

Tropical Cyclone Chantal (AL032013)

Event Briefing

*Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd
Facility Supervisor*

11 July 2013

1 INTRODUCTION

On 7 July 2013, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) produced a weather outlook on a tropical wave which later developed into Tropical Storm Chantal over the central tropical Atlantic Ocean moving speedily in a west-northwestward direction towards the Lesser Antilles. Tropical Storm warnings and watches were in effect for many of the islands of the Lesser Antilles.

By 5am on 8 July 2013, Chantal was located about 75 miles (120km) east of Barbados with maximum sustained winds of 50mph (85 km/h). Later that morning, the 11am weather outlook reported Chantal moving between Martinique and Saint Lucia with maximum sustained winds increased to 60mph (95 km/h).

In the afternoon of the same day, Chantal was moving rapidly into the eastern Caribbean Sea heading towards Hispaniola. Later that night, Chantal passed south of Puerto Rico, about 215 miles (345 km) south of San Juan, Puerto Rico and about 330 miles (530 km) southeast of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Chantal became disorganised by 9 July 2013 and began to weaken as the storm was located 270 miles (430 km/h) east southeast of Jamaica. Finding the centre of the storm became more difficult and Chantal degenerated into a tropical wave which could potentially still produce heavy rains and gusty winds. The Governments of Jamaica and The Bahamas discontinued all the remaining tropical storm watches and warnings with this final advisory from the NHC.

2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS

Under CCRIF's loss calculation protocol, a CCRIF Multi-Peril Risk Estimation System (MPRES) report is required for any tropical cyclone affecting at least one of the 16 member countries with winds of greater than 39 mph. Tropical Cyclone Chantal qualified as a reportable event with three countries experiencing at least Tropical Storm force winds.

The wind footprint (Figure 1) is one of the outputs from the CCRIF model. The modelled wind speed is consistent with surface wind speed estimates from NOAA-NHC. CCRIF will also be requesting ground-based wind and other storm information from the relevant national and/or regional meteorological agencies in order to further verify the modelled wind field and storm surge.

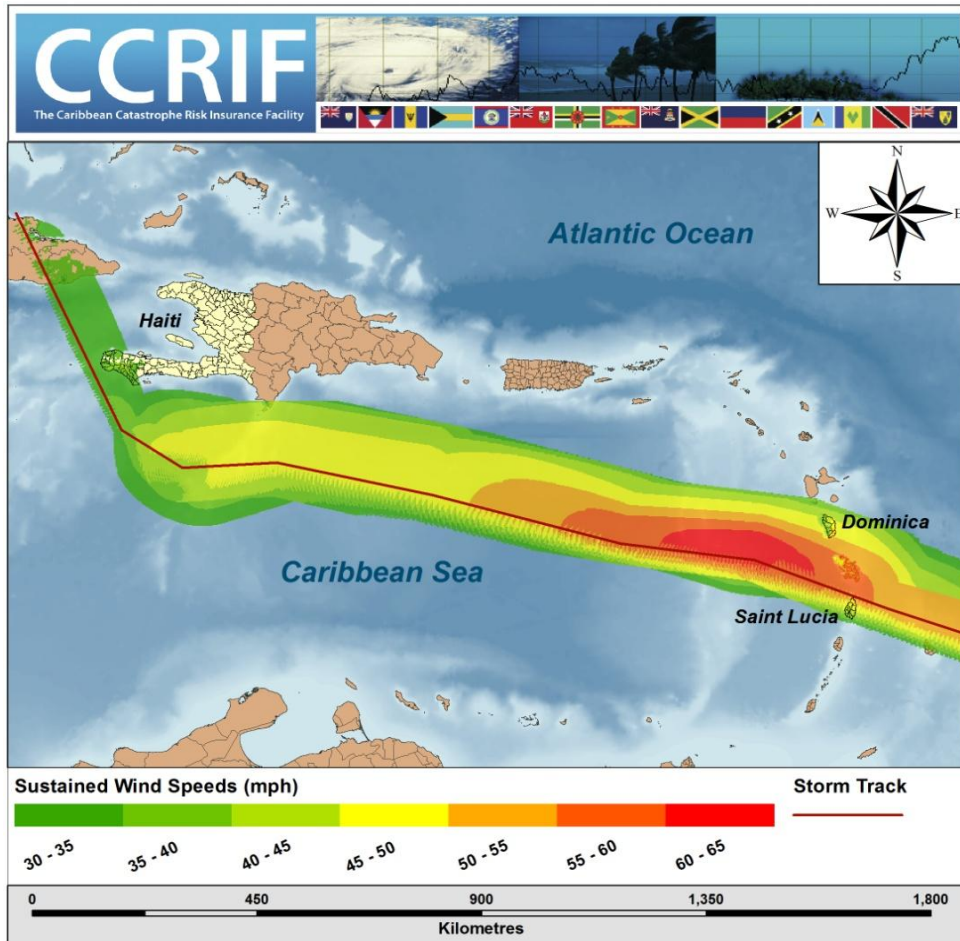


Figure 1 Map showing the path of Tropical Cyclone Chantal. *Source: NHC & CCRIF/KAC MPRES.*

3 IMPACTS

Based on the MPRES footprint, the CCRIF member countries affected by at least tropical storm force winds from Chantal were Dominica, Saint Lucia and Haiti. In Saint Lucia, the National Emergency Management Organisation confirmed preliminary reports of fallen trees, downed power lines, and some flooding mainly in the northern part of the island. In Dominica, the roofs of several homes were reported damaged or destroyed by the high winds caused by Chantal. Power outages also occurred and directly affected the water services to a number of communities. The Office of Disaster Management confirmed four major roads were closed as a result of landslides and also numerous fallen trees had impeded traffic. At the time of this report, indications were given that damage was quite limited in Haiti.

These reports are corroborated by preliminary runs of the CCRIF loss model that generated only small government losses in the affected countries, which in all cases were below each country's trigger level and therefore no payout is due.