

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

December 2020 | Volume V II | ISSUE 7

Announcement

With rainfall being normal to above normal over most of the Caribbean, concerns over short term drought that can impact streams, small rivers and ponds, are mainly for Belize (particularly over central areas) and in the vicinity of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico by the end of February 2021. Interests in the Greater Antilles (particularly Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico) and Belize, should continue to monitor their water resources and follow updates for long term drought that can impact large reservoirs and groundwater.

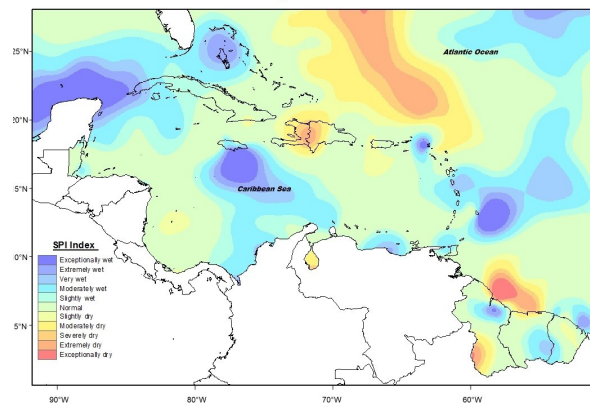
Month at a Glance

The islands of the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to above normal during the month of October. Trinidad ranged from normal in the southeast to very wet in the northwest; Tobago slightly wet; Grenada and St Vincent normal to slightly wet; Barbados extremely wet in the south to slightly wet in the north; Saint Lucia moderately wet; Martinique and Dominica moderate to very wet; Guadeloupe moderately wet to normal; Antigua, St Kitts, St Croix and St Thomas normal; and St Maarten moderate to exceptionally wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally dry in southwestern Guyana and from severely dry in northern Suriname, to exceptionally wet in northeastern Guyana and very wet on the southern Suriname/French Guiana border. Aruba was moderately wet and Curacao normal. Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry in the west to normal in the east. Hispaniola ranged from extremely dry on the central border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to normal in eastern areas and in the extreme southwest. Jamaica ranged from exceptionally wet in the extreme south to normal in the extreme west and northeastern areas. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Cuba ranged from exceptionally wet in the extreme west to slightly dry in the southeast. Northern Bahamas ranged from moderate to extremely wet. Belize was predominantly normal with slightly wet areas in the southeast and extreme north.

Latest News

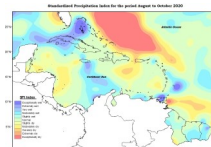
There are no concerns to Report in the region at this time.

Standardized Precipitation Index for October 2020

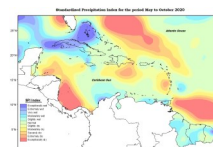


August-September-October

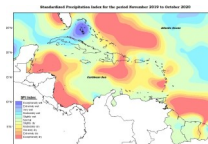
Conditions in the eastern Caribbean were mostly normal to above normal over the three month period. Trinidad ranged from extremely dry in the southeast to exceptionally wet in the northwest; Tobago, Martinique and Dominica normal to slightly wet; Grenada normal to slightly dry; St Vincent, Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St Kitts, St Croix and St Thomas normal; Barbados extremely wet in the south to moderately wet in the north; St Maarten moderate to slightly wet west to east. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from moderately dry in southwest Guyana and severely dry in northeastern French Guiana to extremely wet in northern French Guiana. Aruba slightly wet and Curacao predominantly normal with slightly dry areas in the southeast. Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the west to normal in the east. Hispaniola was predominantly normal ranging to moderately dry in northern Dominican Republic. Jamaica ranged from very wet in southern areas to slightly dry in the west and normal in the northeast. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Cuba ranged from extremely wet in the west to normal in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to exceptionally wet and Belize was moderately dry in the south to normal in the north.



AUG 2020- OCT 2020
SPI 3 MONTHS



MAY 2020 - OCT 2020
SPI 6 MONTHS



NOV 2019- OCT 2020
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.....](#)

For more information contact:

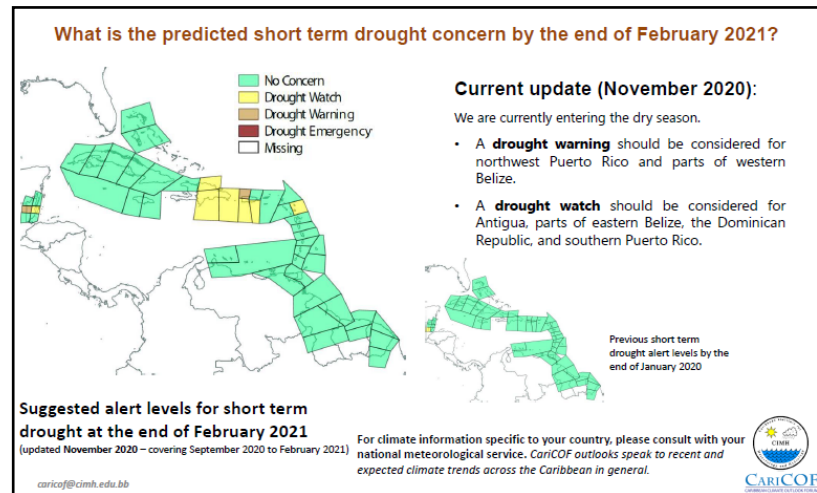
Mr. Adrian Trotman:
atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Mrs. Lisa Kirton-Reed
lkreed@cimh.edu.bb

Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

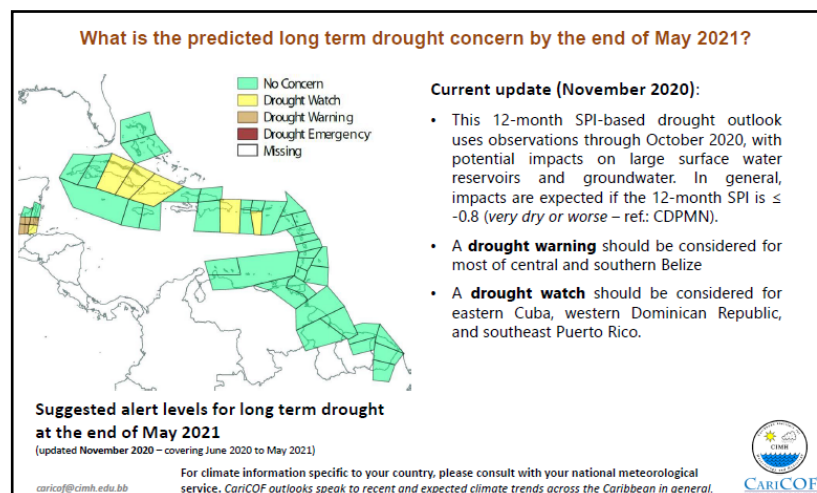
CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

Map of short-term drought by the end of February 2021



- Shorter term drought situation (by the end of February 2021):
 - Short term drought is evolving in parts of western Belize and northwest Puerto Rico.
 - Short term drought might possibly develop or continue in Antigua, parts of eastern Belize, the Dominican Republic, and southern Puerto Rico.

Map of long-term drought by the end of May 2021



- Long term drought situation (by the end of May 2021):
 - Long term drought is evolving in southern parts of Belize and northwest Puerto Rico.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in eastern Cuba, eastern Dominican Republic, and southeast Puerto Rico.
 - Areas ending up in long term drought may experience water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater that are lower than usual, which then may be a concern as the 2020-21 dry season comes to a close.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)