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# Meteorological Department St. Maarten

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## Weather & Climate

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May 2022

### Summary

- Rainfall for April was below the normal range; driest April in the past 3 years.
- Temperatures were within the normal range in April but will progressively warm through May.
- Drought will continue to evolve through May but may not be a concern by the end of July 2022.
- The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season is quickly approaching. Begin Preparation!!

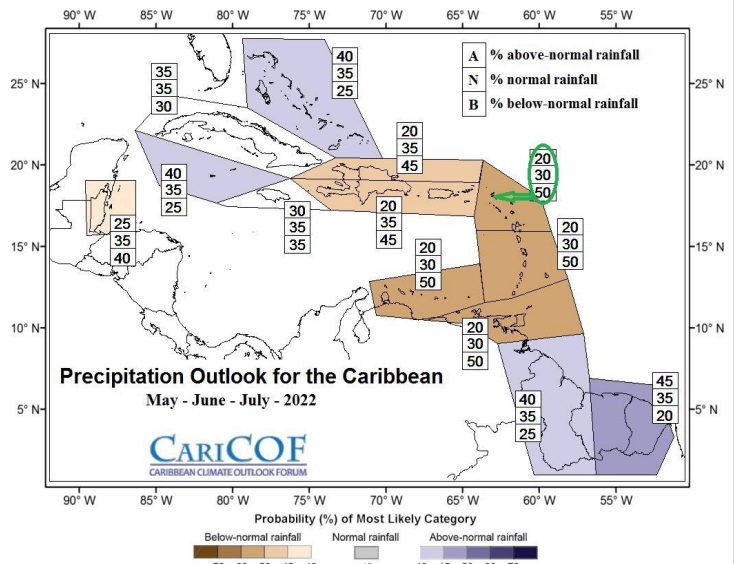
### Seasonal Outlook for May to July (MJJ) 2022

#### Rainfall Forecast

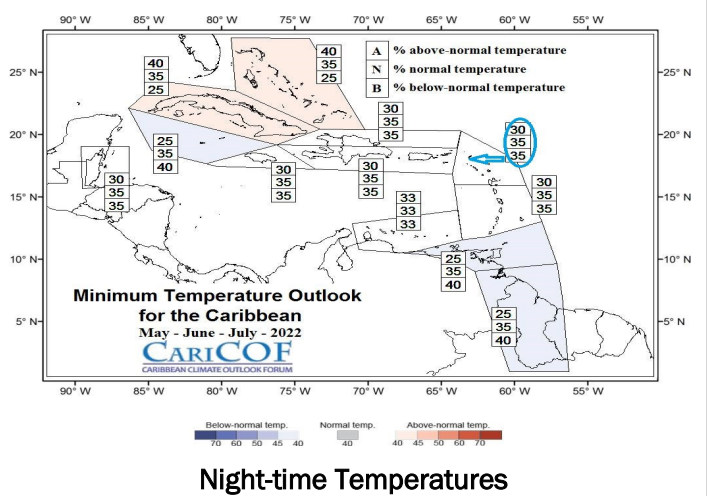
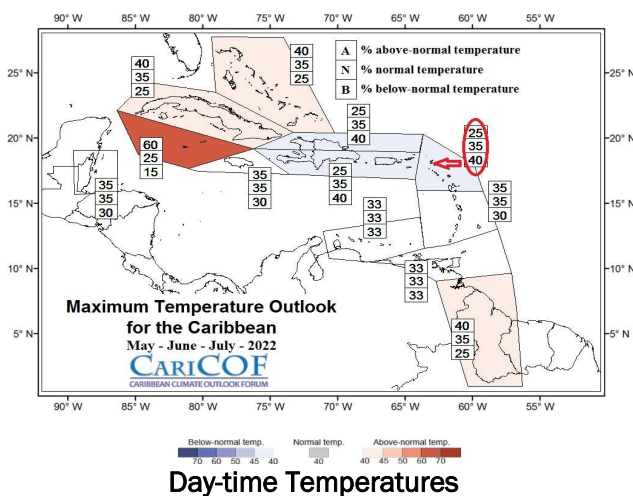
Models are indicating that rainfall totals for the season May-Jun-Jul 2022 are likely to be below the normal range in St. Maarten and across the entire Eastern Caribbean.

Normal rainfall on St. Maarten during the May-Jun-Jul season ranges 167mm–295mm/ 7-12 inches, with 28 to 36 wet days. There are usually few showers in May and June while in July showers become more frequent.

The forecast is for up to 6 (7-day) wet spells and up to 6 (7-day) dry spells on St. Maarten during this season.



#### Temperature Forecast



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

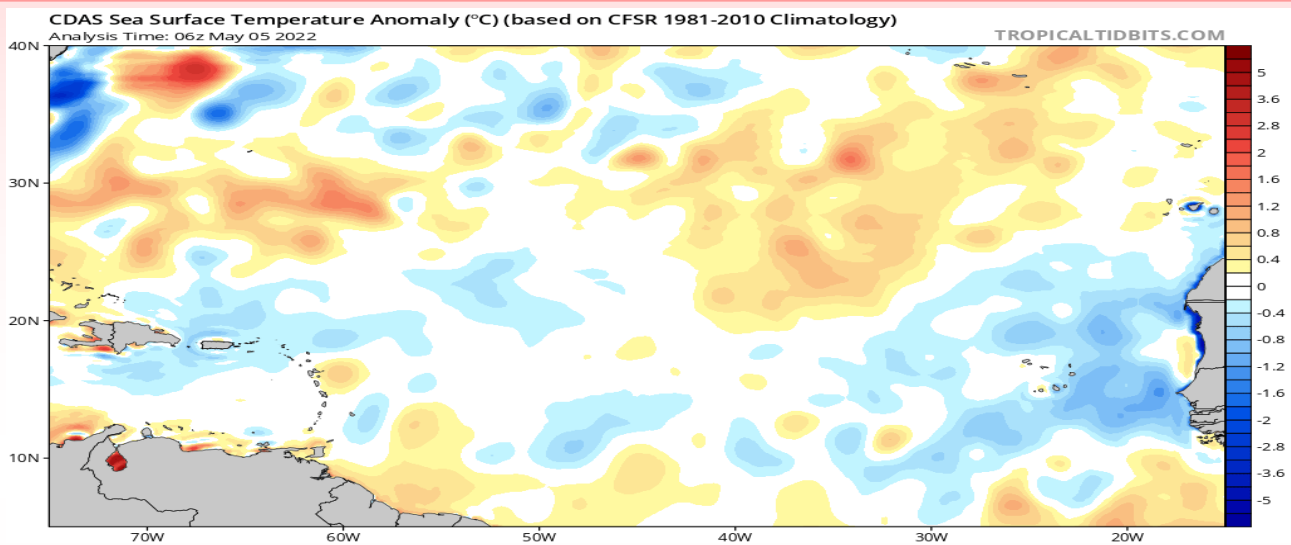
For more information on other Caribbean Outlooks go to <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

## WHAT INFLUENCES THIS SEASON'S CLIMATE?

In mid April, sea surface temperature (SST) in the east-central Pacific remained below normal (-1.0°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 the end of the May-Jun-Jul season and return to ENSO-neutral levels thereafter. However there is also a strong possibility that La Nina conditions could persist a bit longer.

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 warm 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

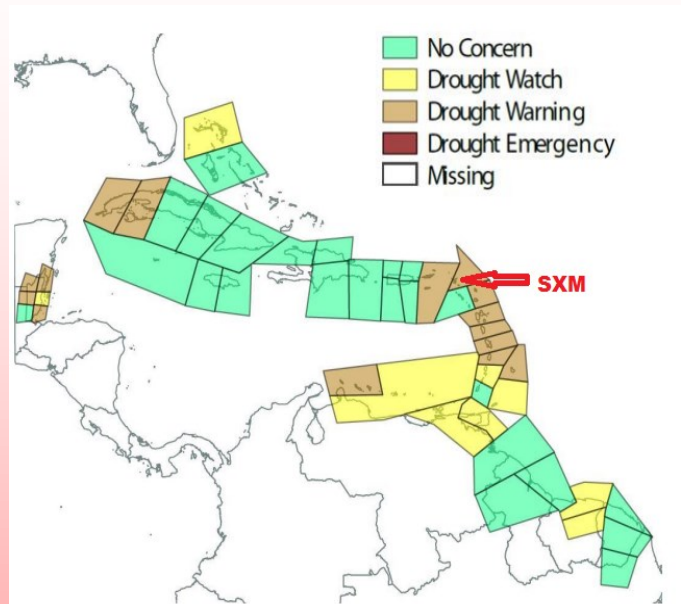
#### Alert Level: Warning

Drought will evolve across most of the eastern Caribbean including St. Maarten by the end of May 2022.

Therefore the potential for bush fires increases. Even the smallest spark could ignite a flame that could threaten your entire community. Avoid the burning of waste and dispose cigarette butts responsibly.

#### By the end of July 2022

The forecast shows little drought concern in much of the region by the end of July 2022. However drought may be possible in western Cuba and portions of Puerto Rico and the Windward Islands.



#### Suggested alert levels for long term drought at the end of May 2022

**APRIL 2022 IN REVIEW**

Total Rainfall	18.1mm	0.7in.
2022 Cumulative Rainfall	170.2mm	6.7in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	3.5mm/ 0.1in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	9 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	NONE	
No. Thunderstorm Days	NONE	
Avg. Wind Speed	10kts.	12mph
Max. Wind Gust	25kts.	29mph
Avg. Temperature	26.3°C	79°F
Max. Temperature	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	30.5°C / 87°F
Min. Temperature	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	22.9°C / 73°F

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

Total rainfall over the past twelve (12) months was below the normal range (957-1181mm). A total of 806.8mm/32in. of rainfall was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport.

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

Total rainfall for the last three (3) months was 140mm/6in, this amount was within the normal range (132-168mm). There were three (3) days with heavy rainfall (>10mm) during that period.

Rainfall for April 2022 was below the normal range, this was the driest April since 2019. Meanwhile temperatures for the month of April were generally near the normal range.

The average daily temperature for April was 26.3°C/79°F.

The warmest day was the 9<sup>th</sup> with an average temperature of 26.9°C/80°F. The coolest day was the 11<sup>th</sup> with an average temperature of 25.1°C/77°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 13<sup>th</sup>. (11hrs:54min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 30<sup>th</sup> (0hrs:30min).

The windiest day was the 18<sup>th</sup>, with a daily average wind speed of 13kt./ 15mph.

The days with the highest wind gust were the 8<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> with a gust of 25kt/39mph.

Skies were partly cloudy to cloudy for most of the days in April.

There were nine (9) days with rainfall in April, none of these days had heavy rainfall.

**NORMAL  
MAY CONDITIONS**

Rainfall Total	49 – 121 mm	2-5 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	10 days	
Daily Average Temperature	27.5°C	82°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	30.4°C	87°F
Avg. Min. Temperature	25.3°C	78°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 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

- Drought conditions are evolving, implement management plans, carry out last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades.
- Avoid burning waste as much as possible.

### 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.

## Hurricane Preparedness Tips.

With less than one (1) month to the start of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season; Here are some thing you can do. This season is predicted to be another active one.

1. Determine your risk
2. Develop an evacuation plan.
3. Strengthen your home.
4. Help you neighbor
5. Assembly disaster supplies.
6. Get an insurance checkup

## 2022

## TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

ALEX	HERMINE	OWEN
BONNIE	IAN	PAULA
COLIN	JULIA	RICHARD
DANIELLE	KARL	SHARY
EARL	LISA	TOBIAS
FIONA	MARTIN	VIRGINIE
GASTON	NICOLE	WALTER

**BE PREPARED!!!!!!**

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