



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA

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OCTOBER 2008: A WET MONTH

Observations indicate that October 2008 was a very wet month in the ABC Islands. In Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao a lot of rain fell, especially due to the presence nearby of tropical storm *Omar*.

A month rainfall total of 279.8 mm was measured at the *Aeropuerto Reina Beatrix* in Aruba, which is a new record for this station for the month of October. Most of the rain fell on October 14 and 15 when a little more than 100 mm was measured over a period of 24 hours. The old record of 214.3 mm was established in October 1990. The October average rainfall at the Aruban airport is 65 mm. Balashi was an even wetter place where at the WEB water desalination and power plant, a rainfall total was measured of not less than 396 mm. This is a new record for this spot as well and the old record was established in October 1954 when hurricane *Hazel* passed just north of the ABC Islands.

Bonaire also participated in this wet series of events. A lot of rain fell on this island as well and here too the proximity of *Omar* was responsible for most of the rain. A monthly sum of 196.2 mm was measured at the Flamingo Airport. The October average rainfall for this station is 67.3 mm. At the BOPEC N.V. oil storage terminal, an amount of 265.6 mm was measured in the same period. In other sections of Bonaire, the rainfall sum varied between 150 and 250 mm.

Curaçao could not stay behind and here too October was a wet month. The month sum of 211.4 mm which was measured at Hato Airport however was no new record amount. The record was established in October 1988 when a sum of 373.1 mm was measured here. The average rainfall for October at Hato Airport is 83.7 mm. Preliminary numbers indicate that the wettest part of Curaçao during October 2008 was the northwestern region of *Bandabou* where the highest amounts of rain were observed in San Juan (301.1 mm) and Zumbu (278.5 mm). In other parts of the island, the month totals varied between 140 and 280 mm.

October, according to climatology, is the month with the largest amount of days with thunder in the ABC Islands. This year thunder was heard in Curaçao on at least fifteen days. Only in 1990 (23 days) and in 1976 (17 days) more days with thunder were observed in October.
