

#### Dear CliSec Friends:

We'd like to present you with our May 2016 newsletter. In it, you'll find highlights of recent weather and climate news and events. Further, there're climate outlooks for the next six months. Links are provided for further information. Our **worst meteorological drought on record continues**, but it has eased to slight levels; however, it will likely continue into the second half of the year.

Thanks!

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## What Happened? February-March-April 2016 (FMA)

**High night-time temperatures and near normal rainfall**

#### + Impacts

**Meteorological and agricultural droughts eased to slight levels; Increase in the Giant African Snails; Improved conditions for livestock**

#### - Impacts

**Crop losses for some farmers (due to heavy downpours in a few areas)**

#### Notable climate events - FMA

- Meteorological drought eased
- Warmer than usual nights
- Fourth wettest month since December 2014

#### Summary

As with the previous six months, night-time temperatures for April were higher than usual across much of Antigua. At the V. C. Bird international Airport (VCBIA), the mean daily minimum temperature of 24.2 °C (75.6 °F), an indicator of night-time temperature, was above normal and the sixth highest on record (1969-2016) for the month. It was also the highest mean minimum for April since 2010. Consistent with the high night-time temperatures, the month had three warm nights, two more than the long-term-average. [Read more...](#)

#### Headline Impacts

- Remain out of potable surface water
- Still weeks without water for some
- Favourable farming weather in some areas

#### April Rainfall



#### FMA Rainfall



## What Next? May-June-July (MJJ) 2016

#### Consensus Outlook

**Below to near normal rainfall and higher than normal temperatures**

#### + Impacts

**Continued reduced potential for vector-borne diseases and epidemics; favourable conditions for outdoor activities**

#### - Impacts

**Continuation of drought, empty surface catchments and expensive water from desalination**

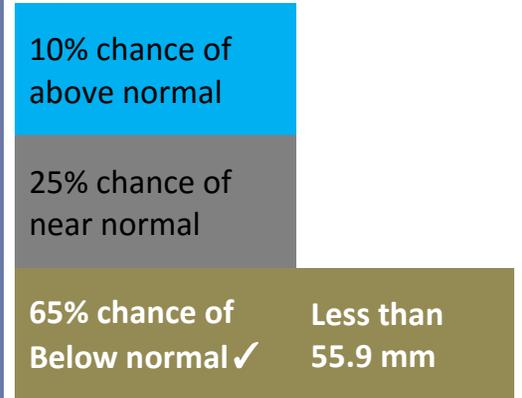
#### Our Typical May Weather

May is the fifth wettest month on record. The rainfall average is 103.6 mm (4.08 in). However, the month has had as little as 6.4 mm (0.25 in) and as much as 508.5 mm (20.02 in). The rainfall for May is the most variable of all the months with totals frequently at the extremes; it tends to be either very dry or very wet. Most of the month's rainfall comes from trough systems at various levels of the atmosphere. The mean temperature is 27.2 °C (81.0 °F).

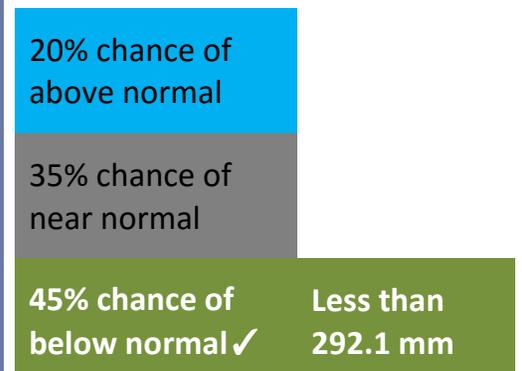
#### Our Typical MJJ Weather

MJJ spans the end of dry season and the beginning of the wet season. The normal rainfall total for MJJ is 273.1 mm (10.75 in) but totals have ranged from 72.6 to 713.5 mm (2.86 to 28.09 in). In addition to the above mentioned weather features, tropical waves and the odd tropical cyclone also contribute significantly to rainfall totals. On average, there are 29 wet days (with at least 1 mm), at the VCBIA. The mean temperature is 27.7 °C (81.9 °F).

#### May 2016 Rainfall Outlook



#### MJJ 2016 Rainfall Outlook



## Climate Outlook

### May to July

**Rainfall:** There is 80% confidence of below to near normal rainfall

**Temperature:** There is 65% confidence of higher than normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

### August to October

**Rainfall:** There is 55% confidence of above normal rainfall

**Temperature:** There is equal chance of above, near or below normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

### Drought

**Drought Situation:** Near normal rainfall for April has resulted in at least the meteorological and agricultural droughts easing further to **slight levels**. The island-average rainfall for the month was 79.0 mm (3.11 in). Despite the modest rainfall, it's the wettest April since 2013 and the fourth wettest month since December 2014. [Read more...](#)

**February to July 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall measured for February and March 2016 (76.2 mm or 3.00 in) and the outlook for April to July, a moderate drought or worse is evolving over the February-July 2016 (FJ) period; hence, a drought warning is in effect for the period. [Read more...](#)

**December 2015 to August 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall measured for December 2015 to March 2016 (170.9 mm or 6.73 in) and the outlook for April to July, a serious drought or worse is evolving over the December 2015-August 2016 (DA) period; hence, a drought warning is in effect for DA. [Read more...](#)

**November 2015 to October 2016 Projection:** Based on the rainfall measured for November 2015 to March 2016 (276.6 mm or 10.89 in) and the outlook for April to October, a serious drought or worse is evolving over the November 2015-October 2016 (NO) period; hence, a drought warning is in effect for NO. [Read more...](#)

## What Influences the Next Season?

The weather across the area is generally controlled by the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) of the tropical North Atlantic (TNA), and the tropical Pacific Oceans (TPO) by way of El Nino/La Nina. May-July is normally warmer than usual following the start of El Nino. It also tends to get higher than normal rainfall, but this looks very unlikely this year. August-October is usually influenced by both the TNA and TPO, where warmer than normal SSTs in the TNA by itself or in combination with cooler than normal TPO produce above normal rainfall and temperature with the converse being true. Conditions favouring above normal rainfall is likely.

## Agromet Bulletin Highlights

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, some farmers are still preparing lands for planting, especially across the central and southern regions. However, as a result of the increased rainfall activity towards the end of the month, some farmers were prevented from plowing fields. Meanwhile, others have moved ahead with their planting campaign. [Read more...](#)

## Become Hurricane Strong By Taking Action Now!

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season starts in 17 days – June 1, and runs until November 30. The season is forecast to have near normal activity – 13 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes. Regardless of the forecast, the same detailed preparations are required to protect life, property and livelihoods. [Read more...](#)

## Antigua's Unenviable Record Worst Drought

Notwithstanding the significant rainfall of the past week, our unenviable record worst drought continues. However, the rains did bring some much-needed relief, as many residents got their cisterns and other catchments replenished. [Read more...](#)

## Rainfall and Temperature Outlook - Background

The outlooks are prepared by the CliSec, the Climate Section of the ABMS with support from the CIMH. The outlooks are produced by combining global, regional and national forecasts and expert interpretation. National and region-wide outlooks, produced using the [Climate Prediction Tool](#), are considered together with global dynamical climate models. Models considered include those from the IRI, the U.K. Met Office, ECMWF and EUROSIP.

## Recent Events

Apr 13 | [IICA](#) forum on climate change, Department of the Environment, St. John's, Antigua.

## Upcoming Events

May 25-31 | Wet season [Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum](#), Roseau, Dominica.

## Other Products

[Dry Season Statement](#) | [Wet Season Statement](#) | [Yearly Weather Summary](#) | [Hurricane Season Summary](#) | [Droughts ABC Reef Watch](#) | [Drought Outlook](#) | [Normals and Averages](#) | [Climate Data](#) | [Antigua Hurricanes and Storms](#) | [Wet Days](#)

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