

Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service Hosts 20th National Climate Outlook Forum and National Stakeholder Consultation

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) successfully hosted the Twentieth National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF XX) on Wednesday 20th May, 2026, at the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) Training Centre under the theme, “Heat and Public Health: Reducing Risk Through Climate Services.”

The landmark event brought together representatives from Government Ministries, climate-sensitive sectors, emergency management agencies, regional organizations, and key stakeholders to discuss national climate preparedness, public health impacts, and long-term climate resilience strategies for Trinidad and Tobago.

Delivering the feature address at the opening ceremony was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Mrs. Shivanna Sam, who emphasized the growing importance of climate forecasting and evidence-based planning in safeguarding national development and public well-being.

“Climate forecasting is not simply about predicting rainfall or temperature patterns. Accurate forecasting has real and direct implications for how we manage national resources, public utilities, and economic planning,” she stated.

Mrs. Sam also highlighted the importance of strengthening public awareness, institutional preparedness, and inter-agency collaboration as Trinidad and Tobago continues to confront the realities of climate variability, extreme heat conditions, and increasingly complex environmental challenges.



Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU), Ms. Neela Ram-Atwaroo; Mr. Shakeer Baig, Director (Ag.) TTMS, Mrs. Shivanna Sam, MPU Parliamentary Secretary; the Honourable Clyde Elder, Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities; Mr. Kenneth Kerr, CMO Science and Technology Officer; Ms. Cherryl-Ann Solomon, MPU Deputy Permanent Secretary; and Mrs. Arlene Aaron-Morrison, Assistant Director (Ag.) at NCOF XX held at Piarco, Trinidad on Wednesday 20th May 2026

The National Climate Outlook Forum forms part of the ongoing efforts of the TTMS to provide tailored climate information and actionable early warnings to support preparedness for the wet and hurricane seasons while advancing the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) at the national level.

In his opening remarks, Acting Director of the TTMS, Mr. Shakeer Baig, noted that the successful hosting of the 20th National Climate Outlook Forum represented more than a ceremonial milestone. “This achievement reflects the TTMS’s sustained commitment to climate resilience, climate science, and evidence-based decision-making in Trinidad and Tobago,” he stated.

A key highlight of the forum was the presentation of the 2026 Wet Season Outlook and Hurricane Season Forecast by Acting Chief Climatologist of the TTMS, Mr. Kaidar Kissoon. The presentation was delivered to members of the media and representatives from priority climate-sensitive sectors, including agriculture and food security, water resource management, health, disaster risk reduction, energy, and urban development. The outlook indicated the likelihood of a near-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season and a below-normal Wet Season for Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Kissoon urged citizens, disaster preparedness agencies, and emergency responders to utilize the available time to strengthen preparedness measures ahead of the upcoming hurricane season.

Following the climate outlook presentation, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) facilitated stakeholder discussions on the implications of the forecast, anticipated national challenges, and practical actions required to reduce climate-related risks and strengthen sectoral resilience.

In addition to the forum, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization facilitated a National Stakeholder Consultation for the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service for the period 2027–2031 and a National Framework for Weather, Climate, and Marine Services, and a complementary implementation Action Plan.

A stakeholder consultation was subsequently held in Tobago on Thursday 21st May, 2026. Delivering opening remarks at the Tobago consultation, CMO Coordinating Director, Dr. Arlene Laing, emphasized the urgent need for stronger weather, climate, and marine services, as well as improved early warning systems throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

She noted that strengthening institutional capacity within the TTMS remains essential to delivering people-centred and impact-based forecasting services capable of improving preparedness, reducing national risk, and supporting sustainable development.



Group photo of participants at the stakeholder consultation held in Tobago on 21st May 2026

Stakeholders participating in the consultations contributed to discussions and practical exercises focused on assessing the country’s current weather, water, and climate service capabilities, identifying institutional partnerships, defining governance arrangements, and prioritizing future capacity-building initiatives necessary for the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan.