

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Various levels of dryness have been developing across some areas of the Caribbean since the end of 2017 into 2018. Such a development, along with forecasted rainfall, has raised concerns for short term drought in south-eastern Belize, northern Bahamas, western Cuba, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Tobago, Suriname and French Guyana that merits the close monitoring of water resources in these areas. Greater concern over long term drought that can affect resources from large rivers and reservoirs, and ground water exist for southern Haiti, Antigua and north-eastern Suriname.

Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the month of February, being particularly different between the south and north. Apart from in the extreme southeast that had below normal rainfall, Trinidad was normal to exceptionally wet; Tobago and Guadeloupe normal to slightly dry; Grenada very wet; Barbados from slightly dry in the southeast to exceptionally wet in the west; St. Vincent moderate to very wet; St. Lucia and St. Croix normal; Martinique normal to slightly wet; Dominica moderate to severely dry; Antigua slightly dry; St. Kitts severe to extremely dry; and St. Maarten moderately dry. Rainfall in the Guianas was predominantly normal, particularly in Suriname and French Guiana, but ranged from severely dry in the extreme west of Guyana to normal in the east. Aruba was moderately dry and Curacao slightly dry. Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the east, while Hispaniola was normal to slightly wet. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from moderately dry in the extreme west and east to exceptionally wet in the north, but Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Conditions in Cuba ranged from moderately dry in the west to very wet in the extreme south; but northern Bahamas was extremely dry to extremely wet. Belize ranged from severely dry in the west to moderately wet in the north.

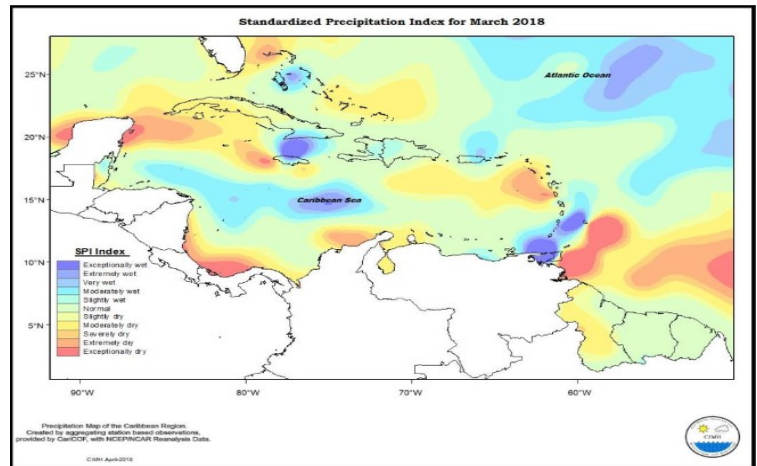
Latest News

Drought concerns in Antigua and Barbuda:
 March 2018 driest March since 2014 and 12th driest March on record since 1928.

<https://anumetservice.wordpress.com/2018/04/>

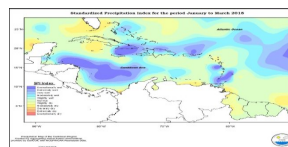
Forecast for more drying in coming months

<https://stluciatimes.com/2018/04/02/drought-conditions-affect-antigua-and-barbuda/>

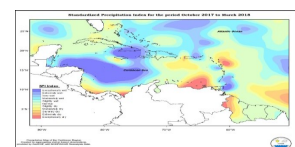


January-February-March

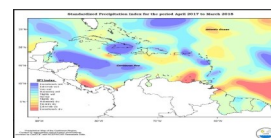
For the three month period, contrasting conditions between the south and north were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad ranged from normal in the south to very wet in the northwest; Tobago moderate to very wet; Grenada exceptionally wet; Barbados moderate to exceptionally wet from southeast to northwest; St. Lucia, Guadeloupe and St. Maarten normal; Martinique slight to moderately wet; Dominica normal to exceptionally wet from northeast to southwest; Antigua moderately dry; St. Kitts slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas were predominantly normal, particularly in Suriname and French Guyana, while being moderately dry in western areas to normal in Guyana. Aruba was normal while Curacao was slightly wet. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from slightly wet in the west to extremely wet in the east, while Hispaniola ranged from normal in the south to exceptionally wet in the north. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the north, but Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Central parts of Cuba were normal to slightly dry, but conditions were normal in the west and from slight to exceptionally wet in the east; but northern Bahamas was moderately dry to very wet. Belize ranged from exceptionally wet in central areas to normal to the north and south.



JAN 2018- MAR 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2017- MAR 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



APR 2017- MAR 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:

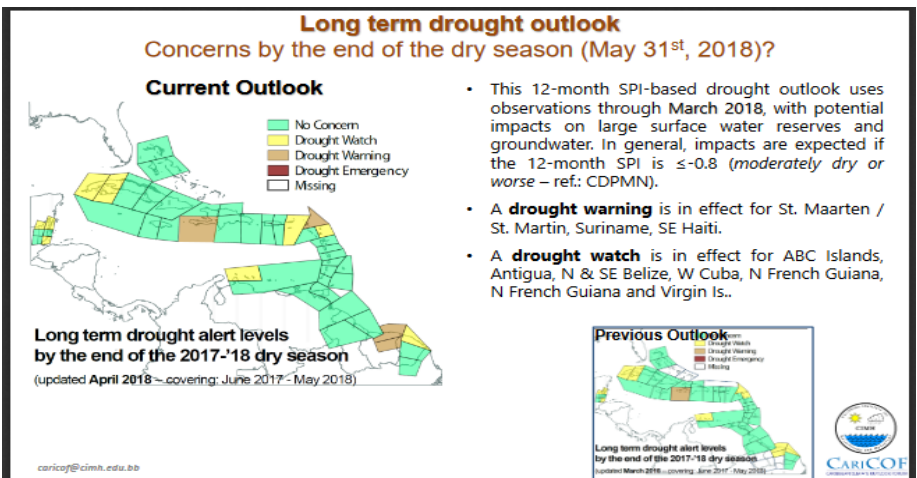
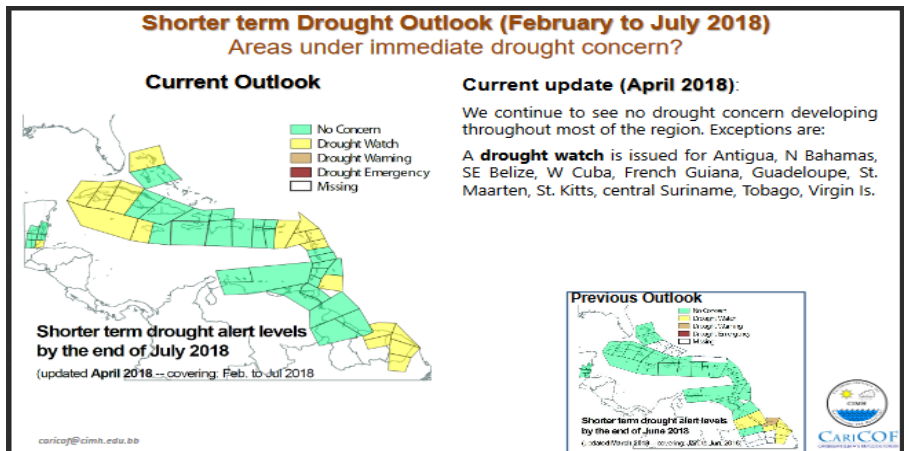
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of March 2018):**
 - Copious rainfall during the wet season of 2017 and no large deficits having been built up since the start of the Caribbean dry season in most places.
 - Southeastern Haiti , northwestern most Guyana, south-western most Jamaica , western most Puerto Rico is under long term drought.
 - Short term drought is seen in NW Guyana.
- **Shorter term drought situation (by end of June 2018):**
 - Shorter term drought is evolving in coastal portions of Suriname , and might possibly develop in other portions of the Guiana's.
- **Long term drought situation (by end of May 2018)**
 - Long term drought is evolving in Southeastern Haiti, and might possibly Develop in ABC Is., Antigua, western Cuba, northern and south-eastern Belize, coastal portions of French Guiana, St Maarten, and portions of eastern Suriname.
 - We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)