



[Near Normal Rainfall for February to April 2017](#)

[Key Messages](#)

- ✓ Near normal and slightly cooler conditions are forecasted for February to April (FMA) 2017;
- ✓ The chances are highest for near normal rainfall amounts over Trinidad and Tobago;
- ✓ February is forecasted to be the second driest month of the period;
- ✓ Near normal rainfall during FMA is typically not significant rainfall, since February and March usually generate small amounts of rainfall;
- ✓ Both day and night temperatures are predicted to be warmer than normal over Trinidad and Tobago during FMA.

[Likely Impacts](#)

- ✓ Near normal rainfall may not be sufficient to replenish water reservoir levels optimally thereby increasing the need to collect and store water in containers, which can increase breeding areas for mosquitoes;
- ✓ Drier and hotter conditions will increase hot spells, bush and forest fire potential, especially during late February and March;
- ✓ Agricultural conditions during February to April will be highly variable particularly during late February to March when drier and hotter conditions can increase the chance for heat and water stress;
- ✓ Increase in surface dryness can lead to an increase in dusty conditions which can negatively affect existing respiratory and other ailments;
- ✓ Prevalence of vector borne related diseases especially in February.

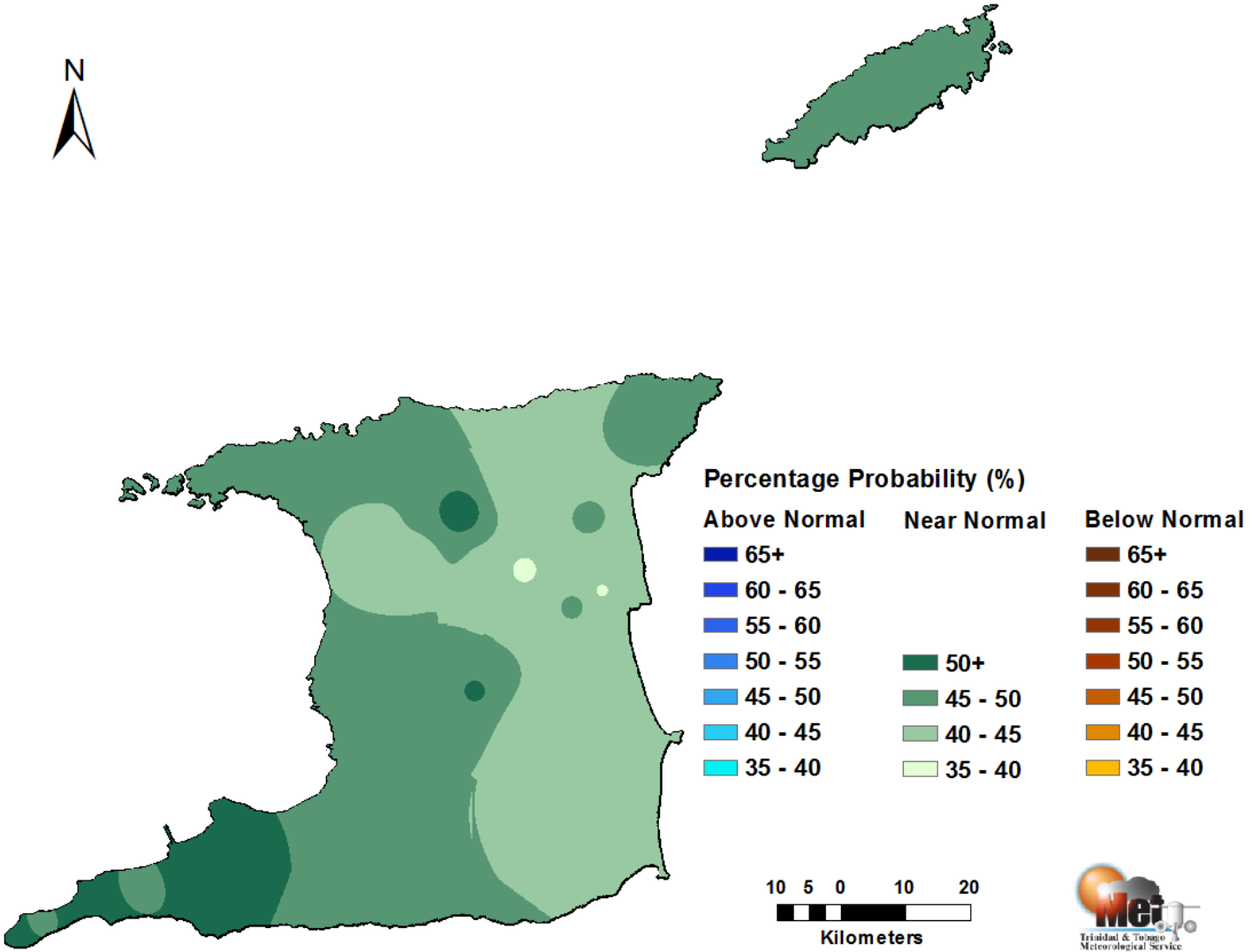


Figure 1: Category of rainfall likely for February to April 2017, with the highest chance of occurrence expressed as probabilities.

- ✓ The FMA 2017 rainfall outlook shows highest probabilities for near normal rainfall across Trinidad and Tobago.
- ✓ The month of February is likely to be the second driest month with decreased chances for water availability.

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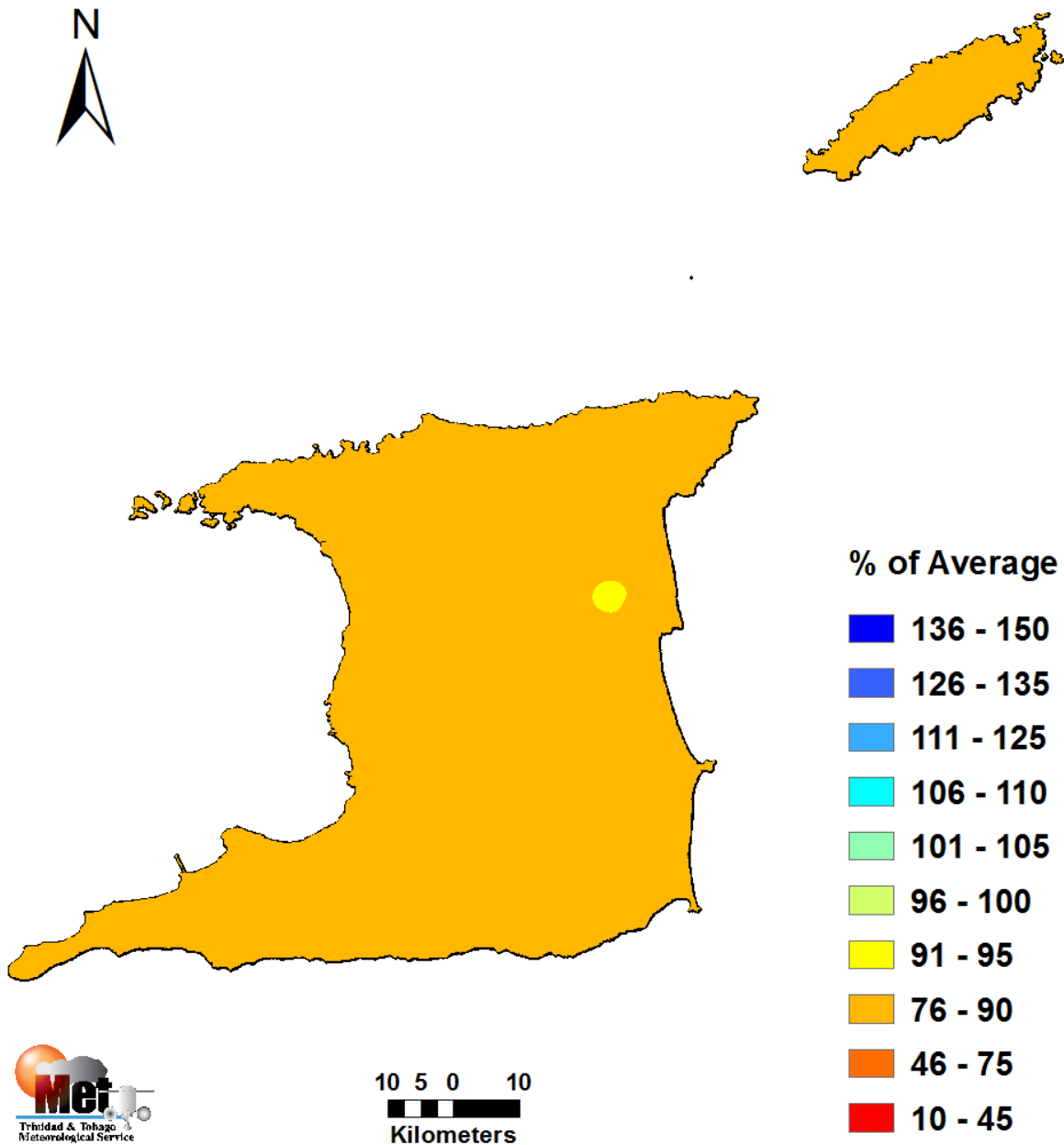


Figure 2: Percentage of average rainfall totals likely for February to April 2017

- ✓ The possible percentage of average rainfall expected for FMA is upward of 76% of the long term average (LTA) in Trinidad and Tobago.

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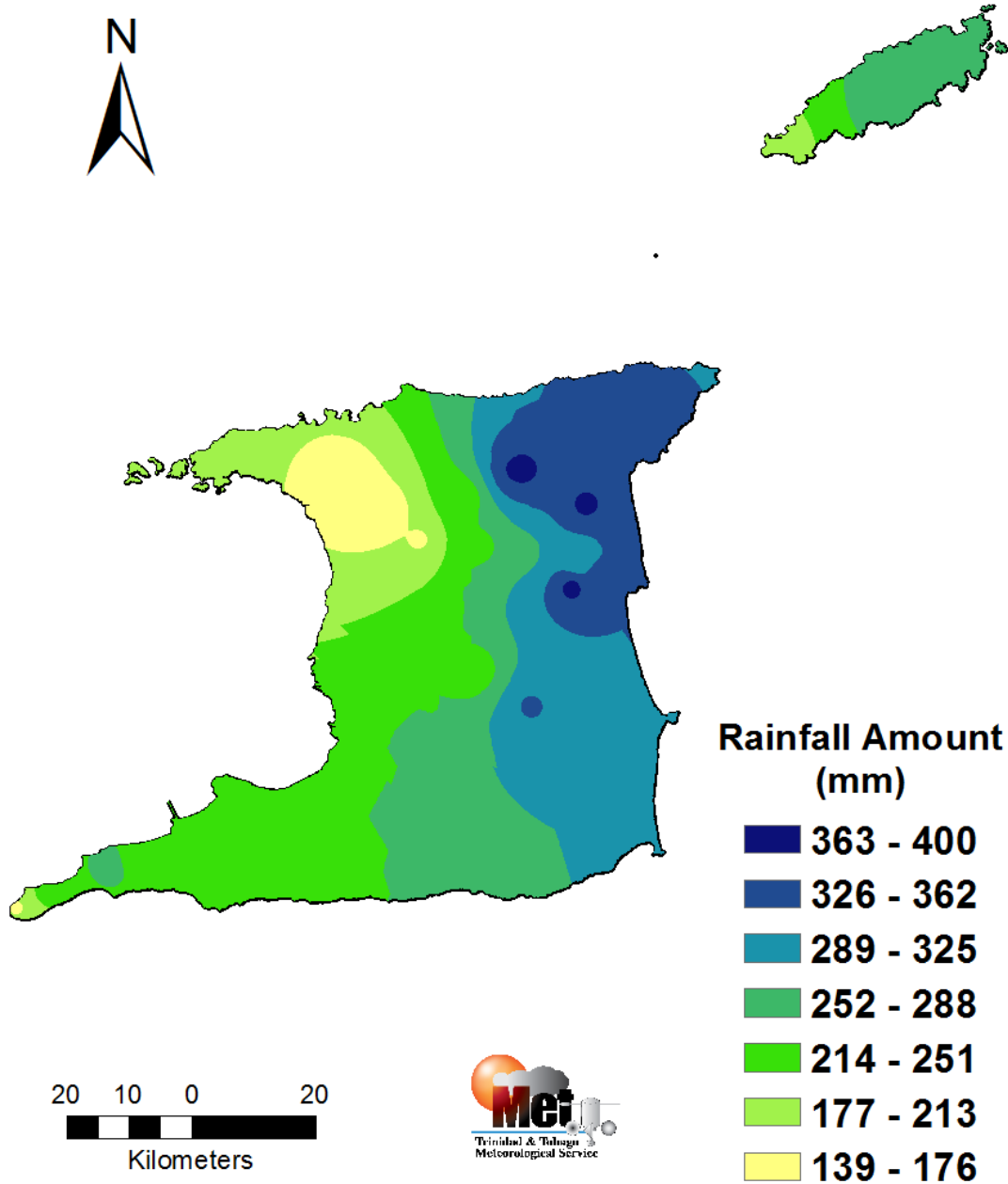


Figure 3: Possible rainfall totals for February to April 2017, with the highest chance of occurring.

- ✓ The largest rainfall accumulated totals for February to April 2017 are expected to occur in areas such as Plum Mitan, Valencia and Sangre Grande in northeast Trinidad and in Main Ridge Forest Reserve and other areas of northeast Tobago.

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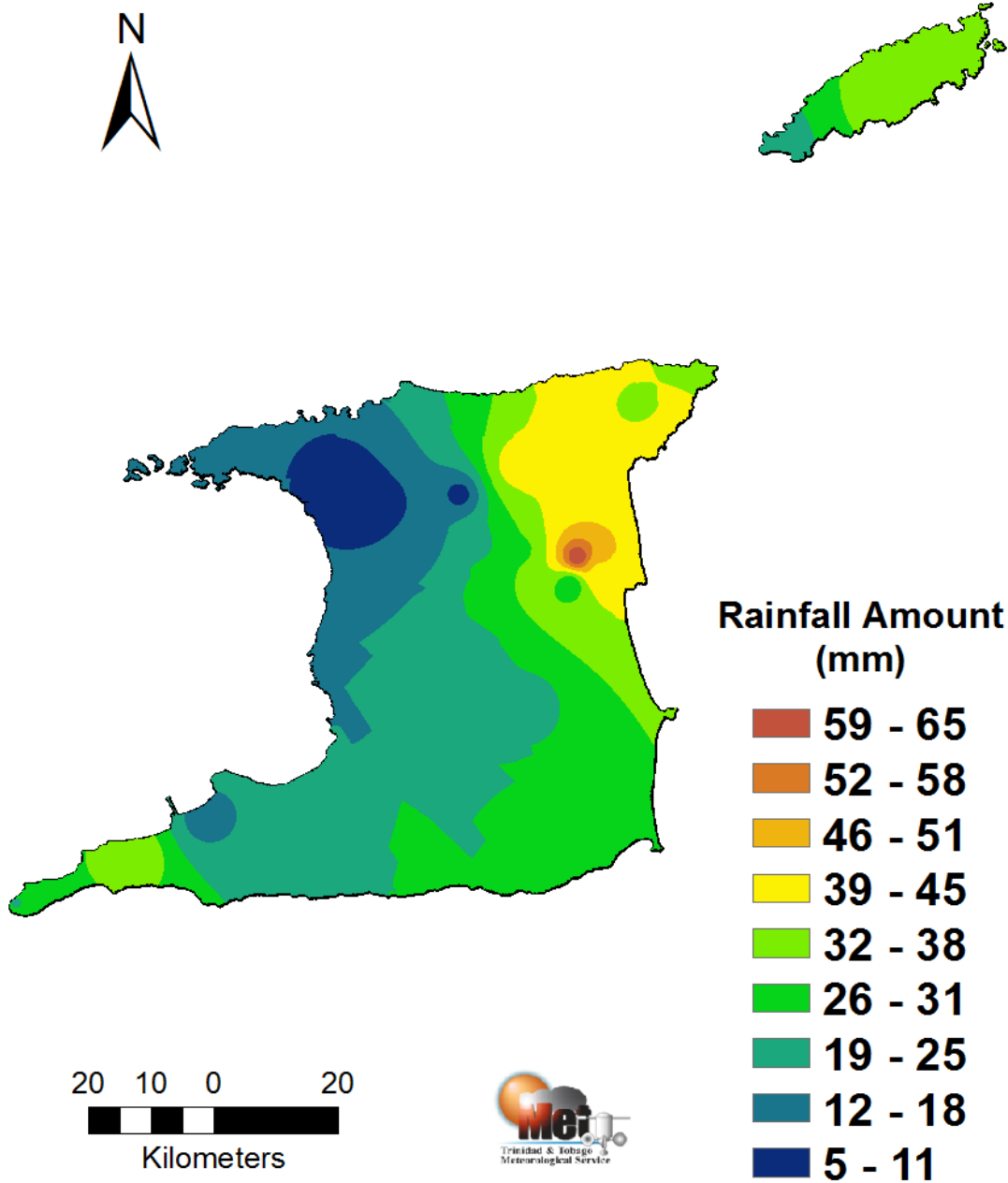


Figure 4: Possible rainfall totals for February 2017, with the highest chance of occurring.

- ✓ During FMA, the month of February is likely to be the second driest month with northeast Trinidad and northeast Tobago likely to receive the most rainfall.

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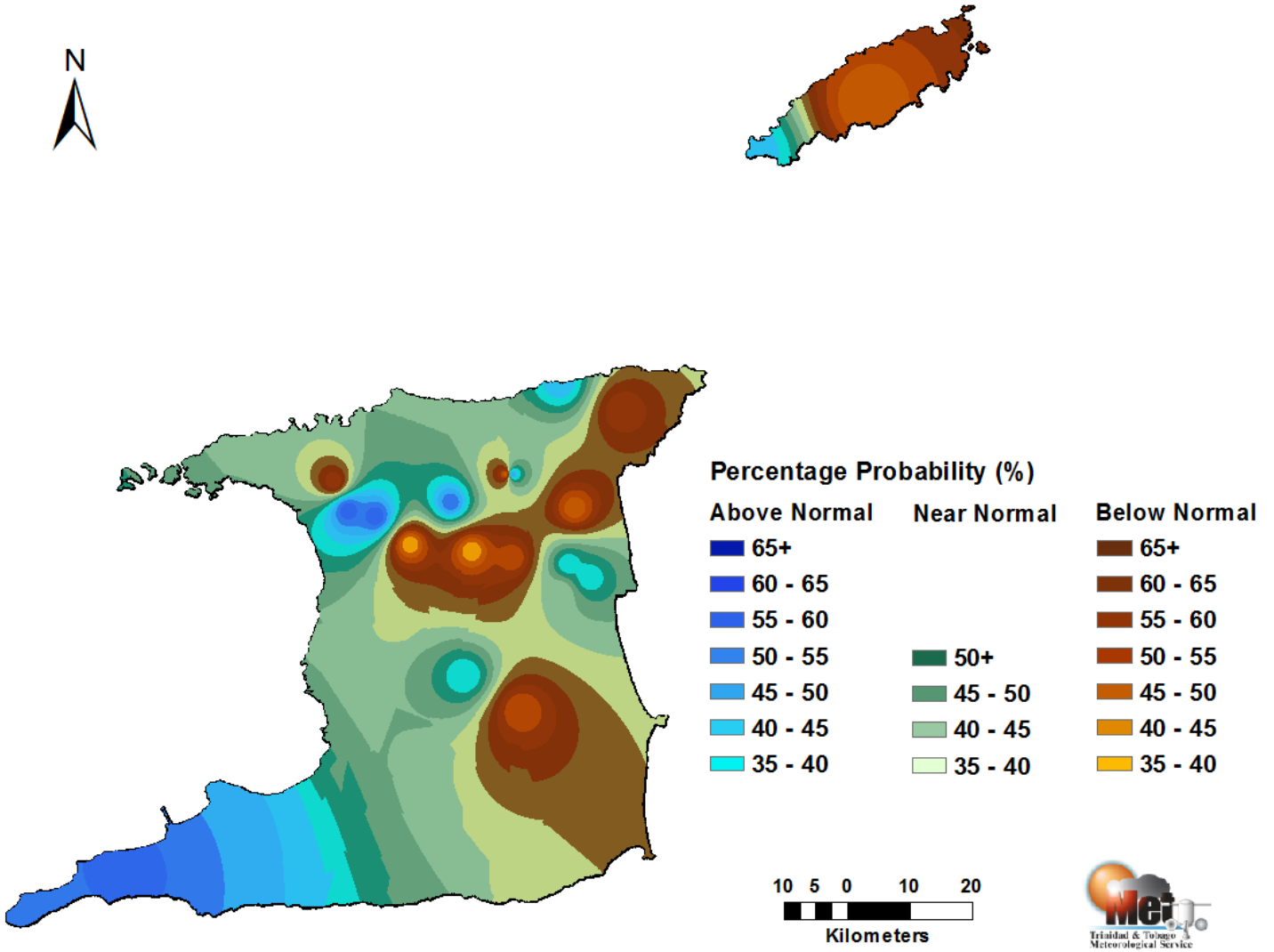


Figure 5. Category of rainfall likely for May to July 2017 with the highest chance of occurrence expressed as probabilities. The outlook shows mostly above normal to normal rainfall is favoured in most parts of Trinidad, while mostly below normal is favoured in Tobago.

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Warmer than Normal Temperatures for February to April 2017

- ✓ Both day and night temperatures are forecasted to be warmer than normal over Trinidad and Tobago;
- ✓ Chances are high (80 %) for mean maximum temperatures to be warmer than average (greater than 32.5⁰C in Trinidad and 30.5⁰C in Tobago);
- ✓ Chances are high (80 %) for night-time minimum temperatures to be warmer than average (23.3⁰C). Minimum temperatures are likely to get as low as 22.0⁰C during February;
- ✓ **February:** High chance (71 %) for maximum temperatures warmer than 32.0⁰C at Piarco, warmer than 30.1⁰C at Crown Point;
- ✓ **March:** High chance (92%) for maximum temperatures warmer than 32.8⁰C at Piarco, warmer than 31.0⁰C at Crown Point;
- ✓ **April:** Moderate chance (80%) for maximum temperatures warmer than 33.0 ⁰C at Piarco, and 31.4⁰C at Crown Point.

Likely Outcomes for Near Normal Rainfall and Warmer than Normal Temperatures

- ✓ Improved rainfall performance expected in the 2017 dry season may not be sufficient to replenish water reservoir levels optimally;
- ✓ Increase in the need to collect and store water in containers, which can increase breeding areas for mosquitoes;
- ✓ Crop conditions during February to April will be very variable particularly during late February to March when drier and hotter conditions can increase the chance for heat and water stress,
- ✓ Increase browning of weeds, grass, bush and some forest species are expected as the season progresses;
- ✓ Drier and hotter conditions will increase bush and forest fire potential;
- ✓ 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 the dry season especially for the month of March.

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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).

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 cooler than average SSTs in Niño 3.4 monitoring region.
- ✓ Warmer than to near average SSTs in waters surrounding Trinidad and Tobago are forecasted to continue into April 2017 and this increases the potential for local rainfall occurrence.
- ✓ Weak La Niña conditions currently existing in the central and east-central Pacific Ocean are favoured to transition to neutral conditions during February 2017 but weak La Niña-like signal should still affect local rainfall in FMA.

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