

DECEMBER 2013 IN REVIEW

Rainfall: For the month of December 167.2mm (7in.) of rainfall was recorded. This amount was above the normal range for December and this was the wettest December since 2003. There were 18 rainy days (> 1.0mm). The day with the highest 24-hour rainfall was the 7th with 47.0mm (1.9in.) and this was as a result of an upper level trough which interacted with an old frontal boundary over the area. There were 4 days with

heavy rainfall (>10.0mm) and 3 days when thunderstorm was reported for the month.

Winds: Mainly moderate to fresh winds were experienced throughout the month of December. The maximum wind gust was recorded on the 23rd as 42kt. (48mph). The windiest days were the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 23rd with an average wind speed of 15kts/17mph and over.

Sea Conditions: Generally, sea conditions were moderate to rough. High winds throughout the month lead to choppy conditions and

small craft advisory and cautionary notes were issued.

Temperatures: Average Daily Temperature: 26.4°C or 80°F;

Minimum Temperature: 20.3°C or 69°F (November 23rd)

Maximum Temperature: 30.2°C or 86°F (November 4th).

The average daily temperature was normal while the maximum and minimum temperatures were below the normal ranges. This was the lowest minimum temperature in the month of December since 2005.

Wettest December
since 2003

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

Based on rainfall records at the Princess Juliana International Airport, the normal rainfall total for January, ranges from 58.1 mm to 81.2mm (2-3in.). The driest January on record was in 1970 (3.2mm/0.1in) and the wettest January was in 1956 (220.0mm/8.7in.). January has a normal daily

temperature of about 25.6°C/ 78°F while the maximum temperature could reach near 30.2°C/ 86°F. It is expected that the Atlantic High Pressure will continue to influence breezy conditions throughout the month of January. This month, the sun continues to rise and set later. There is an average of about 8 hours of sunshine daily in January

however, there could be a maximum of about 11 hours per day.

Wettest January on
record 1956 ; driest
January was 1970.

Seasonal Rainfall Review/ Outlook

Rainfall for the past 3-months (October, November, December) was normal; 385.5mm/ 15.2inches was recorded. Normal rainfall for these three months ranges from 310.8mm to 479.5mm or 15-19 inches.

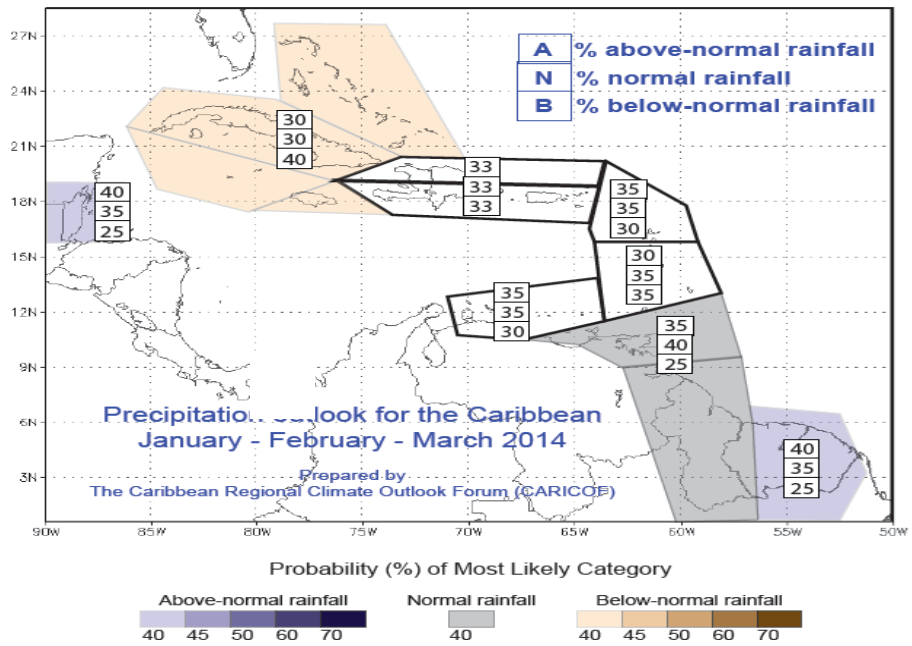
Seasonal Outlook

According to the Precipitation Outlook for the Caribbean, for the next three (3) months of January -February-March rainfall for the Northeastern Caribbean including St. Maarten is predicted as follows:

- 35%** Chance of being **Above Normal** (greater than 198.9mm/8 inches).
- 35%** Chance of being **Near-Normal** 148.9mm-198.9mm (6-8 inches).
- 30%** Chance of being **Below Normal** (less than 148.9mm/ 6 inches).

This means, that rainfall for the next three (3) months there is very little predictability at this time. In January the dry season moves in with alternations of sunny and

showery days mostly without heavy rainfall. **Temperature** for this season is predicted to be **normal to above normal**.



The Dry Season moves-in, during the month of January.

Learn A Weather Instrument!

An Automatic Weather Station (AWS), is a station at which instruments make weather observations and either transmit or record them automatically. An automatic weather station is normally place in an open space where it records information such a temperature, wind speed and direction, rainfall, air pressure and solar radiation among others. This

information is then transmitted and displayed on computer screens used by weather observers and forecasters for analysis and weather forecasting.

