



AGENDA ITEM NO.3: REVIEW OF THE 2018 CYCLONE SEASON

AGENDA ITEM NO.3.2: COUNTRY REPORT

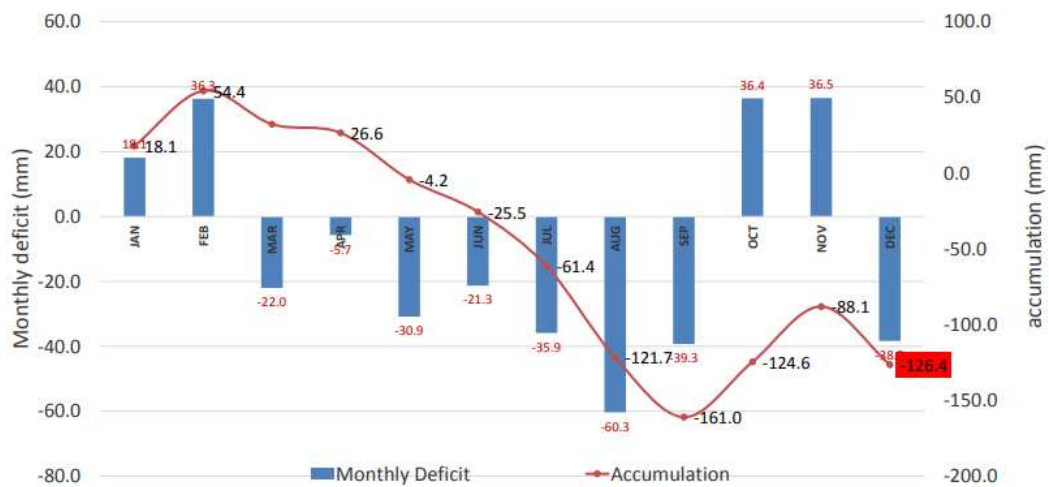
AGENDA ITEM NO.3.2.(3): SAINT LUCIA

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

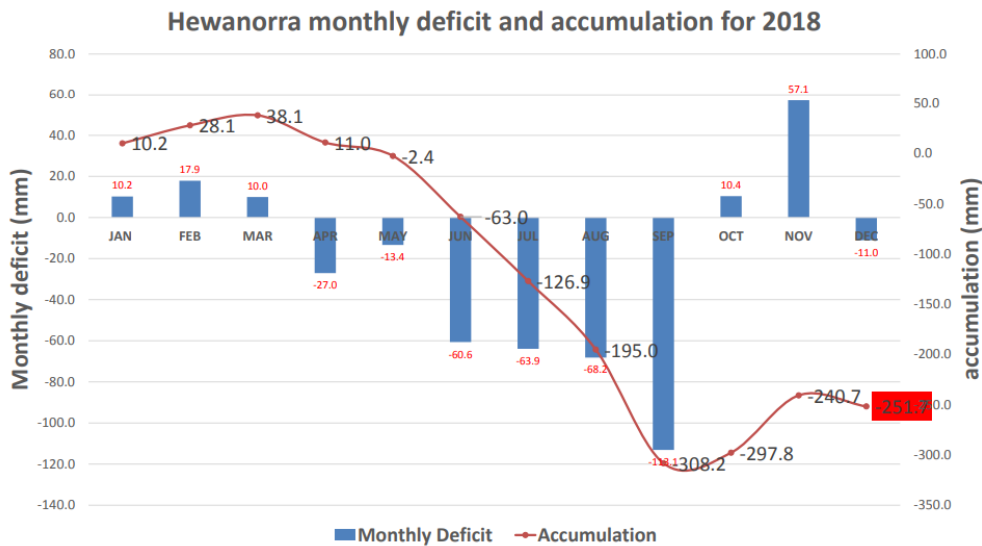
1. Impacts related of tropical cyclones or other severe weather events

Very early during the year Saint Lucia experienced below average rainfall and near normal temperatures. By the end of the year George FL Charles Met office had recorded a deficit of 126.4 mm while Hewanorra recorded a deficit of 251.7 mm. Average temperatures were generally above average throughout the year.

GFL Charles monthly deficit and accumulation for 2018



Ref.: 0407/2019_11 WDS/TCP
Approved by Xu Tang, Tue Feb 12 17:28:57 UTC 2019



While Saint Lucia did not suffer extensive damage during the season, there were two noteworthy events, namely Tropical storm Kirk which affected the island on the 27th and 28th of September and a rainfall event on the 10th and 11th of November 2018.

Kirk affected Saint Lucia as a Tropical Storm from the evening of September 27 to the morning of September 28. It was predominantly a wind event. The island recorded maximum sustained winds of 40 kt and gusts of 52 kt. Rainfall totals of 28.0 mm and 28.4 mm were recorded at Hewanorra and George Charles Met Offices respectively. Saint Lucia was placed under a Tropical Storm Warning from 5:00 am (local time)on 26th until 11:00 am on 28th September.

The following impacts were associated with TS Kirk: Major damage to the Agricultural sector- 80% loss of Banana and Plantain crops; damage to school buildings estimated at EC \$1.2 M; disruption of electricity and telecommunications services; closure of schools; damage to wind instrument at Hewanorra Met Office and disruption of near shore activities as a result of rough seas.





On November 9 & 10, 2018, a combination of several Meteorological factors including an abundance of moisture, a highly unstable atmosphere (very high K index), a low to mid-level trough and strong upper level divergence resulted in very high rainfall amounts (in excess of 200 mm in 48 hrs) over most of the island and over 70 mm in 3hrs in several locations. This event caused flooding and few landslides, which affected land transportation and caused delays to commuters. It was also responsible for a few fallen trees and disruption of potable water supply.





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2 Coordination with emergency managers and other stakeholders

In preparation for Kirk prestrike meeting held at 4:00 p.m. on the 26th September and the SLMS issued advisories and warnings about the system while the island was under threat. All relevant protocols were activated and the island was well prepared for the passage of the system. In a similar way, warnings were issued in a timely manner and there was good coordination among all stake holders and the country was well prepared for the passage of the weather feature on 9th and 10th November 2018.

Lessons learned: A few of valuable lessons were derived from the events mentioned above:

- Backup communication System are necessary in preparing for adverse weather events. Interruption in both internal and external communication should be expected. The Internet almost certainly goes down during high impact weather events
- Technical problems can develop at any time and technicians should be available to rectify problems.
- It is necessary to have backup equipment
- Have contingency plans for staff during an emergency (relief may not arrive on time).