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Weather & Climate

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2022

Summary

- Rainfall for March was within the normal range.
- Temperatures were slightly above normal in March, will progressively warm through May.
- Drought will continue to evolve through May but may not be a concern by the end of June 2022.
- The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season is quickly approaching. Begin Preparation!!

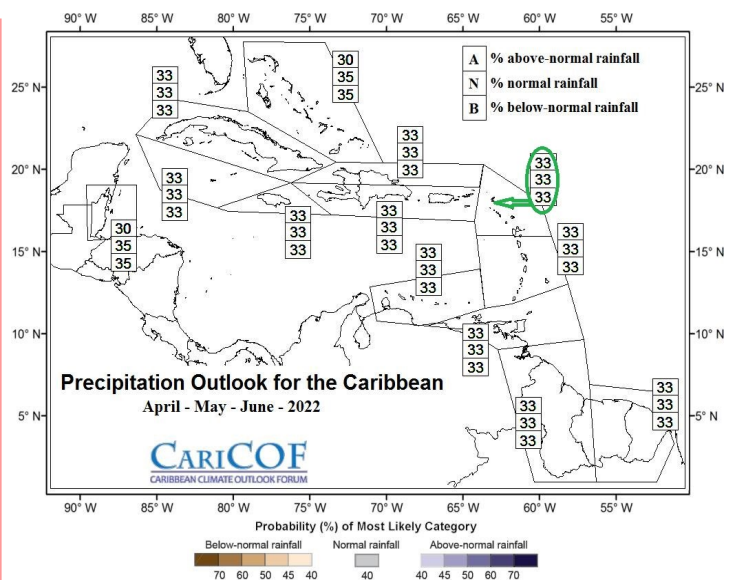
Seasonal Outlook for April to June (AMJ) 2022

Rainfall Forecast

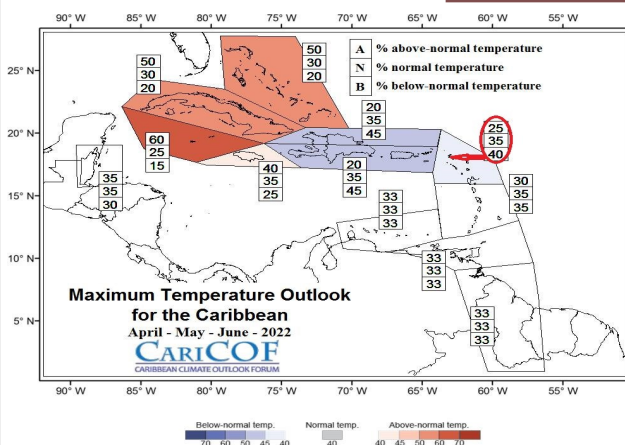
Models are indicating that rainfall totals for the season Apr-May-Jun 2022 are likely to be near normal in St. Maarten and across the entire Caribbean.

Normal rainfall on St. Maarten during the Apr-May-Jun season ranges 148mm–253mm/ 6-10 inches, with 23 to 31 wet days. There are usually sunny days in April, while in May and June showers become more frequent.

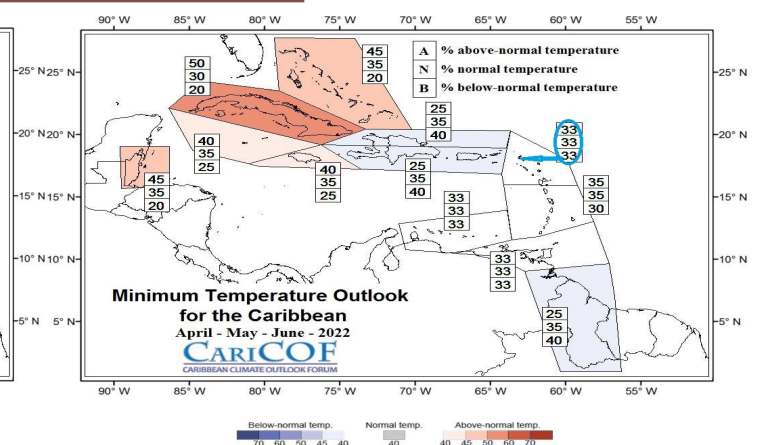
The forecast is for up to 7 (7-day) wet spells and up to 7 (7-day) dry spells on St. Maarten during this season.



Temperature Forecast



Day-time Temperatures



Night-time Temperatures

Day-time and night-time temperatures will progressively warm through May which marks the begin of the Caribbean 'Heat Season'.

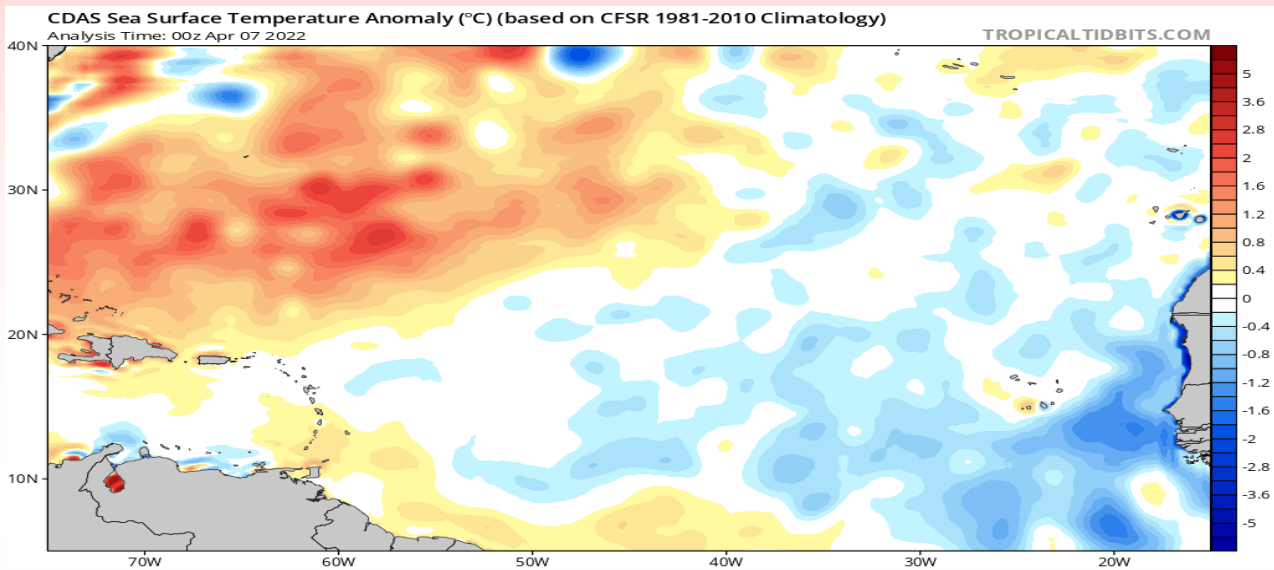
For more information on other Caribbean Outlooks go to <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

WHAT INFLUENCES THIS SEASON'S CLIMATE?

In mid March, sea surface temperature (SST) in the east-central Pacific remained below normal (-0.7°C). The key atmospheric variables were consistent with continued La Nina conditions and therefore a La Nina Advisory remained in place.

Majority of the forecast models predict SSTs will remain below normal at the level of a weak La Nina until Apr-May-Jun season and return to ENSO-neutral levels thereafter.

Warm SSTs have persisted to 1°C above average around the northern section of the Caribbean Sea and in the sub-tropical portions of the Tropical North Atlantic. Models are forecasting observed SST to remain around average to above average across the Caribbean Sea and in the sub-tropical North Atlantic. Warm SSTs in and around the Caribbean tend to contribute to higher air temperature, above-average humidity, seasonal rainfall totals and an increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall.



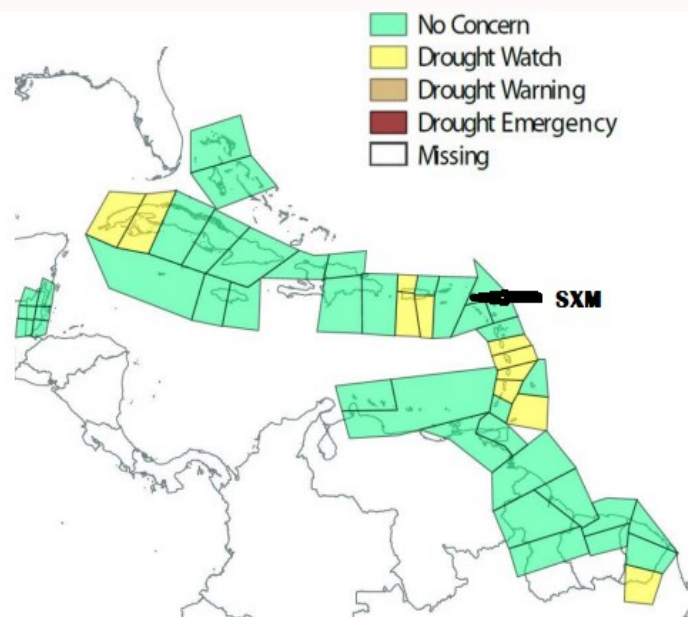
Drought Outlook

Alert Level: No Concern

Short term drought Currently there are no major short term drought concern in the region by the end of June 2022. However drought may be possible in western Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Windward Islands.

Previous drought alerts indicated that drought conditions are possible in St. Maarten by the end of May 2022.

Keep monitoring monthly updates.



Short term drought alert levels
by the end of June 2022

MARCH 2022 IN REVIEW

Total Rainfall	50.6mm	2.0in.
2022 Cumulative Rainfall	152.1mm	6.0in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	6 ^h Mar.	6.2mm/ 0.2in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	19 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	NONE	
No. Thunderstorm Days	NONE	
Avg. Wind Speed	12kts.	14mph
Max. Wind Gust	35kts.	40mph
Avg. Temperature	26.1°C	79°F
Max. Temperature	2 nd Mar.	30.2°C / 86°F
Min. Temperature	6 th Mar.	21.8°C / 71°F

Long /Short Term Seasonal Review**Year in Review
(April 2021— March 2022)**

Total rainfall over the past twelve (12) months was below the normal range (987-1222mm). A total of 791.2mm/31in. of rainfall was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport.

**Seasonal Review
(Jan-Feb-Mar. 2022)**

Total rainfall for the last three (3) months was 145mm/6in, this amount was below the normal range (160-249mm). There were four (4) days with heavy rainfall (>10mm) during that period.

Rainfall for March 2022 was within the normal range while temperatures were slightly above the normal range.

The average daily temperature for March was 26.1°C/79°F.

The warmest day was the 2nd with an average temperature of 26.7°C/80°F. The coolest day was the 3rd with an average temperature of 25.3°C/78°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 30th. (11hrs:06min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 27th (4hrs:06min).

The windiest day was the 14th, with a daily average wind speed of 15kt./ 17mph.

The day with the highest wind gust was the 6th with a gust of 35kt/40mph.

Skies were partly cloudy for most of the days in March.

There were nineteen (19) days with rainfall in March, none of these days had heavy rainfall.

**NORMAL
APRIL CONDITIONS**

Rainfall Total	41 – 58mm	2in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	8 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.6°C	78°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.7°C	84°F
Avg. Min. Temperature	24.3°C	76°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	

Implication of Forecast for Sectors

Energy/Water Sector

Energy demand for cooling purposes will continue to increase through May.

Tourism Sector

- Continue to observe all health protocols.
- Fewer interruptions to outdoor activities are possible.

Agriculture

- Frequent dry spells are expected through this season.
- Drought conditions are evolving, implement management plans, carry out last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades.

Health

- UV radiation will increase this season. Excessive UV exposure can cause skin damage across the population on sunny days.
- Persons with respiratory illnesses should take the necessary precautions during Saharan dust episodes and monitor daily forecasts for more information.
- Proper management of water storage containers e.g. covering with protective mesh helps to reduce the risk of potential breeding sites for mosquitoes.

WEATHER WORDSEARCH

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