

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

February 2018 | Volume IV | ISSUE 8

Announcement

Though recent conditions indicate slight to moderate rainfall deficits in some parts of the Caribbean at various times, there are currently no concerns over short term drought up until the end of April 2018, and for longer term drought that can impact ground water and large reservoirs and rivers, there is concern currently over southern Haiti. As usual, this information will be updated in one month time.

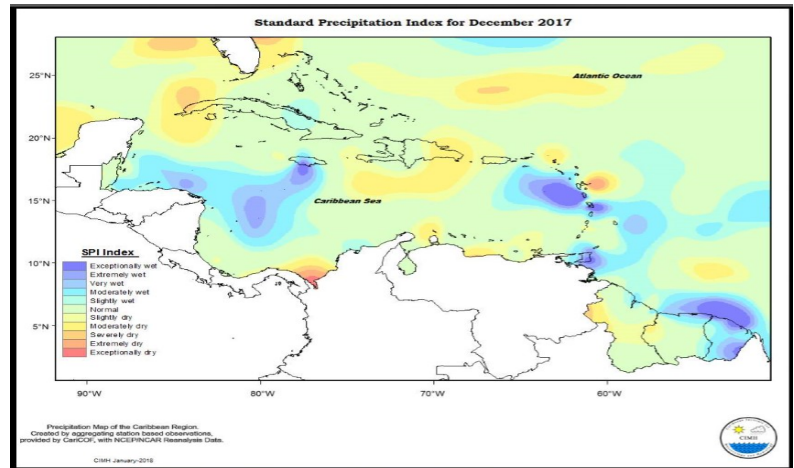
Month at a Glance

Mixed rainfall conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for December. Trinidad was very to exceptionally wet; Tobago slight to very wet; Grenada and St. Kitts slight to moderately wet; Barbados normal to slightly wet; St. Vincent normal; St. Lucia moderate to very wet; Martinique normal to exceptionally wet; Dominica moderate to exceptionally wet; Guadeloupe normal to extremely dry; Antigua slightly wet; and St. Maarten moderately dry. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from severely dry in western Guyana to exceptionally wet in parts of French Guiana, but with most of the region normal to slightly dry. Aruba was moderately dry, but Curacao normal. Most of Hispaniola was normal except eastern Dominican Republic that was slight to moderately dry and the southwestern tip of Haiti that was slightly dry. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the east and west to exceptionally wet in the south; while Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from severely dry in the west to slightly wet in east central areas, while for Belize they were predominantly normal apart from parts of the extreme west that were slightly dry and in the extreme southeast that were slight to moderately wet.

Latest News

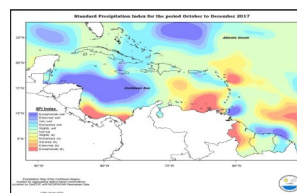
La Niña likely to continue through Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to ENSO-neutral expected during the spring (http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.pdf). A weak La Niña state will continue to drive chances of drier conditions slightly upwards in the northwest of the region (in particular The Caymans and Cuba), while slightly increasing chances of wetter conditions in most of the lesser Antilles.

Antigua and Barbuda Met Services expressing some concern over meteorological drought. (https://anumetservice.wordpress.com/2018/01/27/drought_again_for_Antigua/)

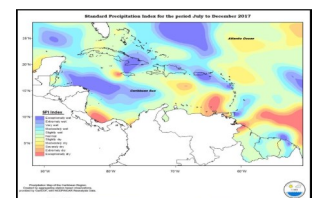


October-November-December

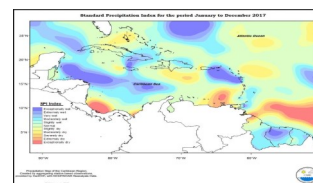
For the three month period, mixed rainfall conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad ranged from normal to exceptionally wet; Tobago moderate to very wet; Grenada slight to moderately wet; Barbados slightly wet; St. Vincent normal to slightly dry; St. Lucia normal to slightly wet; Martinique normal to severely dry; Dominica normal to moderately wet; Guadeloupe slightly wet to exceptionally dry; Antigua moderately dry; and St. Kitts and St. Maarten normal. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from exceptionally dry in western Guyana to exceptionally wet in northern French Guiana, with most of Suriname being normal. Aruba was slightly dry, but Curacao normal. Hispaniola was mostly normal but slightly wet in western Haiti and parts of eastern Dominican Republic; while Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to extremely wet in central areas. Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from normal to moderately wet, while in Belize they ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the south and to very wet in the north.



OCT - DEC 2017
SPI 3 MONTHS



JUL - DEC 2017
SPI 6 MONTHS



JAN 2017 - DEC 2017
SPI 12 MONTHS

The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation Monitoring Network

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative (CARWIN). The goal of CARWIN was to increase the capacity of Caribbean countries to deliver equitable and sustainable Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM).

The concept was born out of the need to mitigate and respond to the creeping phenomenon, drought. Drought and the general precipitation status is monitored at the regional scale. Efforts are being made to enhance drought monitoring at the national level.

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

The CariCOF brings together climate experts and meteorological services in the Caribbean region on an operational basis to produce a monthly climate outlook. CariCOF interacts with sectoral users to assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more.....](#)

For more information contact:

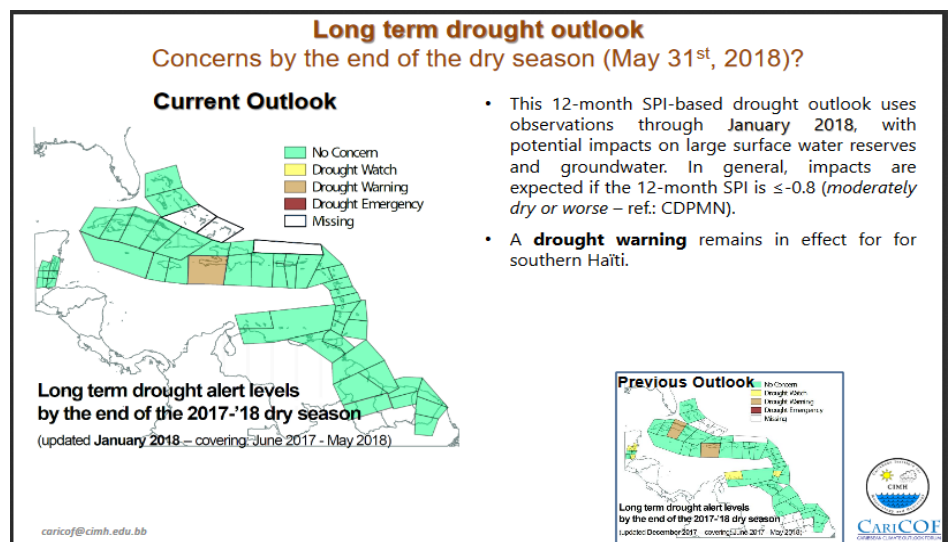
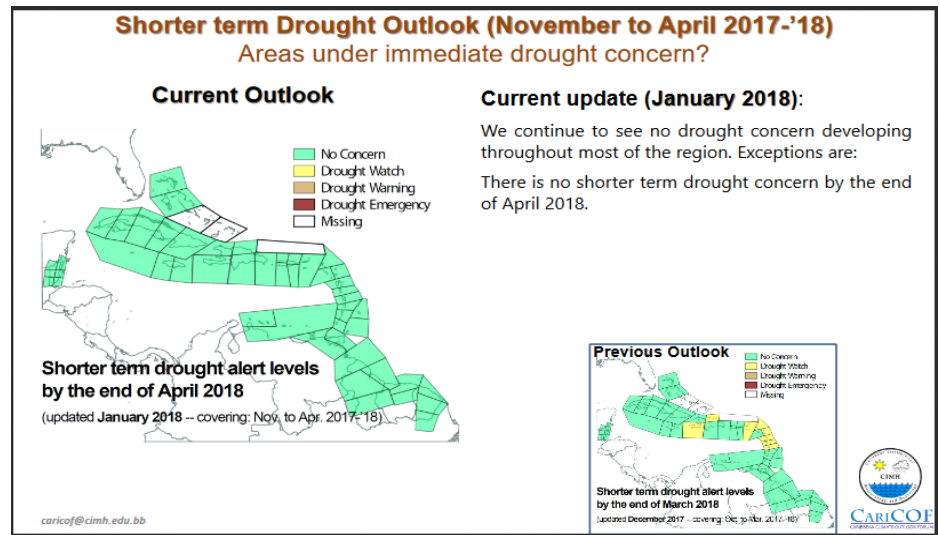
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

Drought Outlook for the End of April CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of November 2017):**
 - Central parts of The Bahamas and Southern Haiti are under long term drought.
 - Short term drought is seen in Southern Haiti, as well as in Western-most portions of Jamaica and Martinique.
 - Much of the Caribbean has received ample rainfall during its 2017 wet season, with long term drought no longer present in Grand Cayman and the Bahamas.
- **Shorter term drought situation (by end of April 2018):**
 - No shorter term drought concern.
- **Long term drought situation (by end of May 2018)**
 - Long term drought is evolving in Southern Haiti.
 - The potential long term drought concerns are few region wide at this time thanks to the ample wet season rainfall in 2017. However we advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)