

**Meteorological Department  
St. Maarten**

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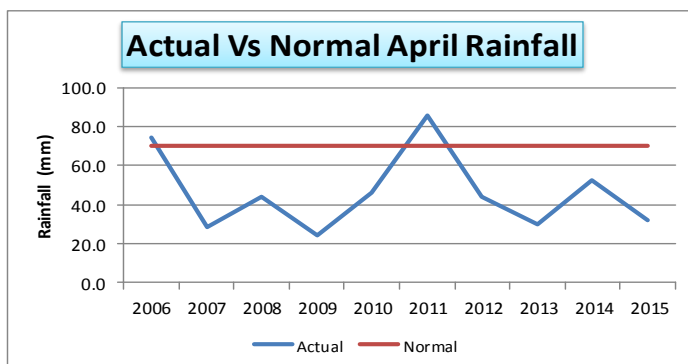
**Weather & Climate**

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April 2016

**NORMAL APRIL CONDITIONS**

Rainfall Total	41.3 mm – 74.9 mm	2– 3 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	8 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.6°C	80°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.9°C	86 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	24.2°C	76°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	



Rainfall for the month of April has been below-normal for 8 out of the last 10 years.

**Drought Concerns remain in Antigua & ABC Islands.**

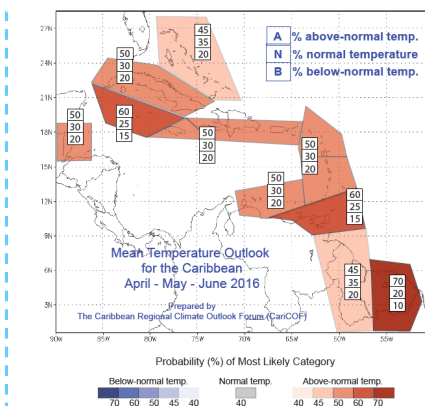
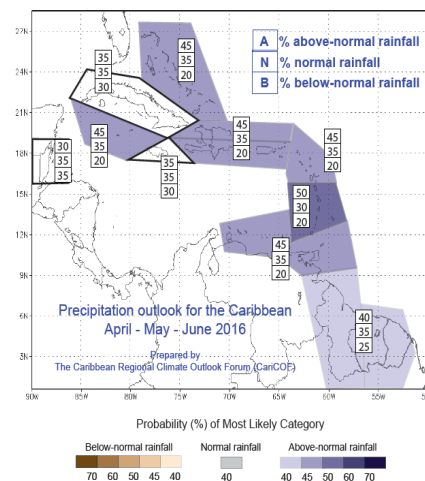
**Seasonal Outlook for April to June (AMJ) 2016**

According to the Caribbean Outlook Forum : <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

Rainfall for most of the islands is predicted to be normal to above normal for the season; ‘Apr.—Jun. 2016’. Normal rainfall for St. Maarten ranges from 155.7 mm –253.2 mm/ 6-10in.

April ends the dry season therefore, limited heavy showers can be expected while in May and June heavy showers becomes more frequent.

Temperature for most of the Caribbean is forecast to be above-normal for the same period.



During mid-March, sea surface temperature across the Pacific Ocean was weakening but still remains at a strong El Nino level.

Forecasts continue to indicate that El Nino will weaken during the upcoming months and a neutral phase to begin by mid-year followed by a La Nina towards the Sept-Oct-Nov. season.

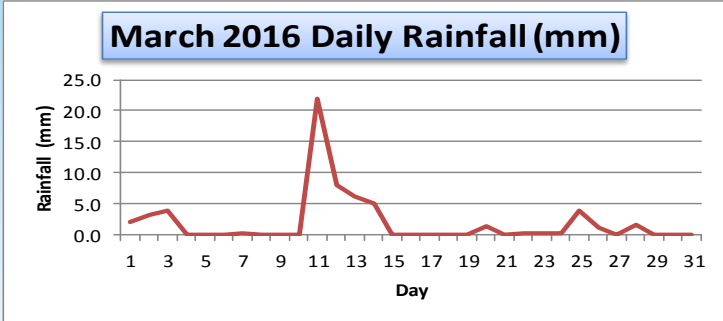
This could mean one; an early start of the rainfall season for the Caribbean and two a more active end of the 2016 hurricane season.

El Niño often hinders the development of rainfall and thunderstorm activity in the eastern Caribbean while La Nina causes an opposite effect. However, this phenomenon is not the only feature that comes to play.

Please note that all data was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport and may not necessarily reflect conditions at other points on country St Maarten.

**MARCH 2016 IN REVIEW**

Rainfall for the month of March was within the normal range. A total of 58.6 mm/2.3 inches were recorded. There was only one day with heavy rainfall due to instability and increased moisture across the area. The longest dry spell was about seven days. In spite of the off and on showers experienced during the this month rainfall amounts for the year so far is still below the normal range but above what was recorded in 2015.



The longest dry spell was 7 days.

Rainfall from Jan. to Mar.	
Normal	145-200 mm
2015	74.6 mm
2016	125.9 mm

Total Rainfall	58.6 mm	2.3 in.
2016 Cumulative Rainfall	125.9 mm	5.0 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	21.9 mm/ 0.9 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	11 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 days	
Avg. Wind Speed	11 kts.	13 mph
Max. Wind Gust	March 9 & 12 <sup>th</sup>	31 kts. / 36 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.0 °C	79 °F
Max. Temperature	March 7 & 17 <sup>th</sup>	29.5 °C / 85 °F
Min. Temperature	March 12 <sup>th</sup>	21.7°C / 71 °F

The normal rainfall for March ranges from 32.4 - 58.3 mm /1-2 in.

The temperatures recorded during the month of March varied from normal to above normal.

The warmest day was the 21<sup>st</sup> with an average temperature of 26.8°C/80°F.

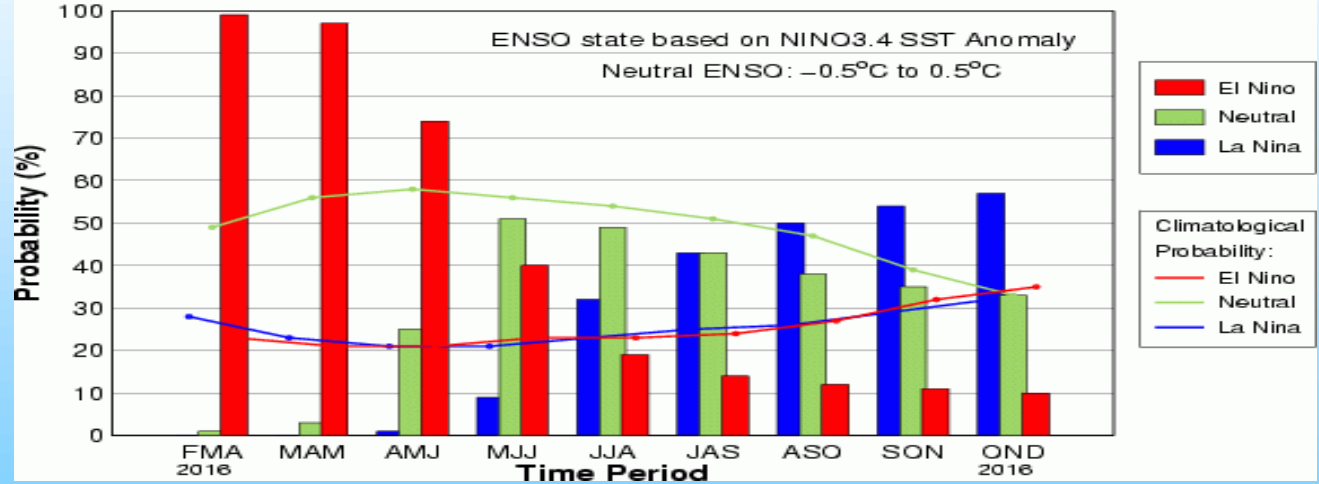
The day with the most sunshine hours was the 6<sup>th</sup> (11hrs :06 min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 14<sup>th</sup> (1 hr: 12 min)

The windiest days were the 9<sup>th</sup>, with a daily average wind speed of 16 kts. / 18 mph.

Skies were mostly Cloudy during the month of March.

**Early-Mar CPC/IRI Consensus Probabilistic ENSO Forecast**



This newsletter is produced by the Meteorological Department of St. Maarten. We would appreciate your comments and feedback. Kindly drop us a line at [meteo@sintmaartengov.org](mailto:meteo@sintmaartengov.org), fax at (1 721) 545 2998 or call us at (1 721) 545 2024/ 545 4226.