

The Barbados Meteorological Services operates as a self-contained department within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Its basic public interest functions are funded by the Barbados Government.

All the activities of the Meteorological Services are directed at the following important national goals, among others:

- \* Safety of life and property
- \* Reduction of the social and economic impacts of natural disasters.
- \* Community health, recreation and quality of life.
- \* Provision for the need of future generations.
- \* Preservation and enhancement of the quality of the environment.

#### Mission Statement

To observe and understand the weather and climate of Barbados and the region, and provide meteorological, hydrological and marine services in support of the national needs and international obligations.

The separate basic missions are:

#### Monitoring

Observation and data collection to meet the needs of present and future generations for reliable and homogeneous national climatological data;

#### Research

Research directed to the advancement of the science of meteorology and the development of a comprehensive description and scientific understanding of Barbados weather and climate;

#### Services

Provision of meteorological and related data, information, forecast, warning and advisory services on a national basis;

To meet the needs of the general public and specialized users for relevant and timely weather data, information, forecast and warning services:

- (a) The taking and recording of meteorological observations and other observations required for the purposes of meteorology.
- (b) The forecasting of weather and the state of the atmosphere.
- (c) The issue of warnings of gales, storms, and other weather conditions likely to endanger life, destroy property or resources.
- (d) The supply of meteorological information.

#### International

Coordination of Barbados involvement in regional and international meteorology.

The overall objective of this organization is to meet the needs of all Barbadians for the meteorological information, understanding and services that are essential for their safety, security and general well-being, as well as to ensure that meteorological data and knowledge are effectively applied to Barbados' national and international goals.

Through programmes such as monitoring and prediction, data processing, weather services, climate services, hydrological services and international activities, the Barbados Meteorological Services seek to achieve its objectives.

Aviation weather services, provided to airlines and Air Traffic support units have been established and maintained for over 30 years. Large numbers of meteorological observations are being provided together with specialized briefing and many aviation weather output products and services. This is ultimately dependent on the quality and long-term continuity of its basic national meteorological monitoring and prediction infrastructure. The same basic observation and data collection systems and infrastructure which are required to support day-to-day weather services to the community at large, also provide the continuous, homogenous long-term national climate record that will be needed by future generations for planning and design, and for detection and monitoring of climate variability and change over various timescales.

Included in the monitoring and prediction programme are components such as observations, communications, computing, analysis and prediction. The provision of weather services to the public and other specific user groups such as aviation, shipping, recreation and tourism, has been paramount over the years. Flood, severe weather and other special weather warnings are provided as a public good exercise.

Of the programmes mentioned, the Public weather services is perhaps the most visible to most Barbadians, providing current weather information and forecasts for up to four days. Public Weather Forecasts are issued and updated three times daily.