



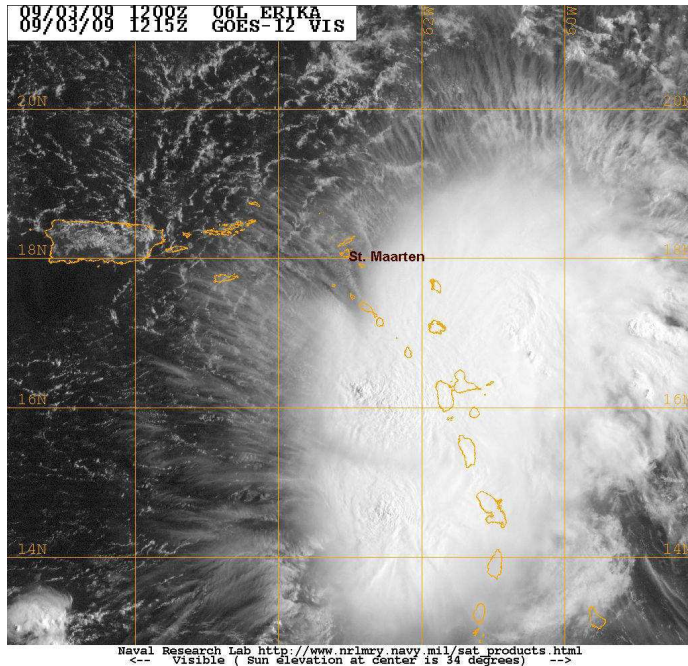
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PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 2009: A LACK OF HURRICANES AND MAINLY DRY

After a rather busy August, the normally most active month of the hurricane season (September) was rather tranquil. Not more than three tropical cyclones developed during last month and only one of these, *Fred*, reached hurricane intensity. As far as the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are concerned, tropical storm *Erika* was of significance since the threat of this system made the issuance of a Tropical Storm Warning necessary.



Just like tropical storm *Ana* in the middle of August, tropical storm *Erika* also weakened as this system was approaching the northeastern Caribbean Area. *Erika* formed during the evening of September 1 and, as it approached the eastern Caribbean, it caused strong winds in the SSS Islands. During the morning of September 3, the center of *Erika* passed at a distance of about 45 miles south of Saba. Tropical storm force winds were not observed in the SSS Islands. A few areas with heavy rain were observed at that time mainly east of the center of *Erika* but these weakened as they got closer so St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba. *Erika* weakened that same afternoon to a weak disturbance and the Tropical Storm Warning was discontinued at that time.

Both Hurricane *Fred* and Tropical Depression *Eight* developed near the Cape Verde Islands. *Fred* formed on September 7 and two days later, it briefly (half a day) became a category three hurricane. Soon, strong and unfavorable upper-level winds caused this system to weaken. Tropical Depression *Eight* developed on September 25 and, without becoming a tropical storm, was

Most of the showers associated with *Erika* were located east of the center and southeast of the SSS Islands.

Source: NRLMRY

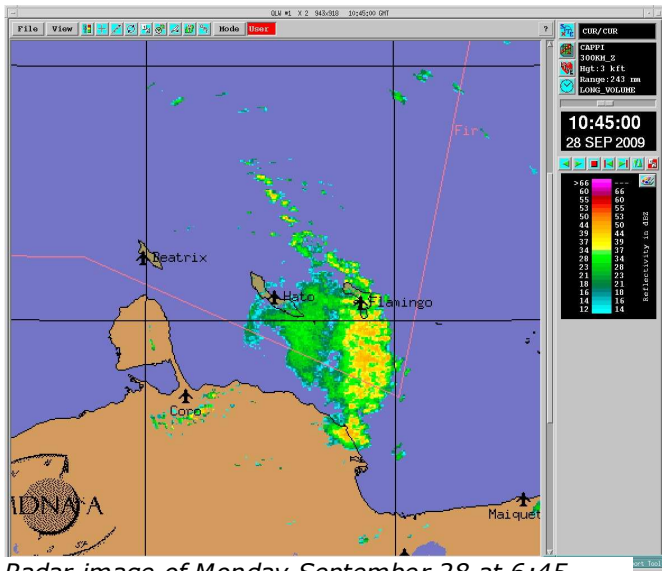
history within 24 hours for the same reason as *Fred*.

Rainfall:

In September 2009, the weather in the ABC Islands was generally dry. During the evening of September 15 and the next day however, a thunderstorm cluster which was part of a larger disturbance, spread from the coast of northern Venezuela in northwesterly direction. Around midnight, it caused mainly in Bonaire and Curaçao a strong southerly wind, accompanied by a noticeable drop in the temperature. Most of the associated rain however stayed offshore. For this reason dry weather prevailed in Curaçao, while in Bonaire the observed rainfall was generally less than 5 mm. During the afternoon of September 16 and early in the following morning, a few rain and thundershowers were observed over Aruba. During the morning of the 17th an amount of 28.5 mm was measured in Oranjestad (Ponton).

Another thunderstorm cluster developed during the evening of September 27 over northern Venezuela. This system would bring much more rain to especially Bonaire during the following morning. A warning bulletin for heavy rain was issued for Bonaire at that time. In Curaçao too especially the eastern half received a good amount of rain (locally more than 25 mm). The rain gauge at Flamingo Airport in Bonaire received 71.8 mm from this event, while elsewhere on the island good amounts of rain were measured as well. Aruba stayed generally dry on this day.

September ended with a monthly sum of 72.9 mm at the airport of Bonaire, which is almost twice as much as the monthly average of 37.0 mm. At Hato Airport in Curaçao, the monthly sum was only 13.7 mm, which is 72% below the monthly average of 48.6 mm. As much as 98% of that monthly sum fell during the morning of September 28.



Radar image of Monday September 28 at 6:45 hours local time, showing a large area with heavy thunderstorms south of Bonaire. These showers were moving from south to north.

As is usually the case, the Meteorological Service will closely monitor the development of tropical disturbances and, in case it's necessary, warnings will be issued for the local authorities and population of the islands.

Besides the rain caused by tropical storm *Erika* during the start of the month, there was also a tropical wave which brought a significant amount of rain in St. Maarten during the afternoon of September 19. An amount of 23.2 mm was measured at Princess Juliana Airport during the next morning. Despite this rain, September 2009 ended at this airport with a monthly sum of 83.7 mm, which is 40% drier than average (139.6 mm).

The rainfall outlook for the ABC Islands during the period October through December 2009 continues to be about the same. The latest forecast indicates that the chance of a normal or drier than normal rainy season is 75 to 80 percent. For the SSS Islands, near normal rainfall amounts are still foreseen for the same period.