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Weather & Climate

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February 2019

Summary of Forecast for February to April 2019

- Feb-Mar-Apr, rainfall totals are expected to be the usual or drier.
- Temperatures will be seasonably comfortable throughout February and begin to rise thereafter.
- Drought is not expected to become a major concern in St. Maarten until the end of May 2019.

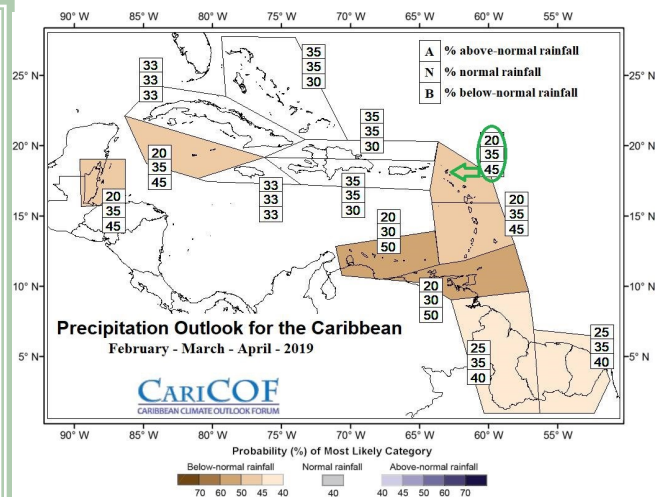
Seasonal Outlook for February to April (FMA) 2019

Rainfall Forecast

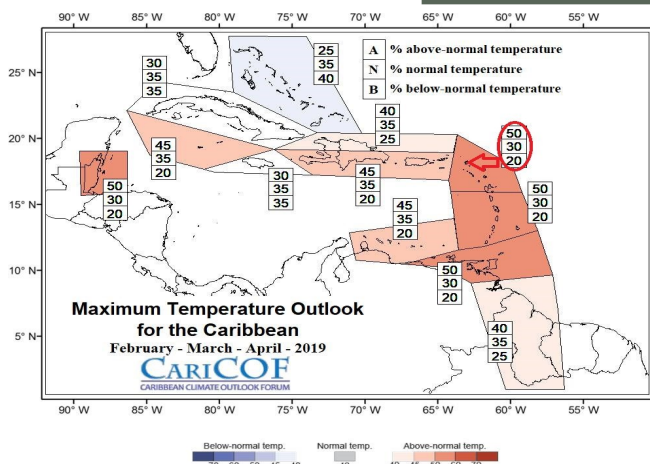
Rainfall totals for the season Feb-Mar-Apr 2019, are likely to be the usual or drier across the Lesser Antilles, the ABC Islands, the Guianas, Belize and the Lesser Antilles.

Within the 89 days of Feb-Mar-Apr, the normal rainfall total for St. Maarten ranges from 148 mm – 179mm/ 6-7 in. with about 22-38 wet days and up to 6 dry spells (7-day).

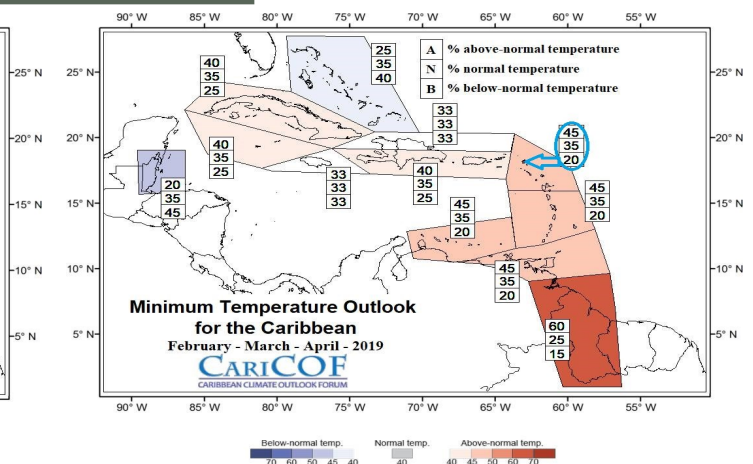
During Feb. to Apr., most days are usually sunny with a few showers. March is often the driest of the three months.



Temperature Forecast



Day-time Temperatures



Night-time Temperatures

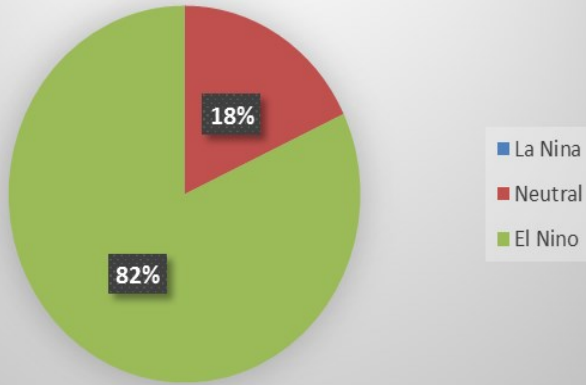
Both day-time and night-time temperatures in the Eastern Caribbean are likely to be usual or warmer during Feb-Mar-Apr. 2019

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

ENSO FORECAST

(El Niño Southern Oscillation)

Enso Forecast Probabilities Feb-Mar-Apr. 2019



In recent months average sea surface temperatures across the east-central tropical Pacific have decreased somewhat to border-line El Niño conditions.

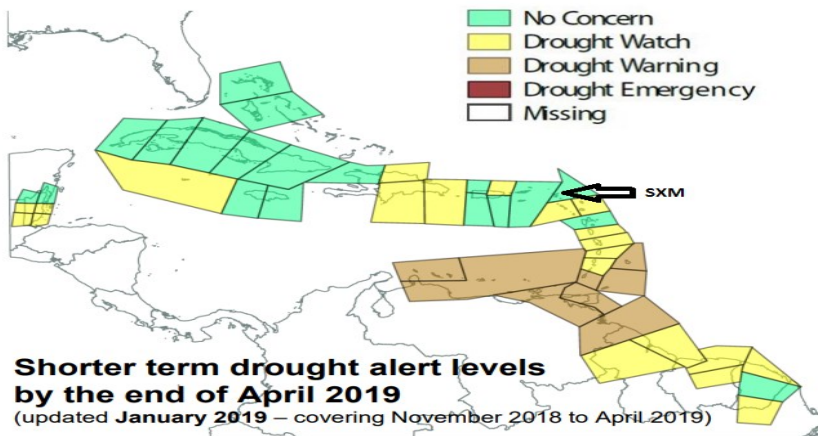
The latest forecast models collectively indicate a 82% chance of El Niño prevailing during Feb-Mar-Apr. 2019. The forecast also indicate that a weak El Niño will continue through May.

An El Niño phase will tend to produce warmer and drier conditions across the eastern Caribbean and slightly wetter conditions over the portions of the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas.

No Thermal Stress on Corals is expected this season..

Drought Forecast

Current Outlook



By the end of April, drought will become a concern for much of the Caribbean particularly the southern Caribbean. Drought will become a concern for St. Maarten by the end of the dry season (May-June)

Drought warnings have been issued for The ABC Islands, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad & Tobago. While drought watches have been issued for Antigua, St. Kitts, Martinique, Hispaniola, St. Vincent, Suriname, NE Puerto. and Guyana.

The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane season begins in less than five (5) months time.

2019 Storm Names

Andrea	Fernand	Karen	Pablo	Wendy
Barry	Gabrielle	Lorenzo	Rebekah	
Chantal	Humberto	Melissa	Sebastien	
Dorian	Imelda	Nestor	Tanya	
Erin	Jerry	Olga	Van	

Be Prepared !!!!!

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JANUARY 2019 IN REVIEW

Total Rainfall	62.1 mm	2.4 in.
2019 Cumulative Rainfall	62.1 mm	2.4 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	Jan. 8 th	21.3mm/ 0.8 in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	12 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	2 days	
No. Thunderstorm Days	None	
Avg. Wind Speed	9 kts.	10 mph
Avg. Temperature	25.4 °C	78 °F
Max. Temperature	Jan. 22 nd	29.4 °C / 85°F
Min. Temperature	Jan. 11 th	21.2°C / 70°F

Rainfall for the month of January was within the normal range (60-85mm). A total of 62.1 mm/ 2.4 inches was recorded in twelve (12) rain days. There were only two (2) heavy rainfall days; 8th & 16th.

Both daytime and night time temperatures were within the usual range for the month of January.

The warmest day was the 5th with an average temperature of 26.3°C/79°F.

The days with the most sunshine hours were 27th & 28th (10hrs :36min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 21st (2hrs:36min).

The windiest day was the 20th, with a daily average wind speed of 15 kts. / 17 mph.

Heavy rainfall occurred on the 8th due to pockets of low-level moisture drifting with the trade winds.

Skies were mostly fair during the month.

Long /Short Term Seasonal Review

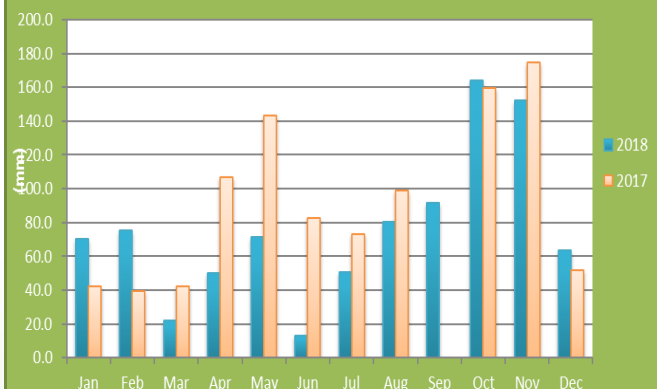
Year in Review (Feb 2018— Jan. 2019)

For the past twelve (12) months, there has been a 22% rainfall deficit. There were five (5) months which produced below normal rainfall.

Seasonal Review (-Nov-Dec-Jan.)

Total rainfall for the last 3 months was 278 mm, this amount was within the normal range (269-325 mm). There were nine (9) days with heavy rainfall. (>10mm)

2018 Rainfall Vs 2017 Rainfall



NORMAL FEBRUARY CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	31.2 mm – 57.0 mm	1– 2in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	10 days	
Daily Average Temperature	25.4°C	78°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	28.8°C	84°F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23.1°C	74°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	

Implication of Forecast for Sectors

Health

- There may be an increase in allergens in the atmosphere from plant material (pollen) driven by increased wind speeds.
- There may be accelerated mosquito proliferation in areas where water is stored in containers without protective mesh or settles after shower activity.
- Although temperatures are expected to be comfortable, the risk of dehydration and other associated symptoms are possible during the day and dry spells.

Tourism Sector

- Less disruptions to outdoor activities this season. March is usually the driest of the next three (3) months.
- The UV index tends to increase by February therefore, sunscreen application is encouraged.
- On hot days, there will be an increase demand for cooling & hydration.

Agriculture

- Some irrigation may become necessary as rainfall totals are expected to be below the usual for this time of year.
- Provide adequate water and shade for Livestock

Energy Sector

Energy demand for cooling purposes is expected to increase as night-time temperatures expected to increase by March.

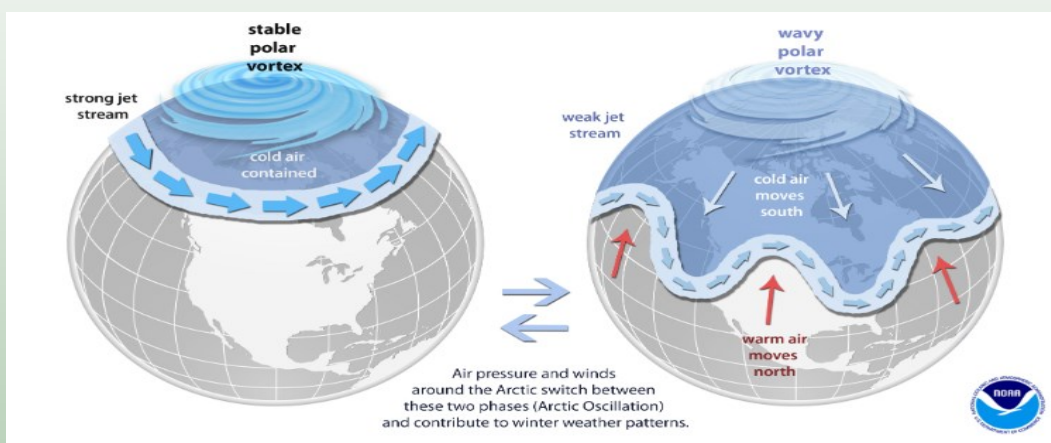
Things you should know.....

POLAR VORTEX

The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding the earth and the poles. The term vortex refers to the counter-clockwise or anti clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air close to the poles.

Often during winter in the Northern Hemisphere, the polar vortex will become less stable and expand, sending cold Arctic air southward over the United States.

This is not confined to the United States. Portions of Europe and Asia also experience cold surges connected to the polar vortex. By itself, the only danger to humans is the magnitude of how cold temperatures will get when the polar vortex expands, sending Arctic air southward into areas that are not typically that cold.



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