



A Joint Bulletin of the CTO, the CHTA and the CIMH

# CARIBBEAN TOURISM CLIMATIC BULLETIN

for Tourism Businesses and Policymakers

June - August 2022 | | Vol 6 | Issue 2

A close-up photograph of several green leaves, likely from a tropical plant, covered in numerous clear water droplets. The leaves are vibrant green and the droplets are of various sizes, some reflecting light. The background is dark, making the green leaves and white droplets stand out.

# Purpose

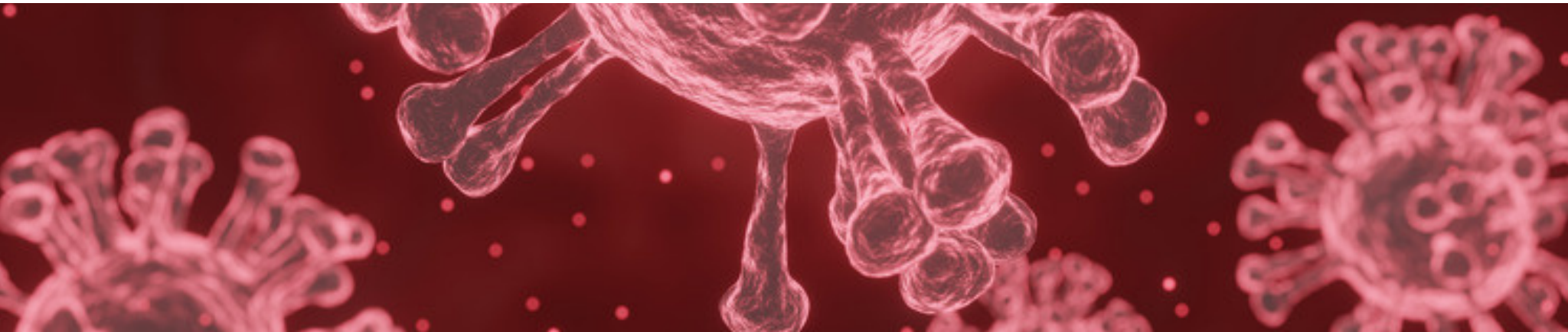
This Bulletin is a joint effort between the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) to help tourism businesses and policymakers identify and prepare for favourable or inclement climate conditions in the Caribbean and source markets, before they occur. It is recommended that industry stakeholders use the seasonal climate forecast information for the upcoming period (June - August 2022) presented in this Bulletin in tandem with weather forecasts (1-7 days). This suite of information can inform strategic and operational decisions related to the use of environmental resources, marketing, and enhancement of the visitor experience.

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# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Climate risk management linked to enhancing visitor health and safety, remains a critical factor in ensuring tourism sector resilience and managing the overall visitor experience. Tourism interests across the region should be prepared to deal with weather and climate emergencies in addition to ongoing concerns related to managing the COVID-19 pandemic. The CTO, CHTA, and CIMH will continue to closely monitor the situation and issue the relevant climate outlooks.



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean

**June through August forms part of the Caribbean Heat Season and marks: 1) part of the long Dry Season in the ABC Islands, 2) the early Wet Season in Belize and the Lesser Antilles, 3) the summer portion of the Wet Season in the Greater Antilles, and 4) the transition from the Wet to the Dry Season in the Guianas. What should you do?**

Climatically, June to August begins the **Caribbean Wet Season** in Belize and the Caribbean Islands, characterised by an increase in wet days along with an increase in wet spells, but a decline in dry days and dry spells.

The **2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season** officially started on June 1st and is forecast to be active with an estimated 18 named storms (i.e. tropical storm, hurricane or major hurricane), including approximately 8 hurricanes, of which close to 3 could intensify into a major hurricane (i.e. category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale) over the entire season.

**Severe weather systems** related to tropical storms often affect Caribbean territories. Tourism operators are advised to constantly monitor weather advisories issued by National Meteorological Services and other information provided by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (<http://cdema.org/>) and the US National Hurricane Center (<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>), and abide by any official advisories issued by the National Meteorological Service in their country. At all times, tourism operators should maintain a state of readiness, including communication plans and response protocols to deal with sudden eventualities.



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd



Normal to wetter than normal seasonal **rainfall** is expected from Jamaica across to Puerto Rico and throughout the Guianas; flash flood potential will remain high across Guyana. However, normal to drier than normal seasonal rainfall is expected elsewhere, but an increase in very wet and extreme spells is expected predominantly along the Lesser Antilles. Incursions of Saharan dust should feature during this season as well as the potential formation of tropical storms.



**Short term drought** by the end of August is evolving near Martinique. Short term drought may impact food production, water quality and quantity from small streams, small ponds and other surface sources.



**Long term drought** is not expected to evolve by the end of November in the Caribbean region. Long term drought (on a 12 months timescale) affects water availability across a multitude of socio-economic sectors in countries where the main freshwater resource is from very large rivers, large reservoirs or groundwater.

# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd



Seasonal night-time and day-time **temperatures** in the Caribbean increase into the summer months, but are expected to be close to normal across the region with a slight increase in day time temperatures expected in Cayman Islands and Trinidad and Tobago. At times, the heat may become uncomfortable across the region, especially in the event of heat waves which may become frequent starting during the end of August. Region-wide, the second part of the Caribbean Heat Season (which runs from August to October) is not expected to be as intense as previous years, with likely fewer heat waves and fewer heat records. Tourism practitioners should expect an increase in demand for cooling/hydration services (e.g. AC use and drinking water) and should advise their guests accordingly in the upcoming period.



During this period, the **UV index** will be very high to extremely high on sunny days. Visitors and staff (working outdoors) should be encouraged to apply high SPF sunscreen lotion regularly (preferably reef safe) between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM and should be warned that sunburn can occur even on cloudy days. Outdoor tourism operators and staff should also be mindful to minimise skin exposure during these times, and to wear sunscreen and protective clothing when they work outdoors.

# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd



Ocean temperatures are not expected to become as warm as to trigger **coral bleaching** throughout the period. This is a good season to engage in coral reef restoration activities, especially in destinations where there is an on-going standalone program or partnership between tourism practitioners and coastal managers.

The frequency of **Saharan dust** incursions into the Caribbean tends to increase during this period and can pose respiratory and ocular concerns for visitors and staff.



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Source Markets

**June to August marks the summer season in the source markets. What should you do?**

Source markets tend to experience the warm and sunny summer conditions vacationers are seeking at this time, with the exception of northern Europe. Tourism operators are therefore recommended to focus on enhanced marketing efforts to attract visitors. Additionally, they should differentiate themselves through innovative package offers, memorable customer service (bearing in mind COVID-19 protocols), and activities that take advantage of the pristine natural environments on offer.





# Surf and Sargassum Outlook

## *Surf's Up*

Surfers, divers, fishers and marine craft operators should consult the 7-day wave forecast before planning activities. Click here to access this product: <http://ww3.cimh.edu.bb/>

## *Sargassum Outlook*

Tourism operators may consult the University of the West Indies / Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI/CERMES)'s Sargassum sub-regional Outlook Bulletin for the Eastern Caribbean or the monthly University of South Florida (USF)/NASA Sargassum Outlook Bulletin for the entire Caribbean before planning activities.

Click here to access the latest UWI/CERMES product: [https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/sargassum/docs/bulletin/sargassum\\_outlook\\_bulletin\\_issue\\_04\\_mjj\\_cermes\\_202.aspx](https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/sargassum/docs/bulletin/sargassum_outlook_bulletin_issue_04_mjj_cermes_202.aspx)

Click here to access the USF/NASA product: <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/SaWS.html>.

Additionally, a Sargassum resource guide is available from the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) and can be accessed here:

<https://www.onecaribbean.org/wp-content/uploads/SargassumResourceGuideFinal.pdf>

# Contact Us



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# Upcoming Events



## CHTA & CTO DISASTER MANAGEMENT LEARNING SESSIONS 2022 Hurricane Outlook and Readiness Plans

Session One: Friday, June 10, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. ET  
Session Two: Thursday, June 30, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. ET



### Disclaimer

### Websites

Caribbean Tourism Organization:  
[www.onecaribbean.org](http://www.onecaribbean.org)

Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association:  
[www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com](http://www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com)

Regional Climate Centre:  
<http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

This Bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 3 months in advance. It is based on insights drawn from CIMH's suite of technical climate information products and industry insights from the CTO and the CHTA. The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CTO, the CHTA, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. The Bulletin may be freely used and distributed by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material. CTO, CHTA and CIMH disclaim any liability with respect to the use of any information within this document by any person or entity

# Glossary

**Seasonal climate forecast** - the guidance offered by a forecaster or forecast centre on the climate conditions during the coming months.

NB: This forecast information pertains to the 3 months highlighted in the Issue.

**Short-term drought** – A rainfall deficit over a total period of 6 months.

**Long-term drought** – A rainfall deficit over a total period of 12 months.

**Dry day** – A 24 hour period during which the rainfall total is less than 1 mm.

**Dry spell** – A succession of at least 7 consecutive dry days.

**Wet Day** – A 24 hour period during which the rainfall total is at least 1 mm.

**Wet Spell** – A multi-day period during which the rainfall total is large enough to cross a certain threshold.

**Extreme wet spell** – 3 consecutive days of which the total rainfall is extremely high, with increased flash flood potential.

**The Guianas** – French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname.

**US Caribbean Territories** – Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Leeward Islands** – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saba, St. Barthélemy, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Maarten and St. Martin.

**Windward Islands** – Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Lesser Antilles** – Leeward and Windward Islands along with, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Greater Antilles** – Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

**ABC Islands** – Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao

**Lucayan Islands** – The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands.

For more technical climate terms:

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/glossary-of-terms/>