

Weather & Climate

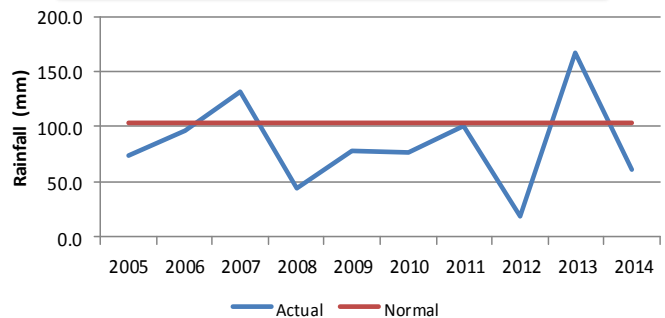
Volume 2, Issue 21

December 2015

NORMAL DECEMBER CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	74.6 mm – 110.1 mm	3 – 4 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	14 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.2°C	79°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.4°C	85 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23.9°C	75°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 hrs	

Actual Vs Normal December Rainfall



Most Islands will experience drought by May 2016

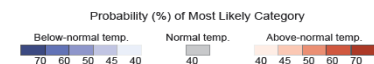
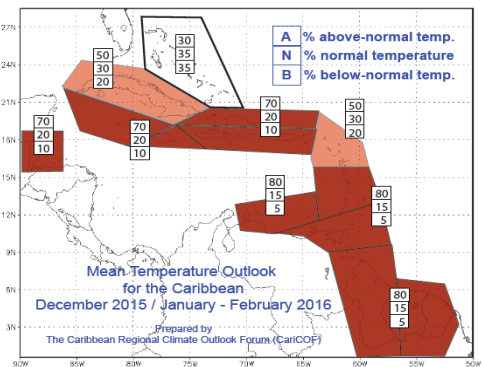
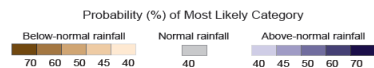
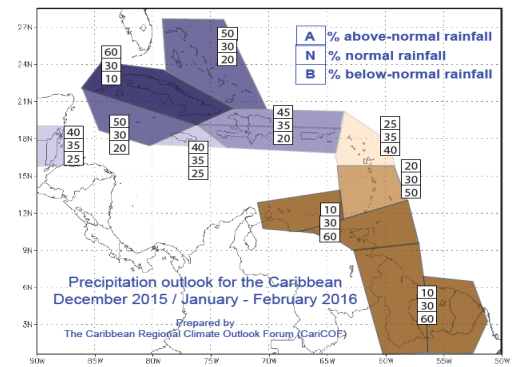
Rainfall for the month of December has been below-normal for 8 out of the last 10 years.

Seasonal Outlook for December to February (DJF) 2015/16

According to the Caribbean Outlook Forum : www.cimh.edu.bb/?p=precipoutlook

The precipitation outlook for the season ‘Dec—Feb 2016’ is expected to be below-normal to near-normal. Normal rainfall for this season ranges between 172.5 mm – 258.2 mm/ 7-10in. This season, rainfall is most likely to be below-normal with fewer wet days and wet spells than usual.

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



One of the strongest El Niños on record is in place, last week sea surface temperatures were up to 3.0°C above normal. This El Niño is set to last until the mid-2016.

In the dry season, El Niño often weakens the development of rain and thunderstorm formation in the eastern and southern Caribbean, but enhances it in the north and west.

Most of the islands are already in long-term drought and many in short-term drought after near-record dry August to October.

Therefore it is predicted that drought conditions will worsen across Eastern Caribbean by the end of May 2016.

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.

NOVEMBER 2015 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of November was in the normal range for the first time in 12 months. November 2015 was the wettest month of the year so far with a total of 106.1 mm/.4.2 in. 2015 thus far, remains the driest year on record with a total of 435.0mm/17in of rainfall since January which accounts for just 37% of the normal. The Caribbean Drought Monitoring Network has issued a drought warning for parts of the Leeward Islands including St. Maarten until the end of May 2016.

Total Rainfall	106.1 mm	4.2 in.
2015 Cumulative Rainfall	435.0 mm	17.1 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	November 1st	13.3 mm/ 0.5 in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	19 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	2 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	2 days	
Avg. Wind Speed	9 kts.	10 mph
Max. Wind Gust	November 10th	29 kts. / 33 mph
Avg. Temperature	27.8 °C	82 °F
Max. Temperature	November 2nd	31.2 °C / 88 °F
Min. Temperature	November 19th	23.5°C / 74 °F

The normal rainfall for November ranges from 85.3 -169.9 mm /3-7in.

The longest dry spell was 6 days (Oct. 21 to 26th)

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

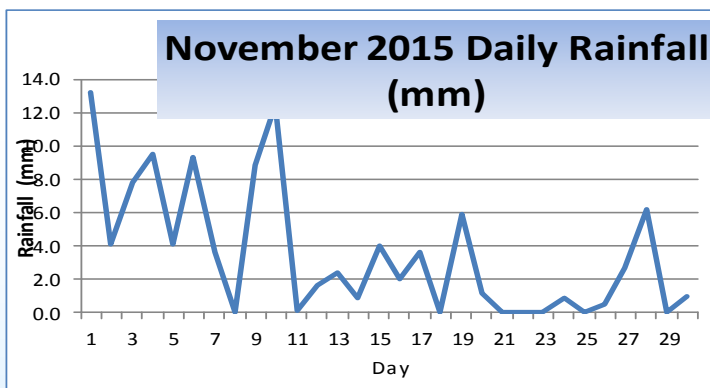
The warmest days were the 3rd, 8th & 9th with an average temperature of 28.7°C/84°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 20th (10hrs :36 min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 11th (2 hr: 48min)

The windiest day was the 7th, with a daily average wind speed of 12 kts. / 14 mph.

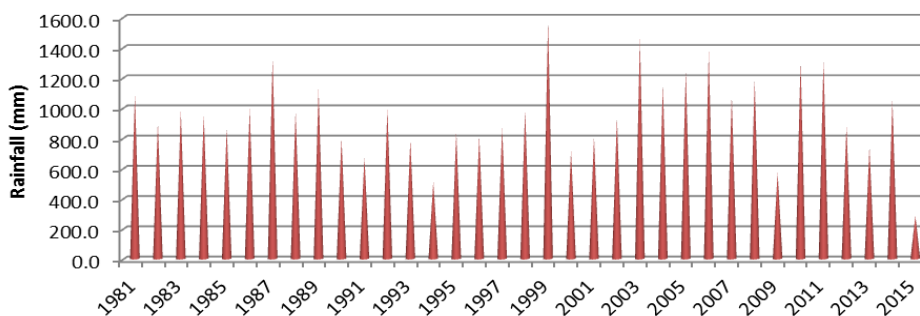
Skies were mostly cloudy during the month of November.



November was the wettest month for the year so far.

2015 Rainfall Deficit

Rainfall Total (Jan to Nov.) Princess Juliana Int'l



2015 remains the driest year on record