks the peak of the Dry Season, as well as the transition out of the Cool Season and into a *potentially* record-breaking 2027 Heat Season fuelled by the 2026-27 record-breaking El Niño. Unseasonably high temperatures will *likely* compound growing rainfall deficits, expanding and worsening drought especially in areas coming out of the wet season with rainfall deficits, with growing cascading impacts across various sectors of the economy through the end of the Dry Season. (Very) strong El Niño events further decrease the *risk* of severe weather in the southeastern half of the region through March when the risk of flooding, flash floods, and cascading impacts is *slight to moderate*. Finally, *extremely high* wildfire potential will occur in areas with tinder dry soils and vegetation at least until a *potentially* earlier (but intense) Wet Season onset in April fuelled by increasingly unusual heat in the North Atlantic. *For temperature and precipitation outlooks for FMA 2027, 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 evolved into near-record, *very strong* El Niño conditions.

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

Expected implications: *Very strong* El Niño conditions in NDJ are most often associated with reduced shower activity in the southeastern half of the Caribbean, but greater activity in the far northwest. Exacerbated drought, heat, incl. hot spells, and wildfire potential are of particular concerns in the Guianas. Rainfall deficits tend to grow deeper and more widespread in the southeast. In FMA, excessive dryness tends to worsen in the latter areas, while unseasonable heat is *likely* throughout the region.

Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic and Caribbean

Recent observations: SST anomalies have started trending upward as trade winds slowed down across the Main Development Region for hurricanes (MDR), and run about 1-2°C above-average in the subtropics.

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting increasingly warm tropical SST anomalies into NDJ and FMA, reaching 1-2°C above average.

Expected implications: The anticipated warmer than average SSTs in the MDR tend to increase air temperature and humidity, as well as severe weather activity through December and again from April onwards. To some extent, these impacts tend to counteract those caused by a *very strong* El Niño. However, in the northern Caribbean, unseasonably warm SSTs tend to further boost rainfall totals in FMA.

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.

In any event, to get the most accurate country-specific climate information, please consult your National Meteorological & Hydrological Services and/or any national level bulletins they may provide.

DISCLAIMER

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