

Tropical Cyclone Gonzalo

INFORMATION NOTE No. 1

AS OF 5:00 PM (AST) ON JULY 23, 2020

Synopsis of Tropical Cyclone Gonzalo

LOCATION: 810 MILES EAST OF THE SOUTHERN WINDWARD ISLANDS

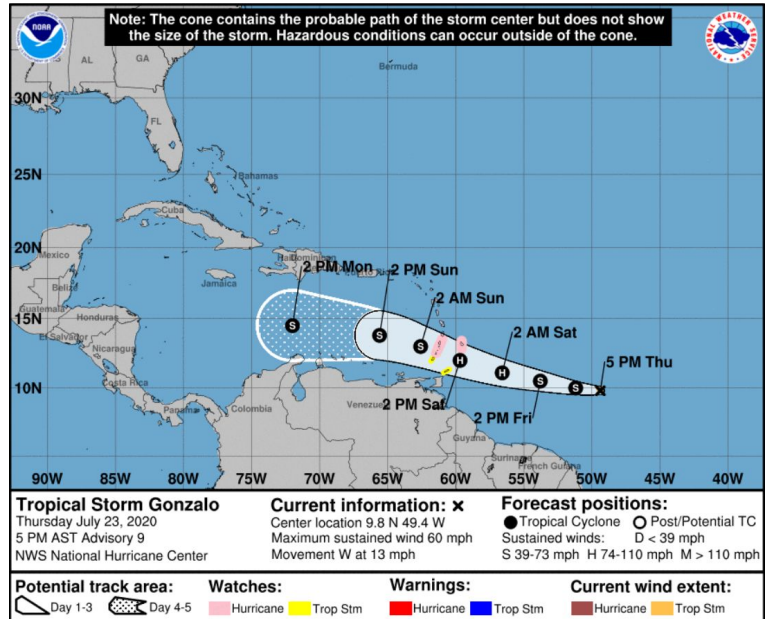
PRESENT MOVEMENT: WEST AT 13 MPH

HURRICANE WATCH IN EFFECT FOR:

- * **BARBADOS**
- * **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

TROPICAL STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FOR:

- * **GRENADA**
- * **TOBAGO**



NHC Update

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, as of 5:00 PM (AST) on July 23, 2020, the center of Tropical Storm Gonzalo was located near latitude 9.8 degrees North, longitude 49.4 degrees West. Gonzalo is moving toward the west near 13 mph (20 km/h). A westward to west-northwestward motion with an increase in forward speed is expected through the weekend. On the forecast track, the center of Gonzalo will approach the southern Windward Islands Friday night and move across the islands Saturday and Saturday evening. Maximum sustained winds are near 60 mph (95 km/h) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecast during the next day or two, and there is still a chance that Gonzalo could become a hurricane. Weakening is expected after Gonzalo moves into the Caribbean Sea. Gonzalo is a tiny tropical storm, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1000 mb (29.53 inches).

A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for Grenada and Tobago.

Caribbean Institute For Meteorology And Hydrology (CIMH) Analysis

Disclaimer: The CIMH provides special weather interpretation of the current and forecasted tropical weather affecting the Caribbean Region and is NOT an official forecasting agency.

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is closely monitoring this system as it continues on its trajectory towards the Lesser Antilles. CIMH has provided the below weather update as at Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

OBSERVATIONS: TS Gonzalo is a relatively small storm and susceptible to weakening. Relatively high Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) and moisture from the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) can provide favourable conditions for TS Gonzalo to become a hurricane over the next few days. However, the presence of Saharan Dust in the vicinity of Gonzalo and lack of upper level support could provide an unfavourable environment for development as it enters the Caribbean.

PATH: The models suggest a path on or near Barbados south to Tobago and Grenada.

WEATHER: Tropical Storm Gonzalo is a small storm but could peak at Hurricane stage just east of the Southern Lesser Antilles. Occasional to frequent thunderstorms are expected. The CIMH advises that preparations should be made for alternative plans for outdoor or tourist activities.

WINDS: Tumbling and rolling of unsecured objects are expected, as well as falling limbs and trees, sea spray, choppy seas and large breaking waves.

RAINFALL: The CIMH advises that TS Gonzalo is likely to be a heavy rainfall event with up to 150 mm of rainfall expected.

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions

- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) Contingency Plan was activated as at 11:00 PM (EST), 22nd June 2020
- The Regional Coordination Center (RCC) remains partially activated since March 2020.
- The Regional Response Teams have been placed on ALERT (CARICOM Disaster Assessment and Coordination (CDAC), CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) and the Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT). The Regional Security System (RSS) has placed the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) on ALERT.
- CDEMA and the UN Resident Coordinator Co-Chaired a meeting of the Regional Response Mechanism Partners - Caribbean Development Partners Group - Disaster Management (CDPG DM), at 1:00 PM today, 23 July, 2020.
- CDEMA CU conducted a briefing with National Disaster Coordinators (NDCs) on 22 July 2020 to update on the progress of TS Gonzalo and the early actions being taken by CDEMA Participating States.
- The CDEMA CU urges all Participating States and members of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) to monitor the progress of this system.
- The CDEMA CU will continue to monitor the system and provide updates as necessary.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



ANGUILLA – Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

- As at July 22nd, Anguilla reported that the country is being vigilant and is monitoring the progression of Gonzalo.
- An EDMC meeting will be held on July 23, 2020.



CAYMAN ISLANDS – Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI)

- The HMCI is monitoring TS Gonzalo closely along with the National Weather Service and is providing regular updates on social media feeds.
- The Cayman Islands National Weather Service will be providing a press release on the system.
- HMCI has been working diligently to increase the local shelter capacity (with COVID-19 social distancing in mind) and to obtain PPE for shelters.
- Cayman Islands is committed to assisting with any rapid response delegates or other assistance needed in the Region.



GRENADA – National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA)

- Grenada stated that a briefing was held with the Meteorological Services and the Emergency Council.
- NaDMA has contacted the relevant Ministries to facilitate activation of shelter systems.
- The Emergency Management Committee Meeting was convened today Thursday July 23rd in an effort to solidify the management mechanism.
- The COVID-19 protocol has been circulated and arrangements on the status of the system in tandem with standards for activating shelters in the context of the COVID-19 requirements have been determined.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



GUYANA – Civil Defence Commission (CDC)

- Guyana is currently monitoring the system and any potential impact to Guyana's coastal infrastructure.
- Nationally, the hydro-meteorological national weather watch bulletin was sent to all NDC's, RDC's and regional authorities to alert them that the system is active.
- Increased rainfall is expected and the country's coastline could be affected by this system which may result in flash flooding.
- Guyana is also considering any support to the CDEMA system in particular Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, which are members of its sub-regional grouping under the CDEMA Mechanism.



ST. KITTS & NEVIS – National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

- As at July 22nd, the NDMD in Nevis stated that regarding Gonzalo, discussions with the Government Office have been ongoing and bulletins were provided to the general public.
- Training with shelter managers is ongoing and there will be a joint week of activities with St. Kitts surrounding shelter awareness and how persons with COVID-19 would be accommodated.
- Nevis is continuing its drainage cleaning programme with the Public workers Department and is making preparations to minimize the impact of erosion since rainfall is anticipated following the impact of Gonzalo.
- Dialogue with counterparts from St. Kitts has been ongoing, in effort to form one umbrella organization as it relates to psychosocial support.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



SAINT LUCIA – National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)

- NEMO is working closely with the Meteorological office to monitor the progress of Gonzalo.
- Relevant government personnel have been briefed on the Storm and this will be followed by the convening of the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Chairs of the National Committees and all district disasters committees are expected to meet with their members at the community level.
- PPE and sanitization supplies are being pre-positioned.
- The COVID-19 shelter protocol has been completed and endorsed by the Chief Medical Officer and is awaiting approval.
- NEMO has completed training with the shelter managers, taking into consideration COVID-19 and has commenced training with the Bournemouth University in situational awareness.
- Press releases have been disseminated to alert the public to ensure persons are informed and are taking the necessary precautions.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES – National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)

- NEMO has been monitoring the disturbance and as a result have alerted the necessary persons including those in the Grenadine Islands.
- The warehouse in Union Island has been opened.
- Additional supplies will be delivered to all other Grenadine islands by July 23, 2020.
- NEMO is ensuring that satellite warehouses have the necessary equipment as well as fuel for generators.
- Community partners and national agencies have been briefed.
- The EOC has been activated since March 2020 and the COVID-19 cluster will remain in place.
- NEMO has deployed thermometers and updated shelter forms which include a health and temperature check for each person who is seeking public shelter.
- All agencies and sub-committees have been informed and a National Emergency Council Meeting is planned for Friday, July 24, 2020.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management (ODPM)

- As at July 22, ODPM has been monitoring the system and is working closely with the Meteorological services; the information has been shared with relevant key stakeholders.
- Decisions surrounding critical matters such as the operations of the managerial groups and the activation of the EOC are critical currently being undertaken.
- A strategy and planning workshop, which included CDEMA representation, engaged public and private sector groups and are hoping to capture supplies of food.
- Details on the support to the regional deployment teams will be provided.
- A critical meeting was hosted by the local government counterparts with the Ministry of Rural and local development to confirm readiness including resources which are available, the shelter arrangements, MOUs etc.
- Trinidad and Tobago as the Sub regional Focal Point is monitoring the system closely and stands ready to support members of the sub-region.



TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS – Department of Disaster Management & Emergencies (DDME)

- As at July 22, the DDME is closely monitoring Gonzalo. Arrangements are also being advanced to procure PPEs for shelter managers.
- On July 22, Turks and Caicos opened its borders to international flights and received two flights from the United States of America (USA)
- The Premier of Turks and Caicos Islands has stressed that protocols must be adhered to such as wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing.