

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

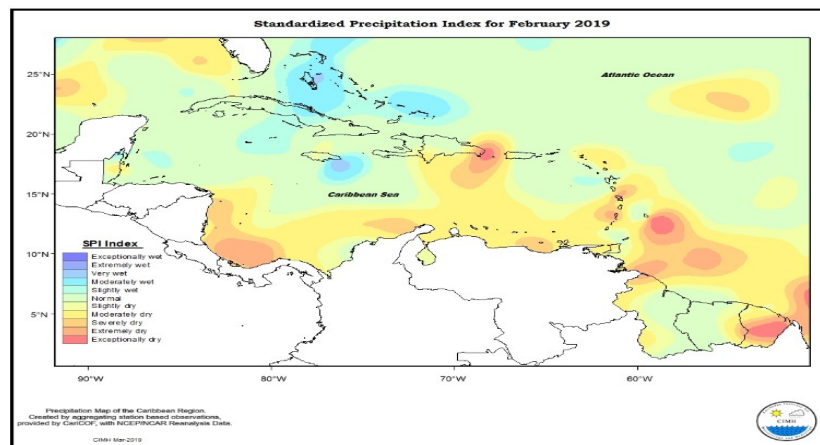
The weak El Niño continues to contribute to drier than normal conditions ever since December 2018, particularly in the east and south of the region. Short term drought that impacts soil moisture and surface water is still being felt in some countries, with some possibility of continued impacts until June 2019. There is still the likelihood for long term drought, that can impact groundwater, large rivers and reservoirs, to evolve by May 2019.

Month at a Glance

Normal to below normal rainfall was experienced for the month in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados and Dominica were normal to moderately dry; Grenada, St. Lucia and Antigua were slight to moderately dry; Tobago normal to slightly dry; St Vincent severe to extremely dry; Martinique moderate to extremely dry; Guadeloupe, St. Kitts, St. Croix and St. Thomas normal; and St. Maarten moderately dry. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from exceptionally dry in central French Guiana to normal from the eastern half of Guyana across to central Suriname. Aruba and Curacao were moderately dry. Both Puerto Rico and Hispaniola were predominantly normal, apart from western Puerto Rico that was slight to moderately dry, southern Hispaniola that was slight to moderately dry and eastern Hispaniola that was slight to exceptionally dry. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from slightly dry in the north to moderately wet in the east, while Grand Cayman was slightly wet. Rainfall in Cuba was predominantly normal apart from central areas that were slight to moderately wet and the extreme northwest that was slightly dry, but northern Bahamas was slight to very wet. Conditions in Belize ranged from moderately wet in the north to moderately dry in eastern and central areas.

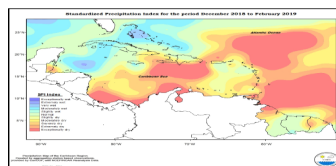
Latest News

There are no reports of any critical drought situations in the region at this time.

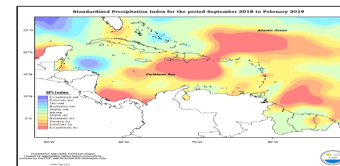


December-January-February

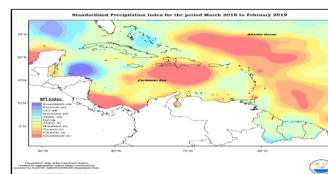
For the three month period, normal to below normal rainfall prevailed in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados and St. Vincent were extreme to exceptionally dry; Tobago severe to extremely dry; Grenada slight to moderately dry; St. Lucia, St. Maarten and St. Croix moderately dry; Martinique severely dry; Dominica and Antigua moderate to severely dry; Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry; and St. Kitts slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally dry in northern Guyana to slightly wet around the southern Guyana/Suriname border and southeast French Guiana, with otherwise normal to extremely dry conditions in Suriname and French Guiana. Aruba and Curacao were severely dry. Normal to extremely dry conditions were experienced in Puerto Rico from southeast to northwest, and Hispaniola normal to exceptionally dry from north to south. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the south to slightly dry in the extreme northeast, while Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Western Cuba was normal to moderately wet, while the east was normal to moderately dry. Northern Bahamas was slight to very wet. Conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the north to extremely dry from central to southeastern areas.



DEC 2018- FEB 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



SEP 2018- FEB 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



MAR 2018- FEB 2018
SPI 12 MONTHS

The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation Monitoring Network

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network is led by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the World Meteorological Organization's Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean. The Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative ([CARWIN](#)) to support equitable and sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management.

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.....](#)

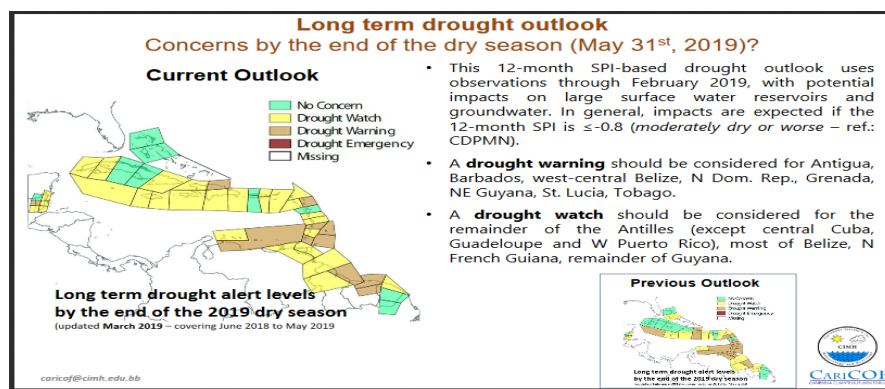
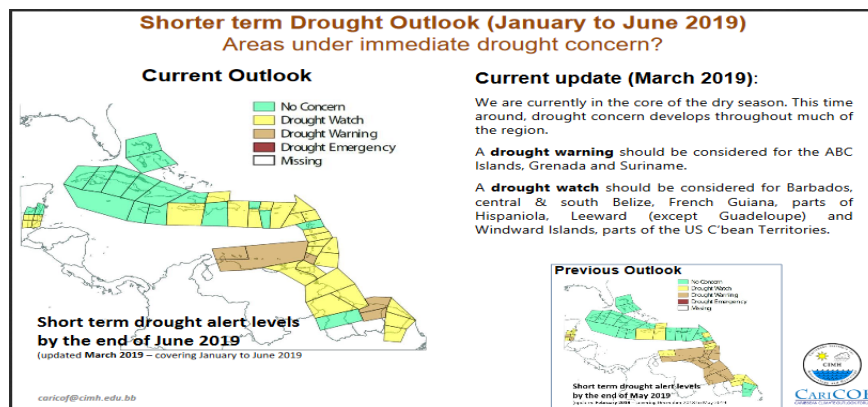
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

- Current drought situation (up to the end of January 2019):**
 - Most areas in the Antilles (except Cuba, Curacao, Guadeloupe, most of Jamaica, St. Kitts and Trinidad), Belize and northern Guyana have seen long term drought developing.
 - Shorter term drought is seen in the ABC Islands, Belize, much of French Guiana, northern Guyana, southern and eastern-most Hispaniola, Lesser Antilles, (except Grenada, Guadeloupe and St. Kitts), much of the US C'bean Territories.
- Shorter term drought situation (by end of May 2019):**
 - Shorter term drought is evolving in the ABC islands, Grenada and Suriname.
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in Barbados, central and south Belize, French Guiana, parts of Hispaniola, Leeward (except Guadeloupe) and windward islands, Parts of US C'bean Terr.
- Long term drought situation (by end of May 2019):**
 - A weak El Nino is expected to contribute to reduced rainfall up until May and possibly beyond.
 - Long term drought is evolving in Antigua, Barbados, west-central Belize, N Dom. Rep., Grenada, NE Guyana, St. Lucia, Tobago
 - Long term drought might possibly develop in the Antilles (except central Cuba, Guadeloupe and W Puerto Rico), most of Belize, N French Guiana, remainder of Guyana.

We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)