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August 2020 Preliminary Climate Overview

Temperature

- August 2020 was warmer than average in Trinidad and Tobago. In terms of mean temperature, August was much warmer than average for Trinidad and tied sixth-warmest on record in the 76 years since records began in 1946.
- August 2020 mean temperature of 28.5 °C was 0.6 °C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 1.4 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average.
- In terms of the mean maximum temperature, August 2020 in Trinidad tied as the eighth-warmest on record, but was the warmest in the last three years at 0.6°C warmer than the 1981-2020 average and 1.6 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average.
- Nights were also warmer than average. Mean minimum temperature was 0.5°C higher than average and tied fifth-highest on record.
- In Tobago, conditions were similar with an August mean temperature of 28.5 °C, mean maximum temperature of 31.9 °C and highest maximum temperature of 33.4, all warmer than average for Tobago.

Extreme Temperatures

- In terms of hot days (34.0 °C or greater), overall there were seven hot days in Trinidad with one hot spell (5 consecutive hot days) from August 24th – 28th. The highest maximum temperature of 34.6 °C occurred on the 15th.
- In Tobago, there were two relatively hot days on the 10th and 27th with maximum temperatures of 33.0°C and 33.4 °C respectively.

Rainfall

- August rainfall in Trinidad and Tobago was above average in most areas.
- At Piarco, August rainfall was much above average at 68% above average (average is 264.6 mm) while at Crown Point it was 43% above average (average is 164.8 mm).
- The month produced 443.9 mm of rainfall at Piarco to make August 2020 the wettest August in the last twenty seven years and 3rd wettest August in 76 years. Only August of 1949 with 464.7 mm and August of 1993 with 448.8mm were wetter.
- In Tobago, August rainfall stood at 236.3 mm, making August 2020 the 4th wettest August in 50 years of record at Crown Point. Only August of 2007 with 317.1 mm, 2017 with 276.0 mm and 1988 with 238.3 mm were wetter.
- When taken together, the three months June to August produced on par average rainfall with accumulated totals of 745.2 mm at Piarco, which represents just 20.9 mm or 2.7% less than average and at Crown Point 525.9 mm, which is just 6.3 mm or 1% more than average.

Extreme Rainfall

- Heavy rainfall defined as rainfall greater than or equal to 50 mm in 24 hours was relatively common during August in Trinidad. Three heavy rainfall days on 7th, 17th and 30th produced 89.3 mm, 85.9 mm and 59.8 mm respectively and were generally the most significant.
- Two 7-day wet-spells (days with rainfall above 1.0 mm) produced 173.2 mm and 166.6 mm during the 16th -22nd and 1st -7th respectively.
- In Tobago, the most significant rainfall days were on the 17th, 22nd and 29th which produced 43.6 mm, 39.0mm and 38.3mm respectively.