

Climate and Water related Risks in the Coming Months

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On the whole, the May and the first three weeks of June 2005 period has been about normal in most parts of the island. The Tsunami affected region extending from Tangalle in the South going Northwards usually is somewhat dry during July and August and there is the risk of drought. Preliminary seasonal climate predictions issued in June point to a less than the normally high rainfall from October to December, 2005.

This is also a peak season for malaria morbidity and for the emergence of dengue. The current storage in the main hydropower generating reservoirs Victoria, Randenigala, Castlereigh and Moussakelle are below 50%. Randenigala and Rantembe reservoirs are full to 75%. In the reservoirs used for Agricultural storage, the levels too vary from 25% in Giritale to higher levels elsewhere. The rain fall in the South West quarter shall be important in the upcoming seasons in replenishing these reservoirs. The rainfall in Maha season (starting September) shall be important to avoid drought.

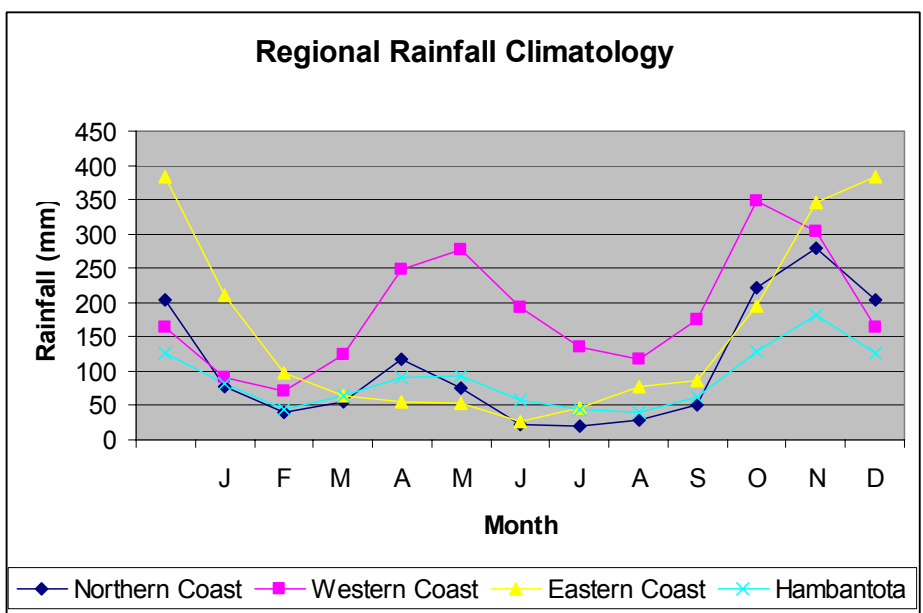


Figure above: The average monthly rainfall in the Coastal Regions of Sri Lanka.

Figures Next Page: Clockwise Starting from Top Left: Average Rainfall from April to June (Early Yala), Top Right Average Rainfall from July to August (Late Yala), Bottom Right: Rainfall from May Average Rainfall during April, and Bottom Left: Observed Rainfall from January to March 2005.

