

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

October 2018 | Volume V | ISSUE 5

Announcement

Though well into the Caribbean wet season, parts of the Caribbean continued to experience well below normal rainfall in August. However, concerns over short term drought that can impact cropping, and small rivers and lakes by the end of the year, was restricted to over northern Belize. In addition to northern Belize, the Cayman Islands and Antigua should also monitor water resources due to concerns over long term drought by the end of the wet season in November. Given the chances of an El Nino developing later in the year, concerns may heighten over drought as the region enters its dry season.

Month at a Glance

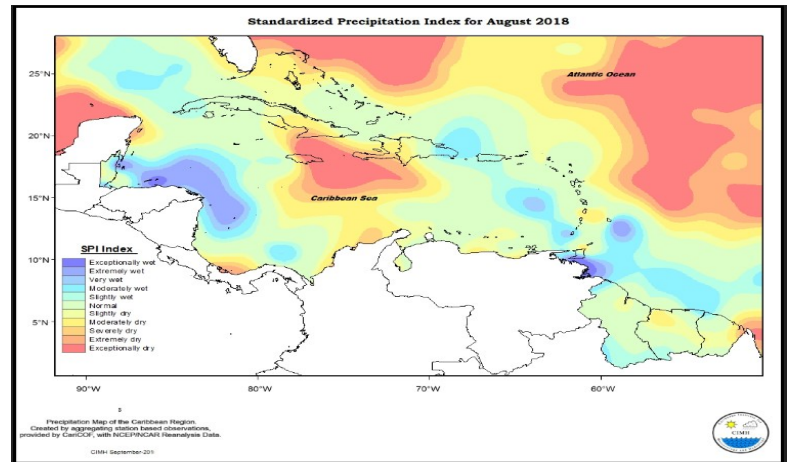
Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for August. Trinidad ranged from exceptionally wet in the southwest to moderately dry in the northeast; Tobago and St. Vincent normal; Grenada moderate to very wet; Barbados normal in the northwest to moderately wet in the southeast; St. Lucia slight to moderately dry; Martinique, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Maarten normal; Guadeloupe normal to slightly dry; and Anguilla slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from moderately wet in northern and southwestern Guyana and at the northern border of Suriname and French Guiana to moderately dry in northwest Suriname and extremely dry in eastern French Guiana. Aruba was slightly dry but Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was predominantly slightly wet, while Hispaniola ranged from extremely dry in south west Haiti to moderately wet in eastern Dominican Republic. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in extreme western areas to exceptionally dry in the east, but Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from slightly wet in the west to extremely dry in the southeast. Northern Bahamas ranged from slight to extremely dry. Conditions in Belize ranged from moderately dry in the west to extremely wet in the northeast and moderately wet in the south.

Latest News

Drought causes millions in losses to Belizean corn farmers; read more

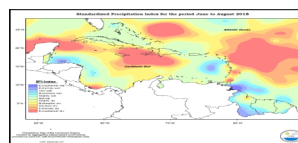
<https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2018/08/02/drought-causes-millions-losses-to-central-american-corn-crop-belizean-corn-farmers-feeling-the-pinch/>
Ninth driest July on record for Antigua; read more

<https://anumetservice.wordpress.com/2018/08/26/9th-driest-july-on-record-for-antigua-droughts-continue/>

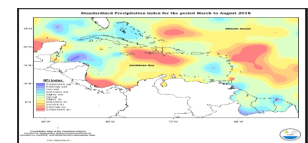


June-July-August

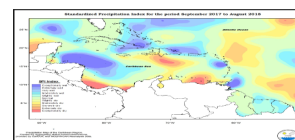
Though normal to below normal conditions dominated the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the three month period, part of two islands experienced above normal rainfall – Trinidad that was ranged from severely dry in the north to moderately wet in the south, and Guadeloupe that ranged from moderately wet in the west to exceptionally dry in the east. Tobago was severe to exceptionally dry; Grenada and St. Kitts normal; Barbados slight to severely dry; St Vincent and St. Maarten moderately dry; St. Lucia severe to extremely dry; Martinique normal to moderately dry; Dominica normal to severely dry; and Antigua slight to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from extremely wet in the north and southwest Guyana to moderately dry in northeast Guyana and to normal in Suriname and French Guiana. Aruba was slightly dry while Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was normal, but Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally dry in southern Haiti to slightly wet in northern Dominican Republic. Jamaica ranged from moderately dry in the west to exceptionally dry in the east, while Grand Cayman was severe to extremely dry. Conditions in Cuba ranged from normal in central regions to extremely dry in the west and southeast. Northern Bahamas was normal to moderately wet, while Belize ranged from severely dry in the west to normal in the north, south and east.



JUN 2018- AUG 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



MAR 2018- AUG 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



SEP 2017- AUG 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.....](#)

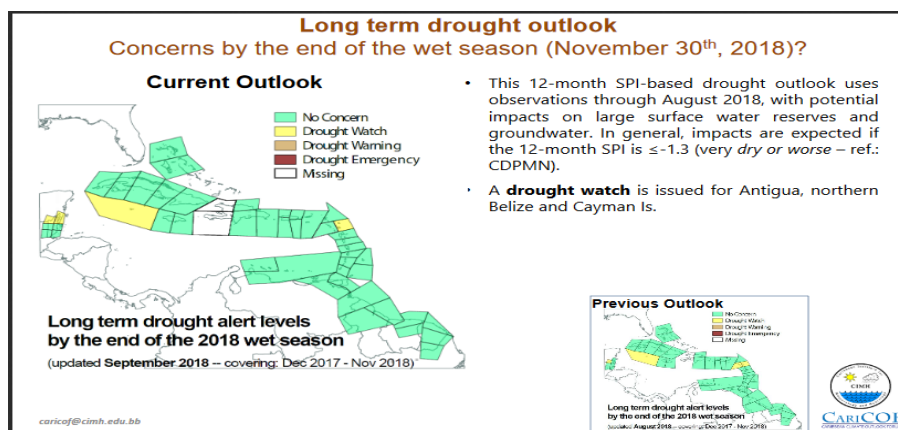
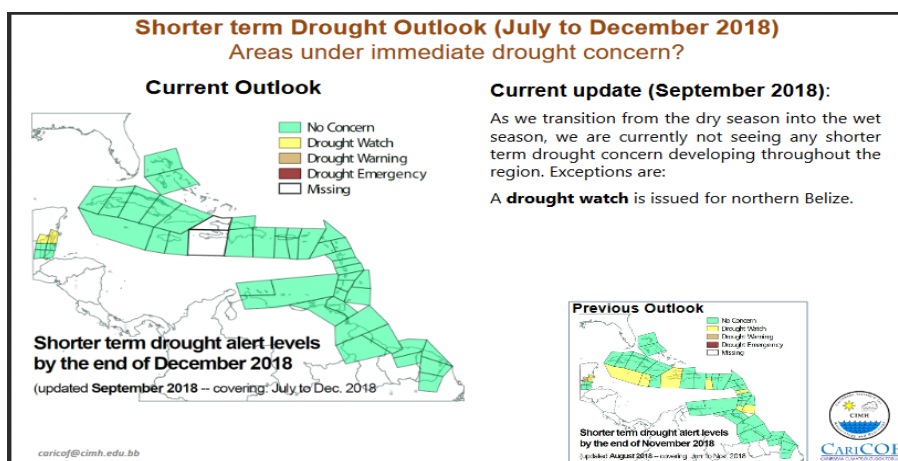
For more information contact:

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

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

Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of August 2018):**
 - Grand Cayman, southernmost Belize, and southernmost Hispaniola have seen Long term drought developing.
 - Shorter term drought is seen in Antigua, parts of Barbados, northern Belize, Southernmost Cuba, Southern Hispaniola, Eastern Jamaica, northern Leeward, St. Lucia and Tobago.

Shorter term drought situation (by end of December 2018):

- Shorter term drought will possibly remain in northern Belize by the end of the year.

Long term drought situation (by end of November 2018)

- Long term drought might possibly develop in Antigua, northern Belize and Cayman Is.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)