

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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## Announcement

As the region has entered its wet season, rainfall is expected to increase, augmenting water resources, albeit at a slower rate than normal. It is likely that parts of Belize, particularly in the northwest, can still have concerns over short term drought that can impact agricultural production and small rivers, streams and ponds. With rainfall deficits still possible despite the increasing rainfall, concerns exist for much of the region over long term drought that can impact rivers and reservoirs by the end of the wet season at the end of November.

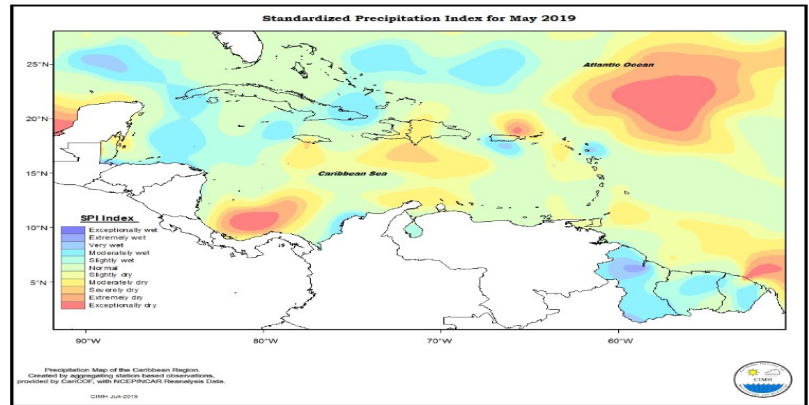
## Month at a Glance

Rainfall in the islands of the eastern Caribbean was normal to below normal for the month of May, with the exception of Antigua, which was moderate to very wet and Guadeloupe which was normal to slightly wet. Trinidad, Tobago, and Martinique were normal to slightly dry; Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia normal; Barbados and St. Maarten slightly dry; St. Kitts normal to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas were generally normal to above normal, ranging from extremely wet in north central areas of Guyana to slight to extremely dry in northern French Guiana. Curacao was slight to moderately dry. Puerto Rico experienced normal to moderately wet conditions from northeastern to southwestern areas, with the exception of the extreme east which was slight to severely dry. The Dominican Republic ranged from normal in the east to moderately dry in the west, whereas, Haiti, ranged from moderately dry in the east, to normal in north and south western areas. Jamaica was normal in the east, normal to slightly wet in the west, with central areas ranging from slight to moderately dry from north to south; but Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal, with slight to moderately wet conditions in the western and eastern areas while Northern Bahamas was normal. In Belize, with the exception of the northern and western areas which ranged from slight to moderately dry, central to southern areas were normal to

## Latest News

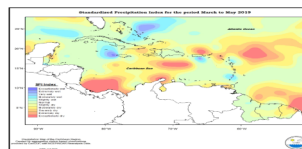
BWA announces measures to deal with drought, read more; <https://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/240069/bwa-announces-measures-deal-drought>.

Extended drought causing water woes in Georgeville, read more; <https://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/186253>

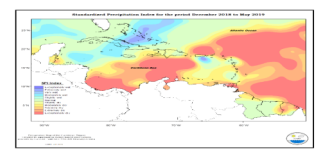


## March-April-May

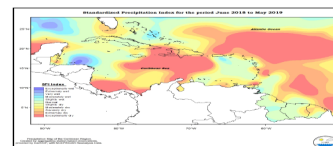
Mixed conditions were observed in the eastern Caribbean islands over the three month period. Trinidad was normal to severely dry, from northeast to southwest; Tobago normal; Grenada and St. Vincent slight to moderately wet; Barbados and St. Lucia normal to moderately dry; Martinique and Dominica slight to moderately dry; Guadeloupe normal to slightly wet; Antigua slightly wet, St. Kitts moderate to severely dry; and St. Maarten extremely dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from slightly wet in northern Guyana to exceptionally dry in northern French Guiana, with Guyana being predominantly normal, and Suriname and French Guiana predominantly below normal. Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was predominantly normal, with the extreme southeastern area ranging from slight to moderately wet, whereas, the extreme north ranged from slightly dry in the west, to severely dry in the northeast. Hispaniola was predominantly normal, particularly over the Dominican Republic with the exception of the northwestern and southern tip that were slightly dry, and in the west, north and south that were slight to moderately dry. Jamaica ranged from slightly dry to normal from central to eastern areas, with western areas ranging from normal to extremely wet; but Grand Cayman was normal to slightly wet, from west to east. Cuba was predominantly normal, with slightly wet areas in the northeast, south and west, however slight to severely dry in the east, whilst Northern Bahamas ranged from slightly wet to slightly dry. Conditions in Belize ranged from slight to extremely dry in the north, slight to moderately dry in the west, with predominantly normal conditions elsewhere, except for a small area in the center which was slightly wet, and the south which ranged from slightly wet to very wet.



**MAR2019- MAY2019**  
**SPI 3 MONTHS**



**DEC2018- MAY 2019**  
**SPI 6 MONTHS**



**JUNE2018- MAY2019**  
**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.....](#)

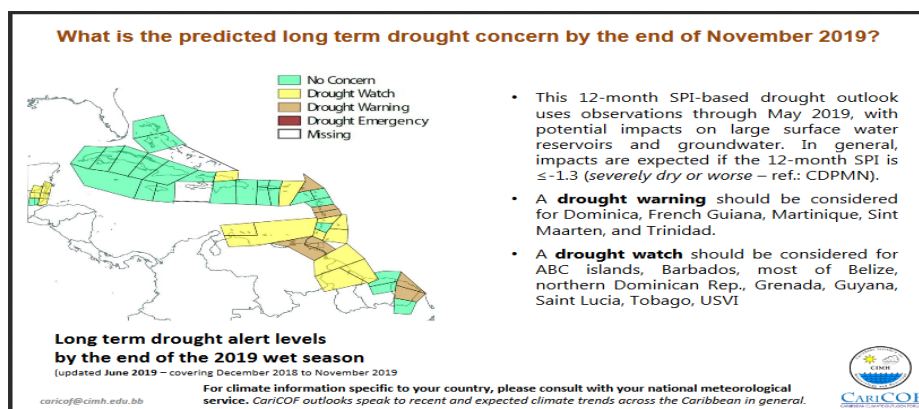
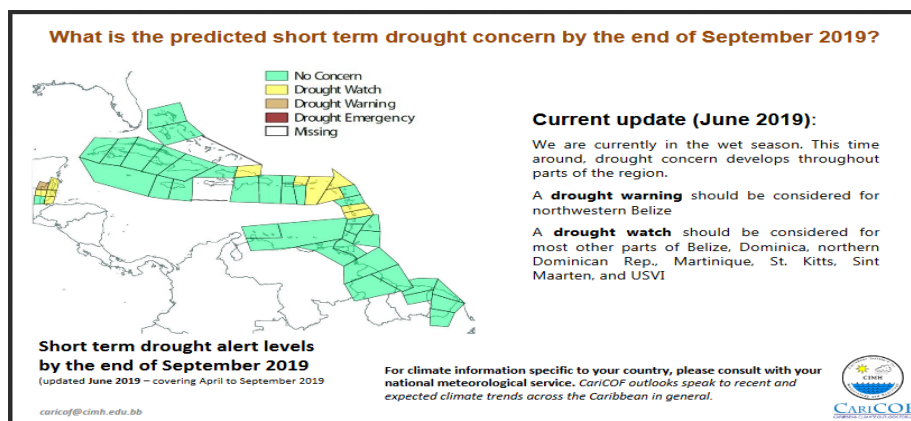
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

## Drought Outlook for the End of September CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



## Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of May 2019):**
  - Severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in northern Belize, eastern Extremities of Cuba, coastal French Guiana, the northern Leewards, western parts of Trinidad.
  - Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Barbados, southern Belize, Southernmost Dominican Rep, French Guiana, southwestern Haiti, the northern Leewards, Martinique, Trinidad.
- **Shorter term drought situation (by end of September 2019):**
  - Shorter term drought is evolving in northwestern Belize.
  - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in most other parts of Belize, Dominica, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Maarten, and USVI.
- **Long term drought situation (by end of November 2019):**
  - A weak El Nino is expected to contribute to reduced rainfall at least until after summer.
  - Long term drought is evolving in Suriname, Dominica, French Guiana, Martinique, St. Maarten and Trinidad.
  - Long term drought might possibly develop in ABC islands, Barbados, most of Belize, Northern Dominican Rep, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, Tobago, USVI

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

**Drought outlook available for download [here](#)**