



AGENDA ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE PAST HURRICANE SEASON

POINT 3.2: COUNTRY REPORTS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Reports of hurricanes, tropical storms, tropical disturbances and related floods during 2018

Member countries that have experienced hurricanes, tropical storms or tropical disturbances and related floods and storm surges are invited to submit to the session concise reports on the functioning of the warning systems, lessons to be derived from these events, measures already taken as a consequence and proposals, if any, for regional action.

1. Introduction

Cyclone activity for the Dominican Republic in 2018 can be characterized as calm, as there was no tropical storm or hurricane which caused an economic impact or left deaths in its wake. *Beryl* was an active tropical wave on the Dominican Republic and generated some episodes of heavy rainfall, but it only required authorities to issue local alerts and warnings; no coordination with the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center in Miami was necessary.

2. Management of alerts and warnings during the remnant events of *Beryl*

On Saturday, 7 July, the Dominican Republic National Meteorological Office, in coordination with the Emergency Operations Centre, decided to issue a pre-weather alert for river, stream and creek flooding, as well as for flash and slow-onset flooding and landslides. This alert was for emergency managers; it was not issued publicly.

On the afternoon of Sunday, 8 July, 14 provinces were placed on Alert status, as indicated in the table below:

WEATHER ADVISORY LEVELS				
ALERT				DISCONTINUED
<i>La Vega</i>	<i>San Pedro de Maorís</i>	<i>La Altagracia</i>	<i>Duarte</i>	
<i>Monseñor Nouel</i>	<i>Santo Domingo</i>	<i>La Romana</i>	<i>Sánchez Ramírez</i>	
<i>María Trinidad Sánchez</i>	<i>San Cristóbal</i>	<i>Hato Mayor</i>		
<i>Hermanas Mirabal</i>	<i>El Seibo</i>	<i>Monte Plata</i>		
Total: 14				Total: 0

On 9 July, the tropical wave, located in Puerto Rican waters, began to cause increased clouds and brought moderate to heavy rain to Greater Santo Domingo. On that same day, as the rainfall continued to increase, a decision was made to raise the advisory levels for 12 provinces to Warning and to leave the advisory levels at Alert for eight provinces. The table below shows the modified alerts and warnings.

WEATHER ADVISORY LEVELS				
ALERT		WARNING		DISCONTINUED
<i>María Trinidad Sánchez</i>	<i>Samaná</i>	<i>Greater Santo Domingo</i>	<i>La Altagracia</i>	
<i>Hermanas Mirabal</i>	<i>Puerto Plata</i>	<i>Monseñor Nouel</i>	<i>La Romana</i>	
<i>Peravia</i>		<i>Hato Mayor</i>	<i>San Pedro de Macorís</i>	
<i>Santiago</i>		<i>Monte Plata</i>	<i>El Seibo</i>	
<i>Españat</i>		<i>San Cristóbal</i>	<i>La Vega</i>	
<i>Duarte</i>		<i>Sánchez Ramírez</i>	<i>San José de Ocoa</i>	
Total: 8		Total: 12		Total: 0

Around midnight and into the early morning of Tuesday, 10 July, cloud cover continued to increase over the Dominican capital as the remnants of *Beryl* moved over the country. Precipitation events also continued into the morning of 10 July. San Cristóbal, San José de Ocoa and Monte Plata provinces received heavy rainfall, with 24-hour accumulations of greater than 60 mm, especially between 2 and 8 a.m. In isolated areas, particularly in the above-mentioned provinces, strong electrical storms and wind gusts contributed to 24-hour accumulations of between 100 and 300 mm. Notably, a 24-hour rain accumulation of 84.9 mm was recorded at the Las Américas International Airport weather station.

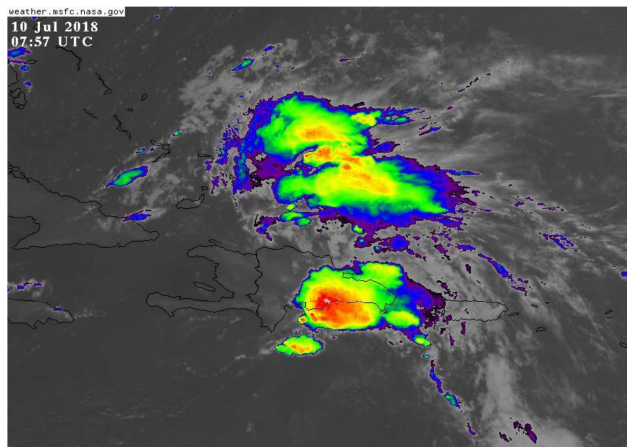


Figure 1. Satellite image showing dense cloud activity, rains and electrical storms associated with the active tropical wave in the Dominican Republic

Figure 2 shows the map of accumulated rainfall at 8 a.m. on 10 July. The largest accumulations occurred in Greater Santo Domingo (100–250 mm), with the Central Station in Mameyes Villa Duarte recording an accumulation of 244.2 mm. In the northeast, rainfall accumulations were between 45 and 50 mm.

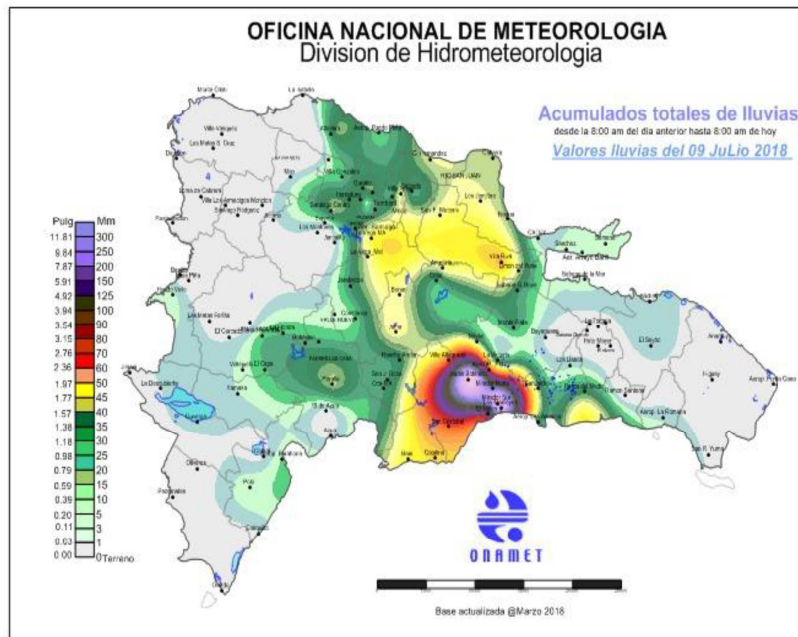


Figure 2. Map of accumulated rainfall on 9 July 2018

3. Damages

- Torrential rains caused by the remnants of *Beryl* flooded dozens of neighbourhoods, most notably in the capital city, where the rains caused chaos in major avenues.
- Some areas were left without electricity, which affected traffic lights and caused delays in commuters getting to work.
- It was reported that 50 homes were affected by flooding, resulting in 104 individuals being forced to stay with relatives and friends.
- Two bridges were affected and two localities were isolated.
- The newly opened Santo Domingo cable car suspended operations due to the poor weather conditions associated with the remnants of *Beryl*.
- It was reported that 17 of 208 circuits were damaged, especially in Santo Domingo and San Cristóbal.

4. Media coverage

The images below depict urban floods, affected road embankments and debris dragged by the Ozama River in the capital city into the Caribbean Sea as a result of the heavy rains.

