

Dear CliSec Friends:

We'd like to present you with our February newsletter. In this newsletter, you'll find highlights of recent weather and climate news, and the outlooks for the upcoming six months – February to July. Links are provided for further information. If you have any questions, please email us at metoffice@antigua.gov.ag

Thanks!

Dale Destin

Meteorologist/Climatologist

dale_destin@yahoo.com | follow @anumetservice

What Happened?

November 2014 to January 2015 (NDJ)

+ Impacts

Drought remains at slight levels. Water logged soil from November now farmable again

- Impacts

Water resources are once again on the decline

Notable climate events – NDJ

- 7th driest January
- Near record warm nights for January
- Drought remains at slight levels

Summary

January was extremely dry for many parts of Antigua. The rainfall total for the month, 32.3 mm (1.27"), was well below normal and the seventh driest on record. At the V. C. Bird International Airport, the mean temperature for January was near normal - 25.5°C. However, it's the highest since 2010. Meanwhile, November to January, had both near normal rainfall – 318.8 (12.55") and near normal temperature, 25.9°C. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

- Potworks Dam falls below 33%
- Other surface catchments 50-100% full

January Rainfall



NDJ Rainfall



What Next?

February to April (FMA) 2015

Consensus Outlook

Below normal rainfall and above normal temperature for February, and below normal rainfall and temperature for FMA

+ Impacts

Reduced plant pests and diseases and suppression of the Giant African Snail

- Impacts

Potential increases for moderate drought or worse and increased water rationing

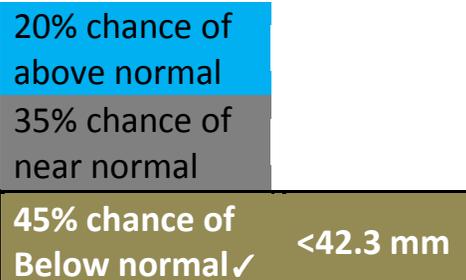
Our Typical February Weather

February is the last month of the meteorological winter and the second month of our dry season. It's currently our second driest month. The rainfall average is 55.9 mm (2.20"). However, February has had as much as 130.8 mm and as little as 8.1 mm. Most rainfall during the month comes from low level troughs, moisture advection and the occasional "cold" front. The mean temperature 25.2°C

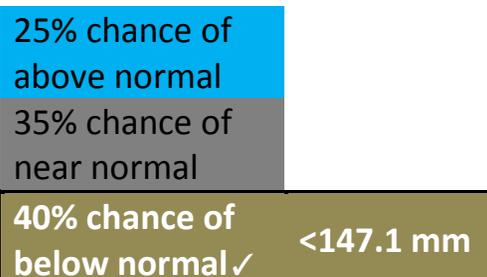
Our Typical FMA Weather

FMA is the second driest "season" of the year with March edging out February for the driest month of the year. The normal rainfall total for FMA is 193.0 mm (7.60") but has ranged from 62.0 to 411.2 mm. The mean temperature is 25.7°C. In addition to the above mentioned weather features, deep layered troughs are also rain producers.

February 2015 Rainfall Outlook



FMA 2015 Rainfall Outlook



Climate Outlook

February to April

Rainfall: There is 75% confidence of near to below normal rainfall.

Temperature: There is 75% confidence of near to below normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

May to July

Rainfall: There is 80% confidence of near to above normal rainfall.

Temperature: There is 75% confidence of near to above normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

Drought

Drought Situation: Our worst drought since 2002/2003 continues; however, it has eased and remains at slight levels notwithstanding an extremely dry January. The meteorological drought, which started September 2013 and degenerated into an [economic drought](#), was eased by the rainfall of Nov and remains at slight levels. [Read more...](#)

November 2014 to April 2015 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced November and December, and the outlook for January to April, a moderate drought or worse is unlikely*.

September 2014 to May 2015 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced September to December, and the outlook for January to May, a moderate drought or worse is unlikely*.

Jun 2014 to May 2015 Projection: Based on the rainfall experienced June to December, and the outlook for January to May, a **moderate drought** or worse is possible; hence, a drought watch is in effect. A drought watch means that the probability of, at least, a moderate drought is 35-49%. In this case, the probability of a moderate drought or worse is at 39%. Stay updated, meanwhile, water conservation and efficiency measures should be raised. [Read more...](#)

What Influences the Next Season?

The weather across the area is controlled mainly by the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) of the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA), and the tropical Pacific Ocean (TPO). A warm TNA at this time of the year tends to cause above normal rainfall and vice versa. However, for this time of the year, the condition of the TPO has minimal effect on rainfall. Currently the TPO is a bit warm and the TNA is near normal.

Agromet Bulletin Highlights

The rains of November are becoming a distance memory. Water catchments have again started to trend negatively and so to have soil moisture. However, the drought has remained at slight levels. Perhaps, ironically, the reduced rainfall has allowed for water logged soils to drain and for farmers to get pests and diseases under control. The reduced rainfall also would have had a welcome negative impact on the advancement of the invasive Giant African Snail. [Read more...](#)

It's Official - Gonzalo was a Hurricane when it Hit Antigua

It turns out that we were all right or, at least, most of us. Gonzalo was indeed a hurricane when it hit Antigua on October 13, 2014. This has been confirmed in a just released [report](#) by the United States National Hurricane Center. The system was previously classified as a [tropical storm](#) when it passed over Antigua. [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. Global forecasts examined include those from the IRI, the U.K. Met Office, ECMWF and EUROSIP.

Recent Events

Jan 20-23 | [Building Regional Climate Capacity in the Caribbean](#), St. James, Barbados

Feb 5,6 | [Regional Association IV GFCS Implementation Task Team Workshop](#), San Jose, Costa Rico

Upcoming Events

Feb 23-27 | [Workshop on Designing Socio-Economic Benefits Studies of Met Services & Products](#) St. John's, Antigua

Mar 23 | [World Met Day](#): Climate knowledge for climate action

Other Products

Normal: [Daily Rainfall](#) | [Daily Temperature](#) | [Daily Maximum Temperature](#) | [Daily Minimum Temperature](#)

Please visit our webpage for more: <http://www.antiguamet.com/climate/>