

### Dear CliSec Friends:

We'd like to present you with our May newsletter. In this newsletter, you'll find highlights of recent weather and climate news. Additionally, there are outlooks for the upcoming six months. Links are also provided for further information. We would very much like to hear from you; please fill out our [feedback form](#).

Thanks!

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### What Happened?

### Februarys to April 2015 (FMA)

**Second April heatwave; lower than normal rainfall**

**+ Impacts**

**Pests and diseases, including the Giant African Snail, more manageable**

**- Impacts**

**Water continues to decline; drought maintains serious intensity; about a 1000 farmers out of business**

#### Notable climate events – FMA

- 6<sup>th</sup> highest night-time temps for April
- 8<sup>th</sup> driest February-April
- Second ever heatwave for April

#### Summary

This month had a **heatwave** over the period April 24-30. It's the second heatwave on record for the month; the only other one was back in 1998. On the whole, it's the first heatwave since 2010. Meanwhile, the mean daily minimum (night-time) temperature for April was 23.9 °C (75 °F), tying 2002, 1980 and 1973 for the sixth warmest on record. However, the mean temperature for April was near normal – 26.2 °C (79.2 °F). Like the previous three months, this was the warmest April since 2010. [Read more...](#)

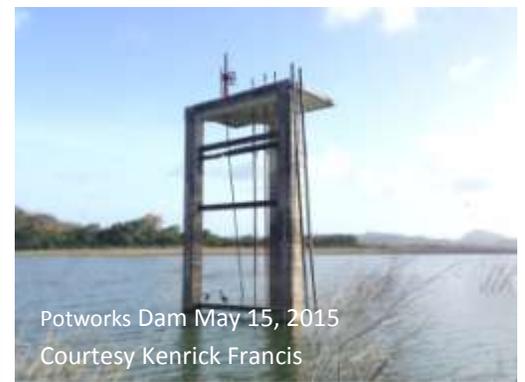
#### Headline Impacts

- Above normal number of bush fires
- Potworks Dam is around 80% empty
- Around 65% of farmers out of business

#### April Rainfall



#### FMA Rainfall



### What Next?

### May to July (MJJ) 2015

#### Consensus Outlook

**Drier than normal May and normal MJJ; normal temperature**

**+ Impacts**

**Plant pest and diseases at a minimum, also mosquito vectors at a minimum**

**- Impacts**

**Further dwindling of water resources, crop production and increase of grass/bush fires**

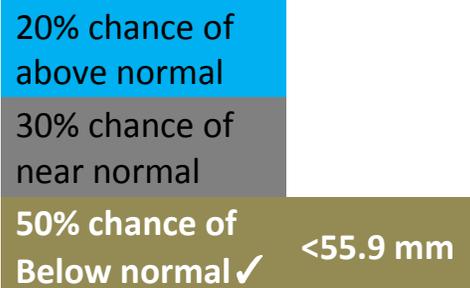
#### Our Typical May Weather

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 and as much as 508.5 mm. The rainfall for May is the most variable of all the months; May tend to be 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).

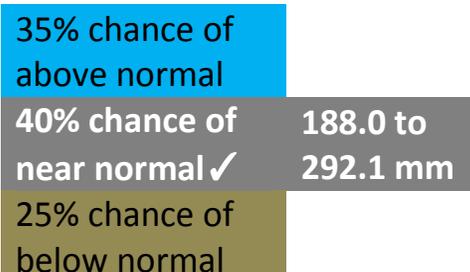
#### Our Typical MJJ Weather

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 ranges from 72.6 to 713.5 mm. In addition to the above mentioned weather features, tropical waves and the odd tropical cyclone also contribute significantly to rainfall totals. The mean temperature is 27.7 °C (81.9 °F).

#### May 2015 Rainfall Outlook



#### MJJ 2015 Rainfall Outlook



## Climate Outlook

### May to July

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

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

### August to October

**Rainfall:** There is 85% confidence of below to near normal rainfall.

**Temperature:** There is 80% confidence of above to near normal temperature. [Read more...](#)

### Drought

**Drought Situation:** With well below normal rainfall for April, drought continues at serious levels. The rainfall for April was 1.14 inches; this is the lowest since 2006 and the 14<sup>th</sup> all-time lowest for April. [Read more...](#)

**February to July 2015 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced February and March, and the outlook for April to July, a **moderate drought or worse (MD/+)** is evolving...; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect. [Read more...](#)

**December 2014 to August 2015 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced December 2014 to March 2015, and the outlook for April to August, a **MD/+** is evolving...; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect. [Read more...](#)

**October 2014 to September 2015 Projection:** Based on the rainfall experienced October 2014 to March 2015, and the outlook for April to September, a **MD/+** is possible...; hence, a **drought watch** is in effect. [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). **El Nino** or warm TPO and cool TNA are expected to suppress rainfall over the upcoming months. The next three months is climatologically the season for Sahara dust across the area; this also has a restrictive impact on rainfall.

## Agromet Bulletin Highlights

At the moment, agriculture extension officers are indicating that about 1000 of the country's approximately 1500 farmers are out of business due to the serious rainfall deficits. [Read more...](#)

## Second Ever Heatwave for Antigua

We can now confirm that we are [were] in a heatwave, which started a week ago. For us, a heatwave is declared when there has been at least six consecutive days of high temperature in the top 10% of the climatological normal period 1971-2000, or is well above what is considered normal. [Read more...](#)

## Unhealthy Saharan Dust Blankets the Caribbean

**In addition to heat**, the orientation of Atlantic High is causing [caused] winds to transport dry, dusty and unhealthy air from the Sahara Desert, in Africa, to the Caribbean. [Read more...](#)

## One of the Worst First-Quarter Rainfall Deficits for Antigua

Antigua is having its seventh driest start to a year on record. As of the end of March, the average first-quarter (January-March) **rainfall total** for the island was 90.4 mm (3.56 in). [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 13-17 | [WMO Regional Association IV Hurricane Committee – 37<sup>th</sup> Session](#), San Jose, Costa Rica

## Upcoming Events

May 27-30 | Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum Training Workshop, Castries, St. Lucia

Jun 1-2 | Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum, Castries, St. Lucia

## Other Products

[Yearly Summaries](#) | [Drought Outlook](#) | [Normals and Averages](#) | [Climate Data](#) | [Antigua Hurricanes and Storms](#)

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