



[Near Normal Rainfall for March to May 2017](#)

Key Messages

- ✓ The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) March to May (MAM) 2017 rainfall outlook favours near normal rainfall across all of Trinidad and Tobago;
- ✓ This pattern is consistent with the typical rainfall patterns seen during El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral dry seasons;
- ✓ The chances are highest for near normal rainfall amounts over small areas of northeast Trinidad;
- ✓ The chances are highest for near normal rainfall amounts over small areas of southwest Tobago;
- ✓ March is forecasted to be the driest month of the period;
- ✓ Near normal rainfall during MAM is typically not a large amount of rainfall, since March and April are usually the driest and third driest months of the year respectively;
- ✓ Both day and night temperatures are predicted to be warmer than normal during MAM.

Likely Impacts

- ✓ Near normal rainfall during the MAM season will lead to reduction in water levels and flows;
- ✓ Increased browning of weeds, grass, bush and some forest species particularly during March and early April will increase bush and forest fire potential during these periods;
- ✓ Increase in the number, duration and intensity of consecutive very hot days and nights can lead to short duration hot spells;
- ✓ Increase in surface dryness can lead to an increase in dusty conditions which has the potential to negatively affect existing respiratory and other ailments.

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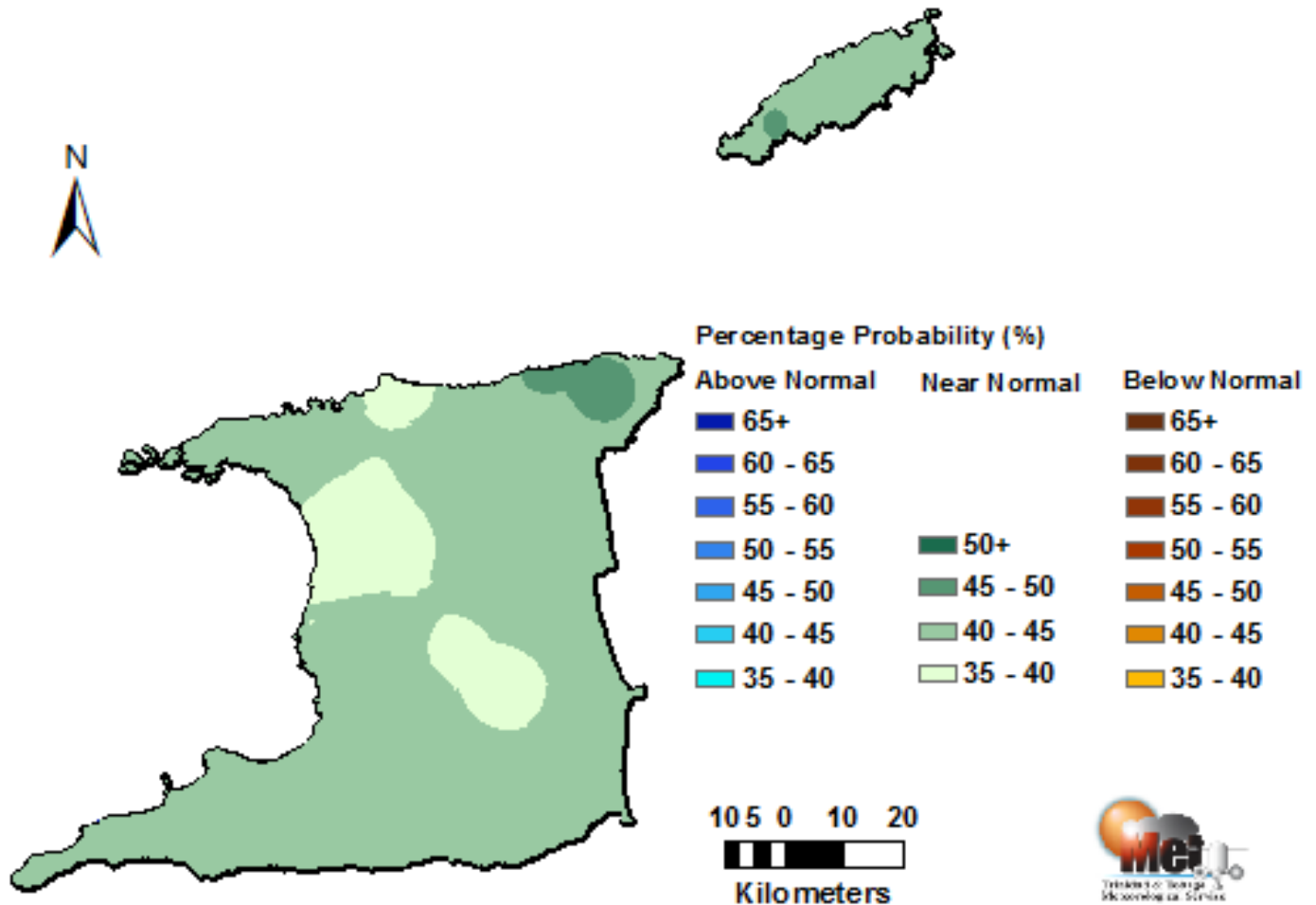


Figure 1: Category of rainfall likely for January 2017 to March 2017, with the highest chance of occurrence expressed as probabilities represented on the map. Blue areas indicate places with an increased chance for above normal rainfall, brown areas show an increased chance for below normal rainfall, while green areas show an increased chance for near rainfall. Normal is defined by the rainfall that was observed in middle one-third of the MAM seasons during the historical period used to produce the outlook.

- The TTMS rainfall outlook for March to May (MAM) 2017 indicates near normal accumulated rainfall totals as the most likely to occur over all of Trinidad and Tobago. This pattern is quite consistent with the average rainfall patterns seen in Trinidad and Tobago during previous neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) dry seasons;
- Probabilities are highest for near normal rainfall in the northeast Trinidad where the chances exceed 45 %;
- In Tobago, probabilities are highest for near normal rainfall in southwestern areas where the chances exceed 45 %.

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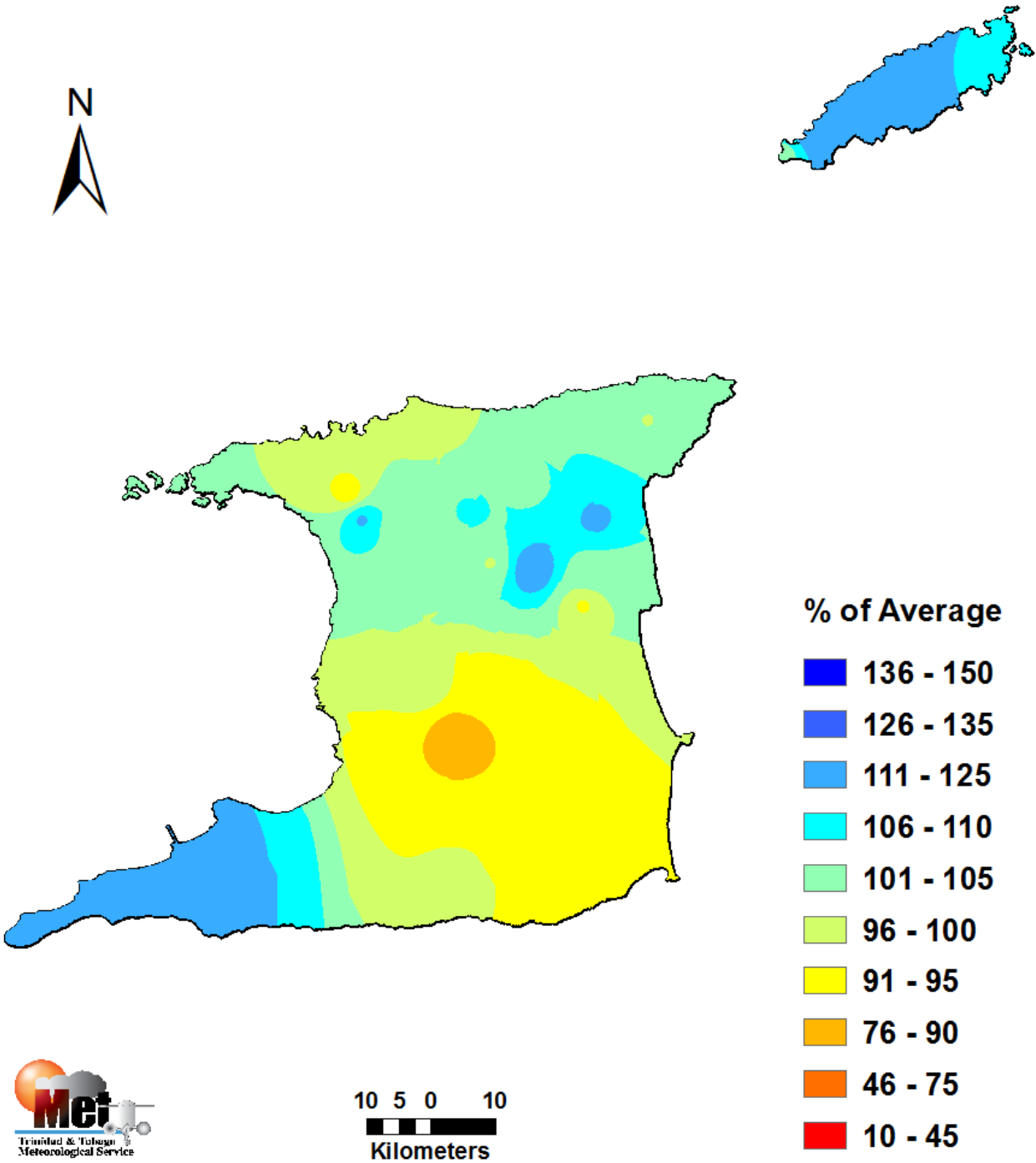


Figure 2: Percentage of average rainfall totals likely for March to May 2017

- ✓ The possible percentage of average rainfall totals for MAM ranges between 86% and 120% of the long term average (LTA) in Trinidad and between 102 % and 120% of the LTA in Tobago.

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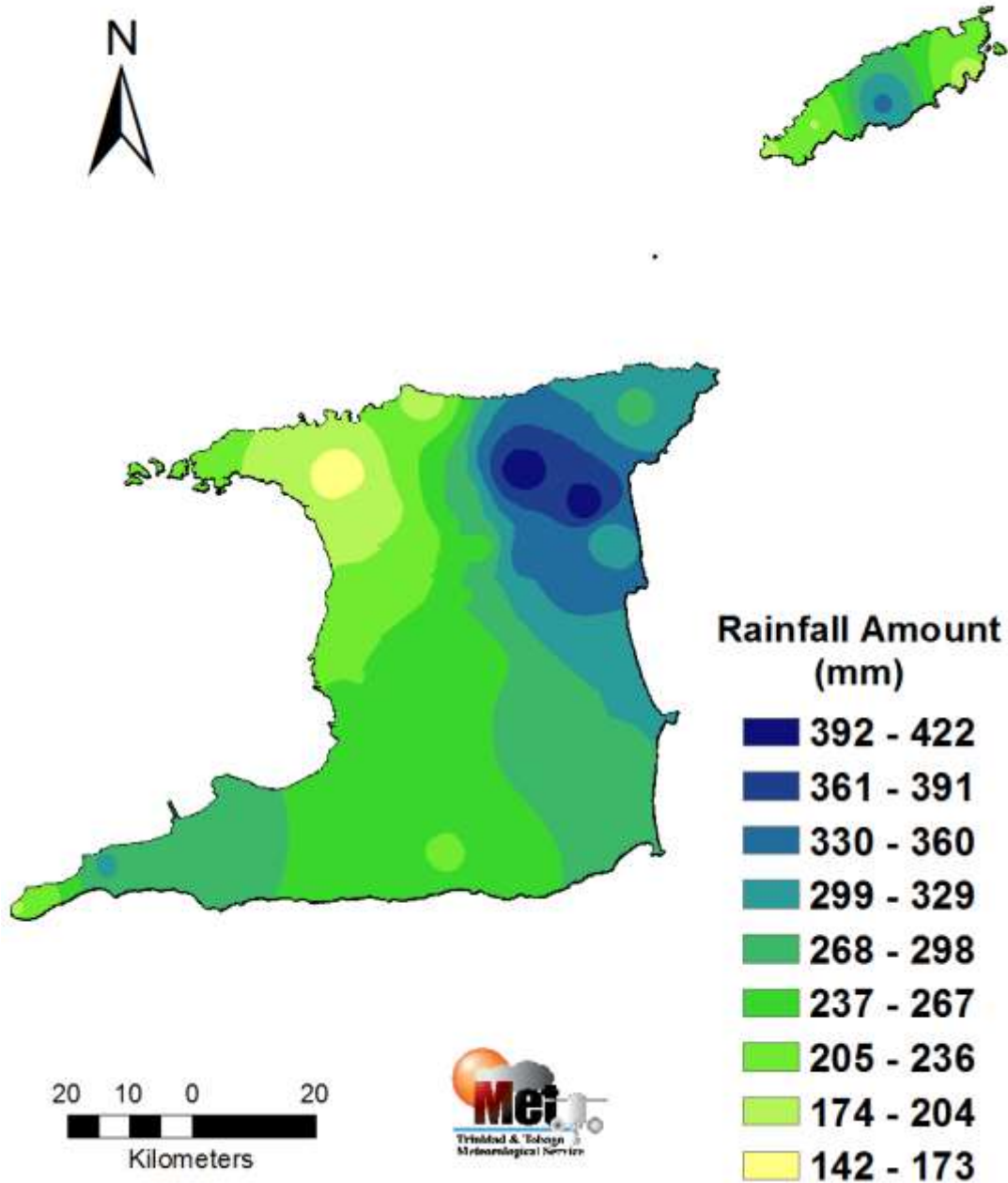


Figure 3: The TTMS outlook of possible rainfall accumulated totals for March to May 2017, with the highest chance of occurring.

- ✓ The largest rainfall accumulated totals for March to May 2017 are expected to occur in areas such as Valencia, Sangre Grande and Plum Mitan in northeast Trinidad where accumulated totals are likely to exceed 360 mm and near Mount Saint George in Tobago where they are likely to exceed 330.0 mm.

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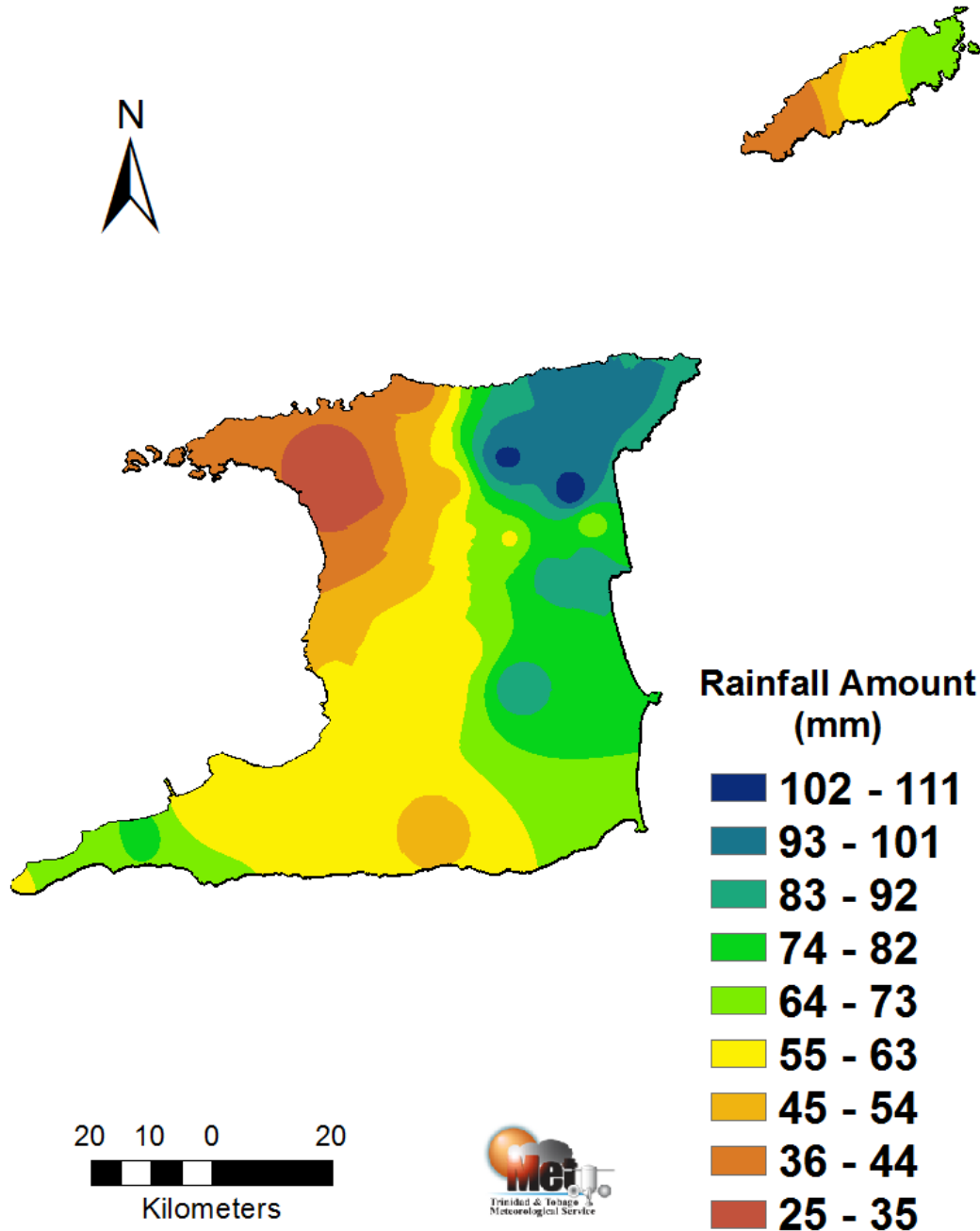


Figure 4: Possible rainfall totals for March 2017, with the highest chance of occurring.

- ✓ The month of March is likely to be the driest month within the MAM period with increased chances for short dry and hot spells. March rainfall totals are likely to be near 110 mm in small areas of northeast Trinidad but could get as low as 25 mm to 35 mm in parts of northwest Trinidad and southwest Tobago.

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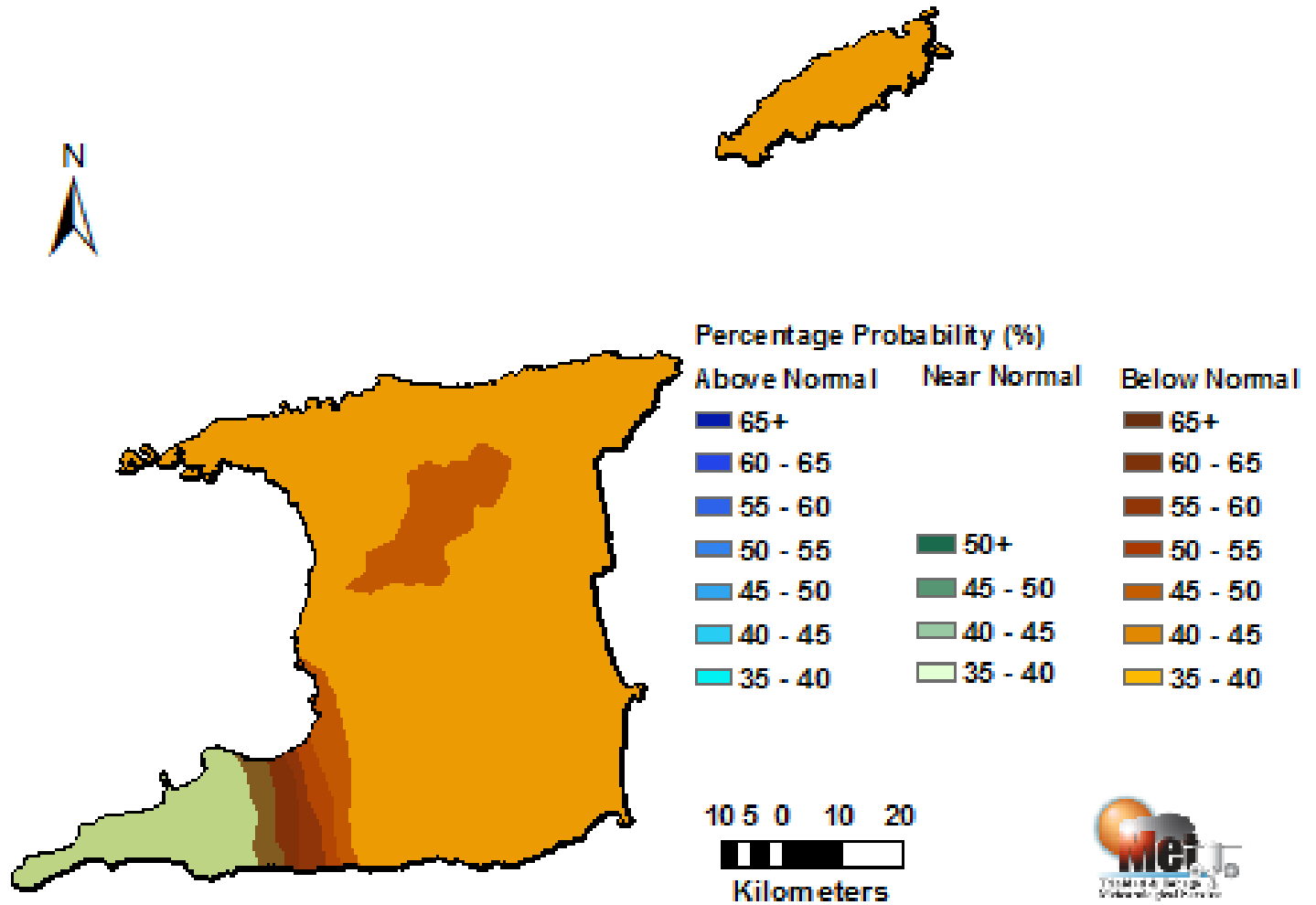


Figure 5. Category of rainfall likely for June to August (JJA) 2017 with the highest chance of occurrence expressed as probabilities. Blue areas indicate places with an increased chance for above normal rainfall, brown areas show an increased chance for below normal rainfall, while green areas show an increased chance for near rainfall. Normal is defined by the rainfall that was observed in middle one-third of the JJA seasons during the historical period used to produce the outlook.

The TTMS outlook for JJA 2017 favours below normal rainfall across Tobago and most of Trinidad. Near normal rainfall is favoured in southwestern Trinidad.

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The Temperature Outlook Favours Warmer than Normal Temperatures for March to May 2017

- ✓ Both day and night temperatures are forecasted to be warmer than normal over Trinidad and Tobago;
- ✓ Chances are high (85 %) for mean maximum temperatures to be warmer than average (greater than 32.2°C in Trinidad and 31.2°C in Tobago);
- ✓ Chances are high (75 %) for night-time minimum temperatures to be warmer than average (greater than 23.0°C in Trinidad and 24.0°C in Tobago). The lowest minimum temperatures are likely to range between 22.5°C and 23.5°C during March and April;
- ✓ **March:** High chance (73 %) for maximum temperatures warmer than 32.0°C at Piarco, warmer than 31.0°C at Crown Point;
- ✓ **April :** High chance (75%) for maximum temperatures warmer than 32.5°C at Piarco, warmer than 31.5°C at Crown Point;
- ✓ **May:** Moderate chance (80%) for maximum temperatures warmer than 32.3°C at Piarco, and 31.3°C at Crown Point.

Likely Outcomes for Near Normal Rainfall and Warmer than Normal Temperatures

- ✓ Near normal rainfall during the MAM season will lead to reduction in water levels and flows;
- ✓ Crop conditions during March to May will be very variable, while increased browning of weeds, grass, bush and some forest species are expected, particularly during March;
- ✓ Reduced rainfall and hotter conditions will increase bush and forest fire potential especially during March & early April;
- ✓ Increase in the number, duration and intensity of consecutive very hot days and nights, which can lead to short duration hot spells;
- ✓ Increase in surface dryness can lead to an increase in dusty conditions, which can negatively affect existing respiratory and other ailments;
- ✓ Record temperatures are highly likely during MAM, but particularly during March and April.

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How Should You Respond?

Met Service advises that:

- ✓ Proper preparation especially for persons in at risk areas;
- ✓ Clear paths around dwellings in forested or high grass areas;
- ✓ Conserve, store and manage water in a safe and adequate manner. Use water wisely;
- ✓ Take measures to harvest rainfall especially for agriculture, when it occurs;
- ✓ Secure water in containers properly and get rid of potential mosquito breeding areas;
- ✓ Be watchful for extremely hot days and extended hot spells. Seek shade and drink lots of water;
- ✓ Relevant agencies and ministries are advised to take measures to safeguard against the negative effects of impactful dryness;
- ✓ Be vigilant and visit the Met. Service website regularly to keep up to date with local weather changes (www.metoffice.gov.tt). Also download our free app.

Climatic Influencers and Context of the Outlook

Climatic Influences:

- ✓ The current outlook reflects warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in waters east of Trinidad and Tobago and near average to warmer than average SSTs in the Tropical Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Warmer than average SSTs in waters surrounding Trinidad and Tobago are forecasted to continue into May 2017 and this increases the potential for local rainfall occurrence.
- ✓ Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions on the warm side currently exist in the central and east-central Pacific Ocean with near to above average SSTs that are favoured to continue warming during the remainder of the local dry season. Neutral ENSO on the warm side exerts some influence on Trinidad and Tobago climate, particularly rainfall, with reduced rainfall typically observed during such a phase. Therefore, the outlook reflects some of the neutral-ENSO impacts.
- ✓ The North Atlantic Oscillation is trending towards its negative phase after remaining in positive phase during February. The negative phase tends to enhance local rainfall occurrence.

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