

THE STORM AFTER THE CALM

After the remarkably subdued 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, it looks as if things are going to become more exciting once again this year. In its extended range forecast, the BUHRC-led Tropical Storm Risk predicts a return to livelier activity in 2007. Atlantic Basin and US land-falling tropical cyclone activity is expected to be 60 percent above the 1950-2006 norm, with an 80 percent chance that activity will be in the top third of years historically. TSR predicts 15.7 (± 4.6) tropical storms, of which 8.8 (± 2.9) are expected to achieve hurricane status, with 3.9 (± 1.8) of these developing into intense (category 3 - 5) hurricanes. 4.7 (± 2.2) tropical storms are predicted to make US land-fall, with 2.2 (± 1.7) of these reaching hurricane strength.

For the full report and future updates in the build-up to the 2007 season, and for tropical cyclone forecasts for other ocean basins, go to: <http://tsr.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/>