

TTMS Successfully Concludes its Nineteenth National Climate Outlook Forum in Preparation for a Wet Start to the 2026 Dry Season

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) hosted its Nineteenth National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF XIX) for stakeholders from key climate-sensitive sectors on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Training Centre, Piarco, Trinidad ahead of the 2026 Dry Season. The theme for NCOF XIX, **“Early Warning in an Ever-Changing Climate,”** highlighted the growing importance of timely and accurate climate information in mitigating risks and building national resilience.

During his welcome remarks, Acting Director, Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service, Mr. Shakeer Baig, noted that the National Climate Outlook Forum is a vital platform for feedback, understanding stakeholder needs, and improving TTMS services. He highlighted significant events that occurred during the 2025 hurricane season, including Hurricane Melissa, and the recent Westmoorings tornado in Trinidad. He stressed that early warning systems are essential for protecting lives, property, and the economy.



TTMS Acting Director, Mr. Shakeer Baig welcoming remarks at NCOF XIX

Mrs. Cherryl-Ann Solomon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) stated that climate change is an urgent issue for Trinidad and Tobago, especially as a Small Island Developing State, in her opening remarks. She emphasized the critical role of the National Climate Outlook Forum in turning climate data into actionable decisions across key sectors like agriculture, health, and disaster management. She also underscored the importance of collaboration and the effective use of climate information to enhance national resilience and protect the country's resources.



Mrs. Cherryl-Ann Solomon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) (front row: fourth from left) with participants at NCOF XIX.

Acting Chief Climatologist, Mr. Kaidar Kissoon, Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service presented the outlook for the 2026 dry season (January to May). “A weak La Niña developed in October 2025 and is expected to positively influence rainfall occurrences over Trinidad and Tobago during the first half of the Dry Season (January- March)”, he stated. The 2026 Dry Season (January-May) rainfall outlook indicates moderate chances for near-normal rainfall overall, with wetter than usual conditions during the first half, and near normal rainfall in the second half of the season for both islands.



TTMS Acting Chief Climatologist, Mr. Kaidar Kissoon, delivering the 2026 dry season outlook for Trinidad and Tobago

During NCOF XIX, officials from the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service delivered presentations on Bush Fire Statistics and Bush Fire Prevention. The Water and Sewerage Authority also presented on water resource management.

Following the climate outlook presentation, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management facilitated working group discussions where the stakeholders discussed the possible impacts of the 2026 Dry Season, the potential challenges ahead, and the required actions and initiatives needed to reduce climate-related risks and enhance the resilience of sectors and communities to current and future climatic challenges. These efforts were aligned with Trinidad and Tobago's sustainable development goals and the principles of the Global Framework for Climate Services.



Stakeholders actively collaborating in working group sessions at NCOF XIX.

The 2026 Dry Season Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago is available at: https://www.metoffice.gov.tt/Wet/Dry_Season_Outlook