



## PRESS RELEASE

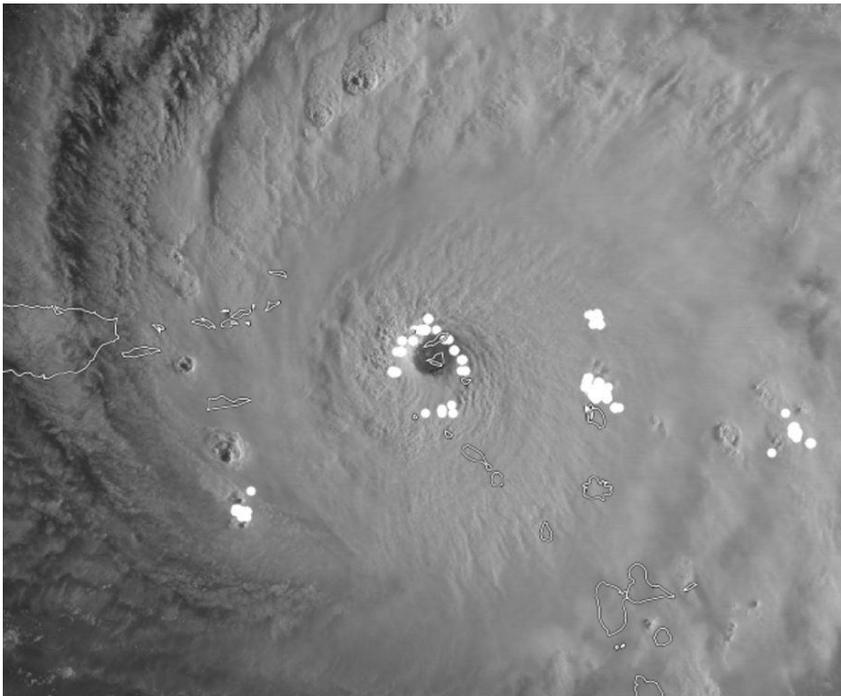
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### The 2018 hurricane season is expected to be less active than in 2017

Willemstad – The latest outlook for the coming hurricane season, issued by the Colorado State University, shows that this year thirteen (13) storms with a name will develop over the Atlantic Basin (North Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea). Six (6) of these are expected to become hurricanes and two (2) major hurricanes (category 3 or higher). The expected activity for this year will be close to the average of twelve (12) named storms, 6.5 hurricanes and two (2) major hurricanes.

For Curaçao the previous season started very early, when on June 18<sup>th</sup> an active tropical wave developed into Tropical Storm *Bret*. During the afternoon of June 20, *Bret* weakened back to a tropical wave and that same evening this system moved over Curaçao. The wind temporarily increased a lot on our island and in some locations some damage was caused. The Meteo automatic weather station on the Seru Kokori measured a gust of 90 km/h that evening, which is equivalent to intense tropical storm force.

Hurricane *Irma* developed at the end of August and became a very dangerous category five hurricane. The eye passed exactly over Sint Maarten on September 6. Although the number of deaths on this island was fortunately low, the material damage was extensive. The weather station of the Meteorological Department Sint Maarten (MDS) at the airport suffered serious damage. In the context of cooperation, the MDC then sent a portable station to that island to help the MDS. This allowed commercial flights to be carried out again.



*Satellite image of Hurricane Irma while its eye was located right over St. Maarten on September 6, 2017 at 7:30 A.M. The white dots represent lightning discharges.*

Furthermore, on September 10, 2017, the MDC received a visit from our head of state, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander. He came to the Meteo to obtain official information about the impact of Hurricane *Irma* on St. Maarten. Besides that he was also briefed about the expected weather on the SSS Islands that he would visit the next day.

As usual, the MDC, in close cooperation with the National Hurricane Center, will monitor all tropical cyclones that pose a threat to its area of responsibility (Curaçao, the associated

airspace and the sea around our island). If necessary, the MDC will start issuing Tropical Cyclone

Messages (TCBs) 120 hours (five days) before a possible threat. These messages have a color code to clarify the seriousness of the threat in this way.



# Warning System for Tropical Cyclones



PHASE	DEFINITIONS:
	No hazard
Information -- Be alert! --	Tropical cyclone poses possible threat within next 120 hours
Watch --Prepare yourself! --	Tropical cyclone conditions are possible within next 48 hours
Warning -- Protect yourself! --	Tropical cyclone conditions are expected within next 36 hours
Strike -- Seek shelter! --	Tropical cyclone conditions are imminent within next 6 hours

The names reserved for this year's tropical storms and hurricanes are: *Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Hélène, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Raphael, Sara, Tony, Valerie* and *William*. This year too we had an early start of the season with the development of Subtropical Storm *Alberto*. This formed on May 25<sup>th</sup> near the Mexican peninsula of Yucatan.

The Meteorological Department Curaçao, as the official authority, reminds everyone that whether or not it will be a quiet or active season, in the event our island is threatened, one should only consult official messages, such as those of the Meteo on its website (<http://www.meteo.cw>), the Curaçao Weather app, its Facebook page and of course also the messages from the Communication and Information Department of the Curaçao government.

