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# Meteorological Department St. Maarten

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## Weather & Climate

Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2020

### Summary

- April 2020 was the warmest April in 60 years.
- Temperatures are forecast to be warmer than usual for the next 3 months.
- The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins in less than 1 month.

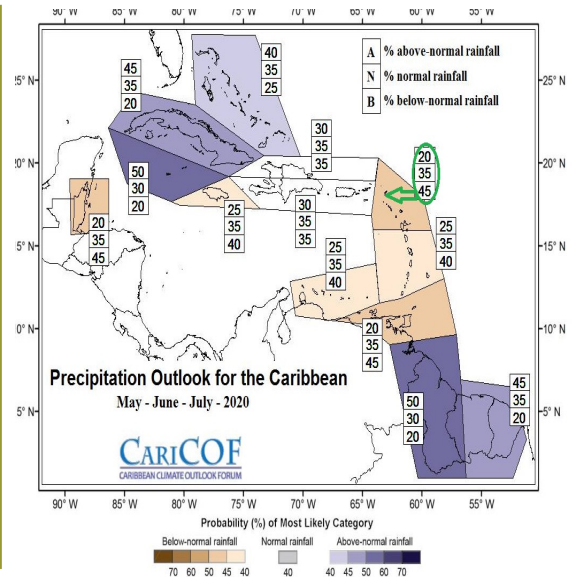
### Seasonal Outlook for May to July (MJJ) 2020

#### Rainfall Forecast

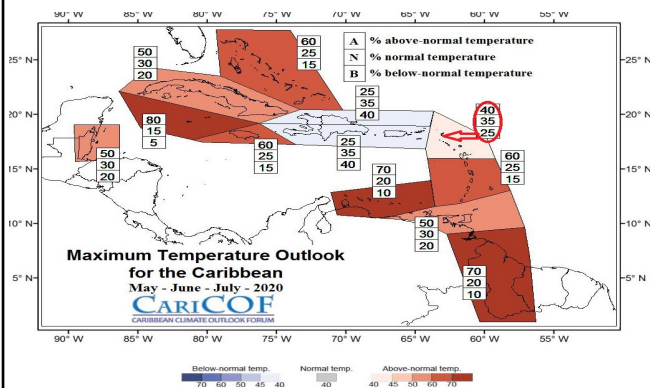
Rainfall totals for the season May-Jun-Jul 2020 are likely to be drier than usual in St. Maarten, the rest of the Eastern Caribbean and Belize. Meanwhile, it is likely to be wetter than usual in Cuba, the Bahamas and the Guianas.

Within the 92 days of May-Jun-Jul, the normal rainfall total for St. Maarten ranges from 194.1mm–281.1mm/ 8-11in with 35-45 wet days. The forecast goes for 3 to 6 (7-day) wet spells and 2 to 6 (7-day) dry spells this season.

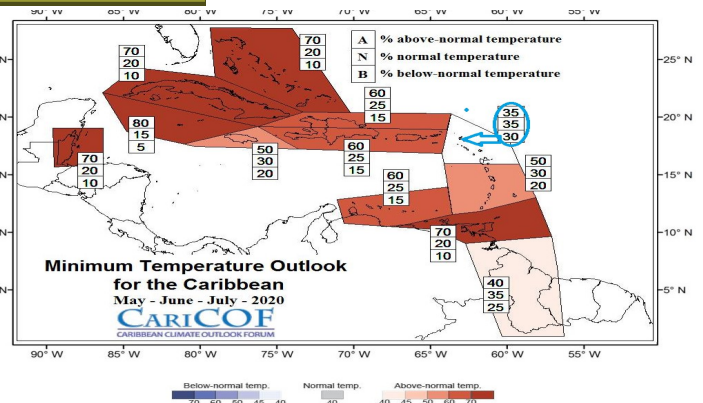
During the months of May/June we usually transition to the wet season. Therefore, more frequent showers can be expected with a few dry spells this season.



#### Temperature Forecast



Day-time Temperatures

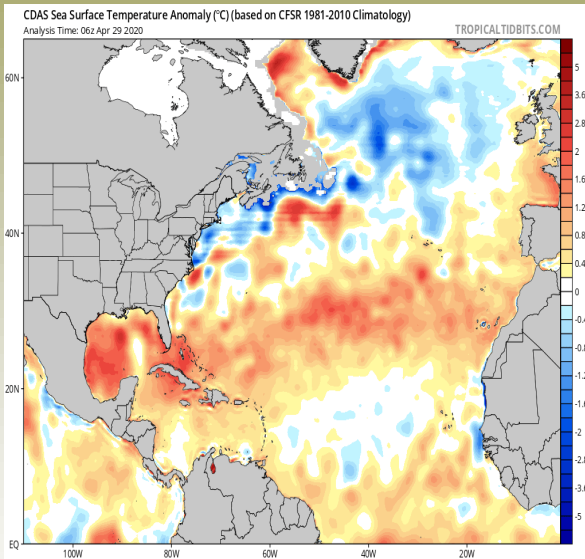


Night-time Temperatures

Both day-time and night-time temperatures are expected to be warmer than usual across most of the Caribbean. There are times when it may become uncomfortably hot.

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

## WHAT INFLUENCES THIS SEASON'S CLIMATE?



Sea surface temperatures (SST) in the east-central Pacific were near the borderline of weak El Nino during mid-April.

Patterns in the atmosphere were mainly neutral. Most models forecast warm-neutral SST conditions during the next two months and cooling to average by summer.

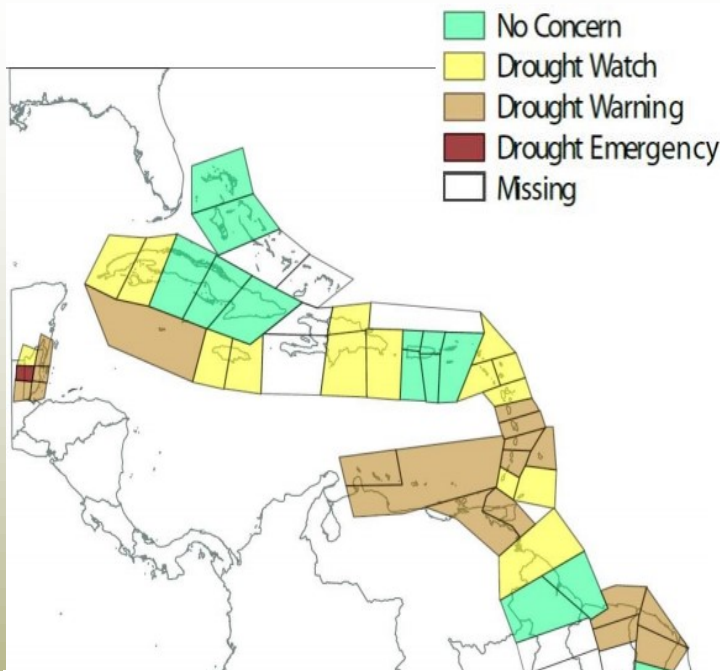
The ENSO neutral conditions have little contribution to the seasonal rainfall or temperature in the Caribbean.

Recent observations show that SSTs across much of the Caribbean and western Tropical North Atlantic are up to 1°C above average and farther east SSTs have warmed up to 3°C above average along the African coast.

Continued warm SSTs throughout the Caribbean may contribute to above-average humidity, seasonal rainfall totals, and wet spell frequency across the region. In addition, warm SSTs favour warmer night-time temperatures and, where rainfall does not increase, warmer day-time temperatures.

### Drought Conditions ARE POSSIBLE by end of May 2020.

January to March was exceptionally to moderately wet while April was normal. As rainfall continues to vary across the Caribbean, the impacts are different across the region. Most of the Islands in the eastern Caribbean experienced dry spells throughout the month of April.



### Suggested alert levels for long term drought at the end of May 2020

(updated April 2020 – covering June 2019 to May 2020)

Based on the short term drought forecast for the Caribbean, it is possible that by the end of July 2020, there will be little drought concern across the Caribbean except for Belize, Bahamas, W. Cuba, Suriname and Tobago.

However, the long term drought forecast, (observations for the past 12 months) indicates that drought concerns are possible across most of the Caribbean by the end of May except for portions of Bahamas, E. Cuba, Puerto Rico and N. Guyana.

St. Maarten experienced a few dry days in April leading to an increase in surface dryness and a high risk for bush fires. There is a slight possibility for drought conditions to occur by the end of May however, by the end of July the forecast suggests that there will be no drought concern.

**APRIL 2020 IN REVIEW**

Total Rainfall	45.0 mm	1.8 in.
2020 Cumulative Rainfall	321.7mm	12.7 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	Apr. 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.0mm/ 0.4in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	11 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	8 kts.	9 mph
Max. Wind Gust	21kts.	24 mph
Avg. Temperature	27.7°C	82°F
Max. Temperature	Apr. 7 <sup>th</sup>	31.9°C / 89°F
Min. Temperature	Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup>	23.0°C / 73°F

**Long /Short Term Seasonal Review****Year in Review****(May. 2019—Apr. 2020)**

Total rainfall over the past twelve (12) months was within the normal range. A total of 1123 mm/44 inches of rainfall was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport.

**Seasonal Review (Feb-Mar-Apr. 2020)**

Total rainfall for the last three (3) months was 186.2mm/7 inches, this amount was above the normal range (148-179 mm). There were seven (7) days with heavy rainfall (>10mm) within that period.

Rainfall for the month of April was within the normal range (41-75 mm). Temperatures were generally above normal for this time of year. April 2020 was the warmest April on record.

The average daily temperature for April was 27.7°C/82°F.

The warmest day was the 11<sup>th</sup> with an average temperature of 28.4°C/83°F.

The coolest day was the 1<sup>st</sup> with an average temperature of 26.5°C/80°F.

The days with the most sunshine hours were the 4<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (11hrs :42min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 22<sup>nd</sup> (2hrs:42min).

The windiest day was the 24<sup>th</sup>, with a daily average wind speed of 11 kt./ 12 mph.

The day with the highest wind gust was the 18<sup>th</sup> with a gust of 21kt/24 mph.

Skies were mostly fair throughout the month of April.

Small craft advisories were issued due to above normal swells due to northerly swells in the area.

**NORMAL MAY CONDITIONS**

Rainfall Total	56.4 mm – 115.2 mm	2– 5 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	10 days	
Daily Average Temperature	27.5°C	82°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	30.7°C	87°F
Avg. Min. Tem- perature	25.2°C	77°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 hrs	

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.

## Implication of Forecast for Sectors

### Tourism Sector

- Use this quiet time to put your hurricane/disaster plans in place.

### Agriculture

With decreasing rainfall totals and possible drought conditions by the end of May, management plans should be put in place for irrigation, bush fires and shelter for animals.

### Energy/Water Sector

Energy demand for cooling purposes is expected to increase throughout this season.

### Health

- UV radiation will be on the increase this season. Excessive exposure can cause skin damage on sunny days. The use of sunscreen and other protective gears are advised.
- During lockdowns stay hydrated, open windows for air circulation. Avoid heat stress as we move into the Caribbean heat season.
- Day-time and night time temperatures are expected to be as warm as usual and become uncomfortably hot at times.
- During episodes of Saharan dust persons with respiratory illnesses/allergies should stay indoors or take the necessary precautions when venturing outdoors.

## 2020 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

### 2020 TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES



<b>Arthur</b>	<b>Laura</b>
<b>Bertha</b>	<b>Marco</b>
<b>Cristobal</b>	<b>Nana</b>
<b>Dolly</b>	<b>Omar</b>
<b>Edouard</b>	<b>Paulette</b>
<b>Fay</b>	<b>Rene</b>
<b>Gonzalo</b>	<b>Sally</b>
<b>Hanna</b>	<b>Teddy</b>
<b>Isaias</b>	<b>Vicky</b>
<b>Josephine</b>	<b>Wilfred</b>
<b>Kyle</b>	

THE 2020 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS  
IN A FEW WEEKS.

BE PREPARED!!!!!!! BE PREPARED!!!!!!!

### How can you prepare NOW?

1. Plan your evacuation route well ahead of time
  - Nearest shelter , friend or relative's home.
  - Where will you go? Have a plan.
2. Keep non-perishable emergency supplies on hand:
  - Batteries, Radio, Flashlight .....
  - First aid kits
  - Extra water and non-perishable foods.
3. Take an inventory of your personal property.
4. Take steps to protect your home:
  - Cut weak branches and trees
  - Repair old doors & windows
  - Seal cracks in walls
  - Install shutters.
  - Review your insurance policies
5. Take steps to protect your business
  - Review your business insurance policy
  - Update contact information of your employees, suppliers & vendors.

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