

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

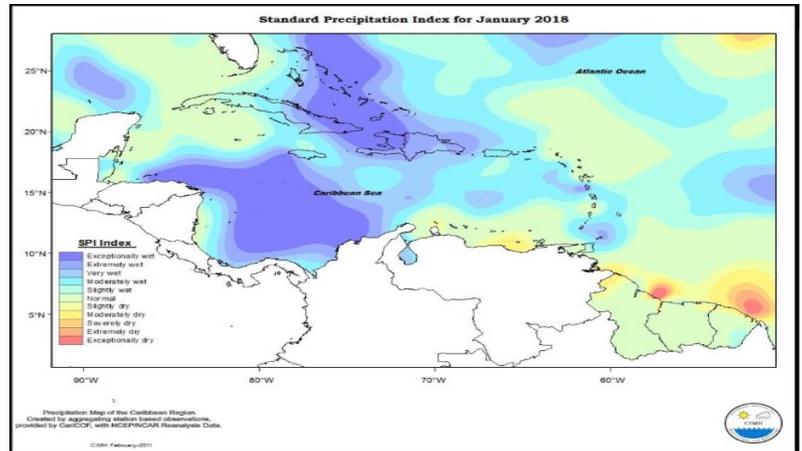
Though recent conditions indicate slight to moderate rainfall deficits in some parts of the Caribbean at various times, there are currently no concerns over short term drought up until the end of April 2018, and for longer term drought that can impact ground water and large reservoirs and rivers, there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

Month at a Glance

Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced across the eastern Caribbean island chain for January. Trinidad was normal to moderately wet; Tobago and Dominica very to extremely wet; Grenada very wet; Barbados, St. Kitts, St. Thomas moderately wet; St. Lucia, Guadeloupe, Antigua and St. Maarten normal; and Martinique slight to moderately wet. The Guiana's were predominantly normal apart from coastal areas that were normal to below normal and the southeast French Guiana that was slightly wet. Aruba was slightly dry, while Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was moderately wet, while conditions in Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally wet in northern Haiti to very wet in southern Dominican Republic. Most of Jamaica was moderately wet with the western extreme very to extremely wet, while Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the east. Belize was moderately wet in central areas to normal to the north and south.

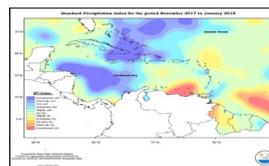
Latest News

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/ens0_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. Rainfall figures have indicated that Antigua and Barbuda has slipped into at least a meteorological drought. (https://anumetservice.wordpress.com/2018/01/27/drought_again_for_Antigua/)

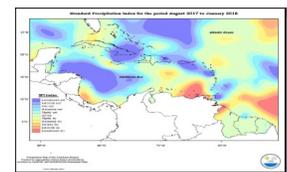


November-December-January

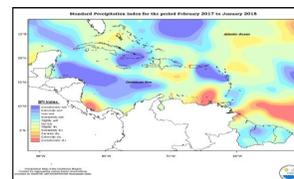
Apart from Martinique that was moderately dry to slightly wet and Antigua that was slight to moderately dry, the islands of the eastern Caribbean experienced normal to above normal rainfall for the three month period. Trinidad ranged from normal to moderately wet; Tobago and St. Thomas moderately wet; Grenada normal to slightly wet; Barbados, St. Kitts and St. Maarten normal; St. Lucia normal in the north to slightly wet in the south; Dominica moderate to very wet; and Guadeloupe normal to slightly wet. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from extremely dry in northwest Guyana to moderately wet in eastern French Guyana, with most of Suriname being normal. Aruba was slightly dry, while Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was predominantly moderately wet, with the southwest being slightly wet. Conditions in Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally wet in northwest Haiti and northeast Dominican Republic to slightly wet in southern Hispaniola. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from slightly wet in the south to exceptionally wet in the north, but Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the east. Belize was predominantly normal apart from in the west that was slightly wet.



NOV 2017- JAN 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2017- JAN 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2017- JAN 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.....](#)

For more information contact:

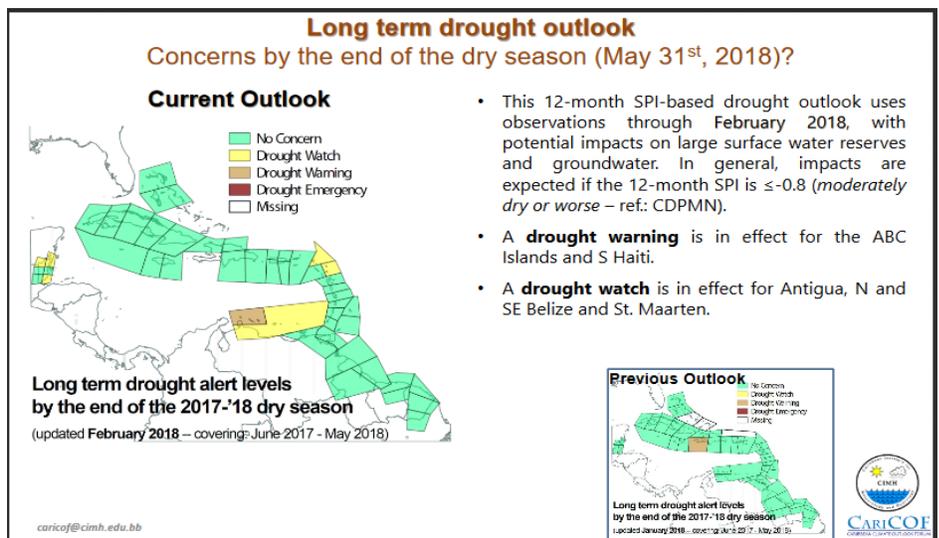
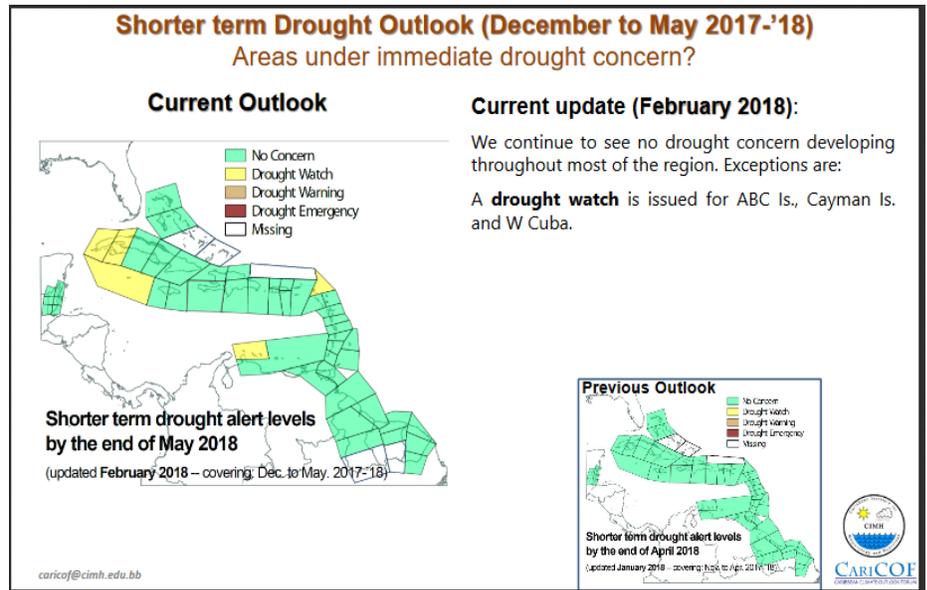
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Drought Outlook for the End of May



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of November 2017):**
 - Western parts of Puerto Rico and Southern Haiti are under long term drought.
 - Short term drought is seen in NW Guyana.
 - Much of the Caribbean has received ample rainfall in 2017 and no large deficits have built up since
- **Shorter term drought situation (by end of May 2018):**
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in ABC Islands, Cayman, West Cuba, St. Maarten.
- **Long term drought situation (by end of May 2018)**
 - Long term drought is evolving in ABC Islands and southern Haiti, and might possibly develop in Antigua, northern and south-eastern Belize and St. Maarten.
 - We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)