

Tropical Cyclone Cristobal (AL142014)

Event Briefing

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27 August 2014

1 INTRODUCTION

On 23 August 2014, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) produced a weather outlook on the development of a tropical depression over the Turks and Caicos Islands. Tropical storm warnings were issued for the Turks and Caicos Islands and portions of the Bahamas.

By 1020 UTC on 24 August 2014 the depression had strengthened to Tropical Storm Cristobal located about 40 miles (60 km) north northwest of Mayaguana Island.

At 2100 UTC on the same day, Cristobal was moving northward with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km/h). At this time heavy rainfall was affecting the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas but tropical storm warnings were discontinued for these regions. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for central Bahamas however.

By 2100 UTC on 25 August 2014 Cristobal was moving slowly away from the Bahamas with increased maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 km/h). A tropical storm watch was issued for Bermuda.

Cristobal became a Category 1 hurricane at 0020 UTC on 26 August 2014 about 660 miles (1065 km) southwest of Bermuda.

2 CCRIF SPC 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 Cristobal qualified as a reportable event with two 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.

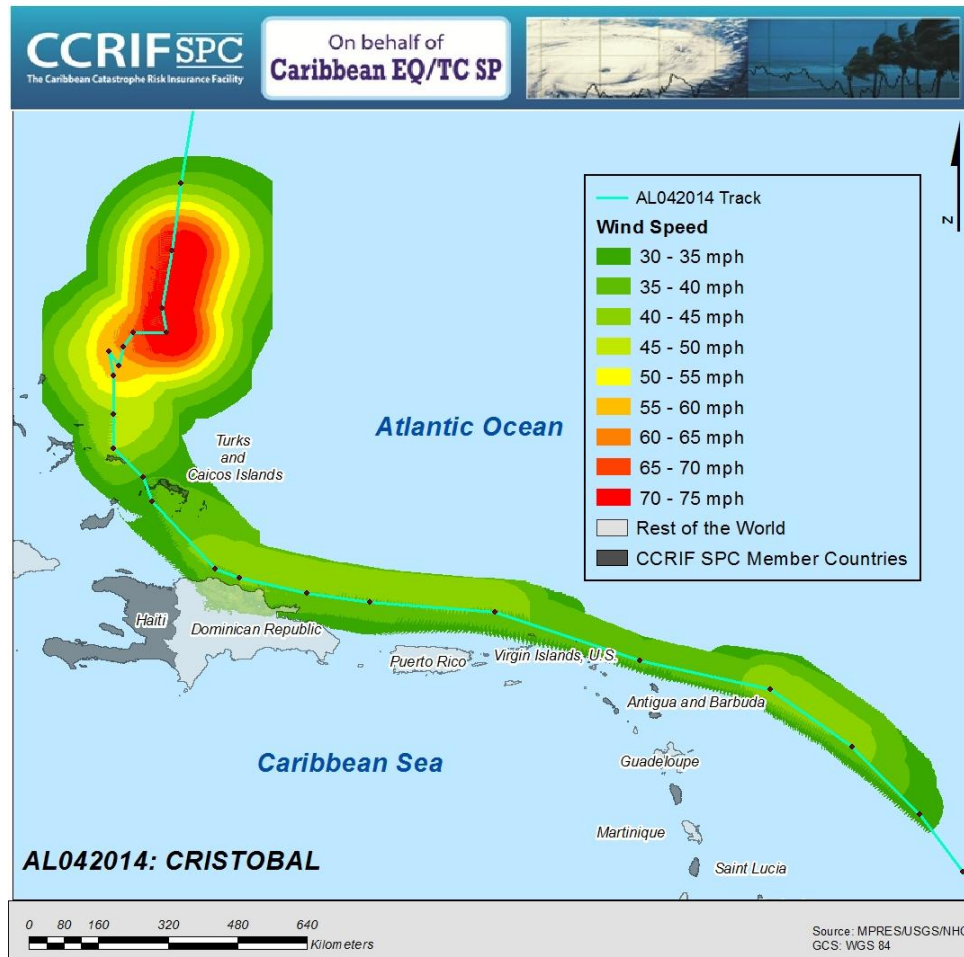


Figure 1 Map showing the path of Tropical Cyclone Cristobal. *Source: NHC & CCRIF SPC/KAC MPRES.*

3 IMPACTS

Based on the MPRES footprint, the CCRIF member countries affected by at least Tropical Storm force winds from Cristobal were the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. Cristobal brought heavy rains to both countries as well as Haiti. There were reports of extensive flooding in low-lying areas in Turks and Caicos and airline flights were cancelled. Two people died in Haiti after being caught up in swollen waterways. 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.