

Tropical Cyclone Bertha (AL032014)

Event Briefing

*Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd
Facility Supervisor*

12 August 2014

1 INTRODUCTION

On 31 July 2014, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) produced a weather outlook on the development of Tropical Storm Bertha east of the southern Lesser Antilles. Tropical Storm warnings and watches were in effect for many of the islands of the Lesser Antilles.

By 1500 UTC on 1 August 2014, Bertha was located about 70 miles (110 km) northeast of Barbados with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 km/h). Later that day, the 2100 UTC weather outlook reported the centre of Bertha passing near the northern end of Martinique with maximum sustained winds still at 50 mph (85 km/h).

In the afternoon of 2 August 2014, a poorly organised Bertha was moving into the Mona Passage, about 110 miles (175 km) west southwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico and about 150 miles (240 km) east southeast of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. By 2400 UTC that day Bertha was moving over the eastern Dominican Republic.

By 1200 UTC on 3 August 2014, Bertha was located 45 miles (70 km) west of Grand Turk Island moving northwestward at 21 mph (33 km/h) with reduced maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km/h). The 1500 UTC weather outlook reported Bertha strengthening as it moved away from the Bahamas, with maximum sustained winds increasing to 65 mph (100 km/h).

Bertha became a category 1 hurricane on 4 August 2014. By 0900 UTC on 6 August 2014, Bertha had weakened and was moving quickly northwestward into the north Atlantic.

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 Bertha 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.

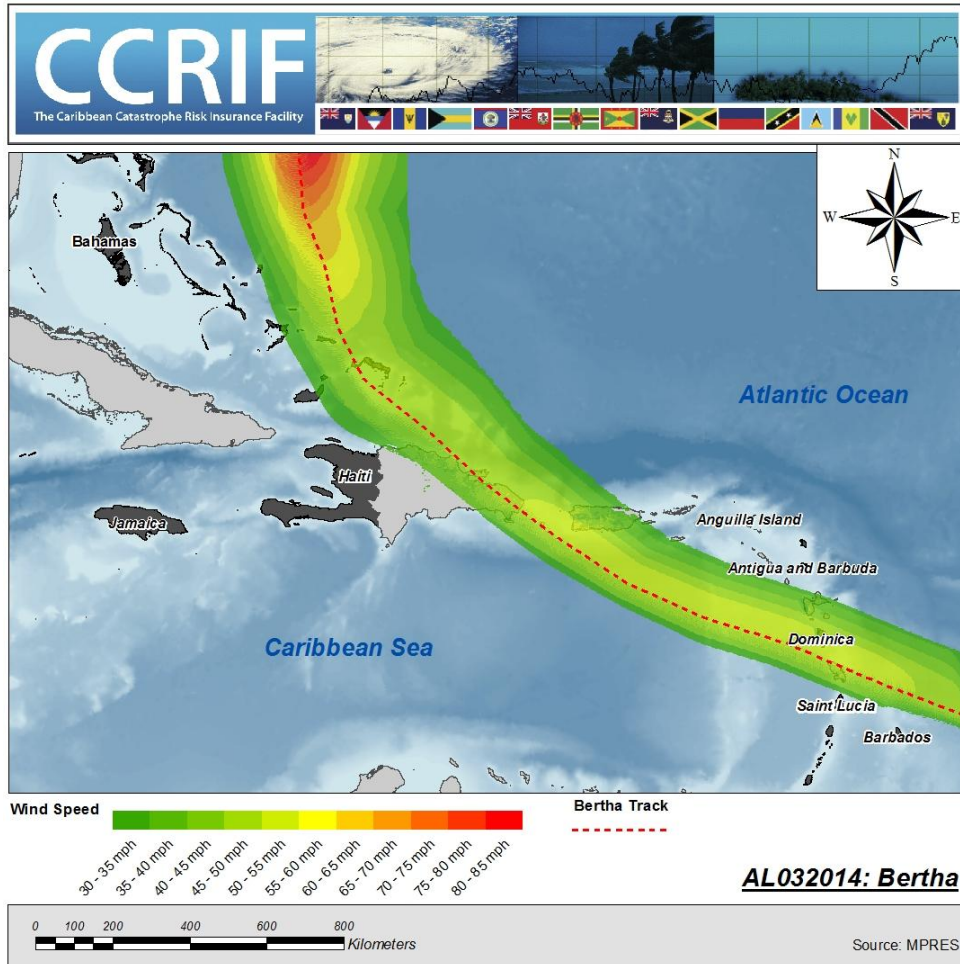


Figure 1 Map showing the path of Tropical Cyclone Bertha. *Source: NHC & CCRIF/KAC MPRES.*

3 IMPACTS

Based on the MPRES footprint, the CCRIF member countries affected by at least Tropical Storm force winds from Bertha were Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. In Dominica, hundreds of people were left without power in the island's eastern region. There was no reported significant damage in Turks and Caicos or the Bahamas

These reports were corroborated by preliminary runs of the CCRIF loss model that did not generate government losses in the affected countries and therefore no payout is due.