

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of February 2020

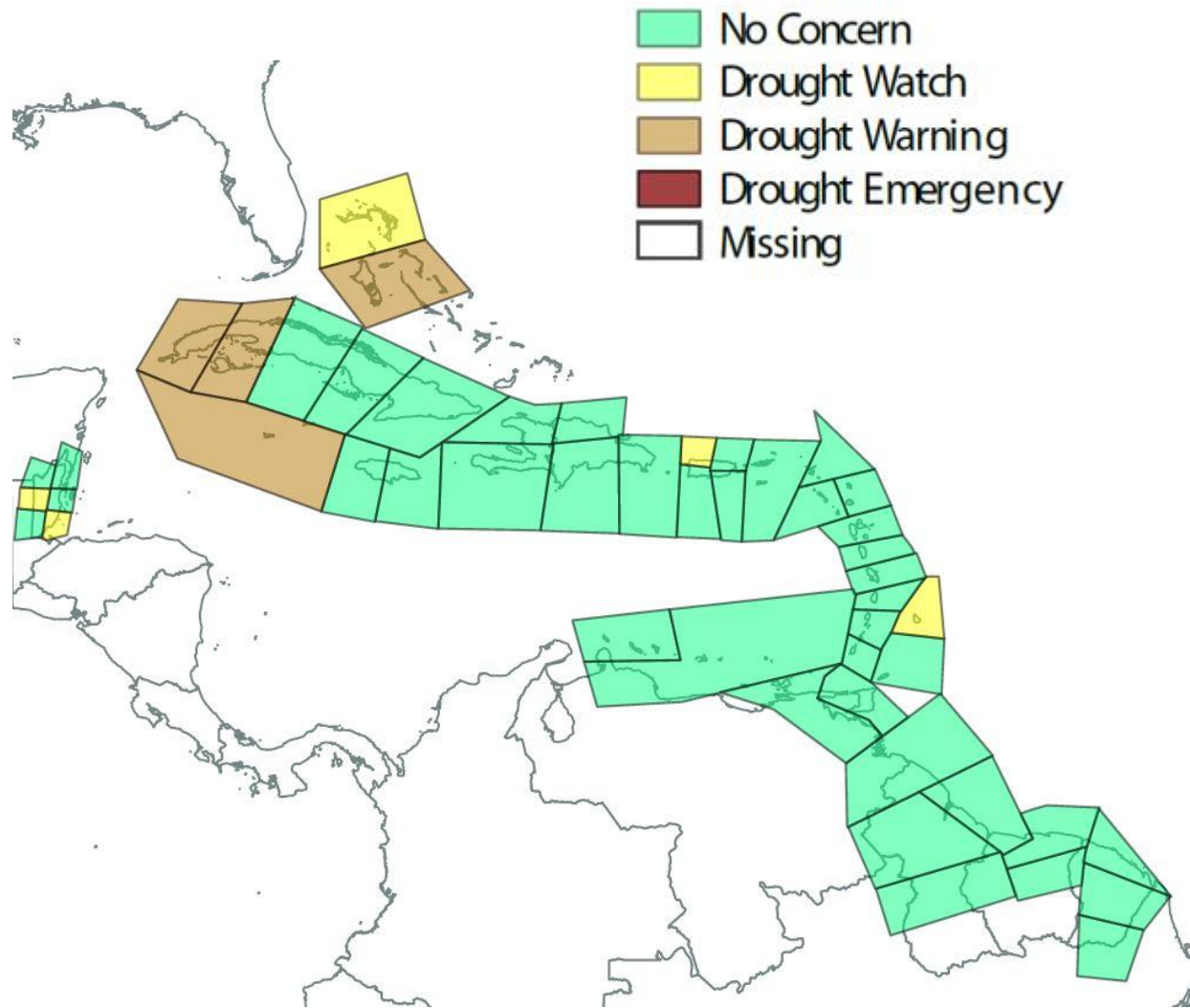
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## Participating territories

Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St-Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



# What is the predicted short term drought concern by the end of February 2020?



## Short term drought alert levels by the end of February 2020

(updated October 2019 – covering September 2019 to February 2020)

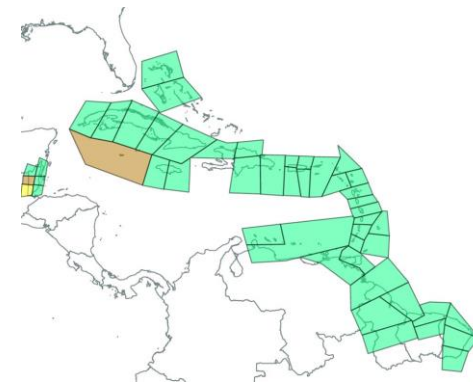
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## Current update (November 2019):

We are currently entering the dry season. Currently, no shorter term drought concern is developing throughout the region. Exceptions are:

A **drought warning** should be considered for the northwestern Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, and western Cuba.

A **drought watch** should be considered for northernmost Bahamas, Barbados, west-central and southeastern Belize, and northwestern Puerto Rico.

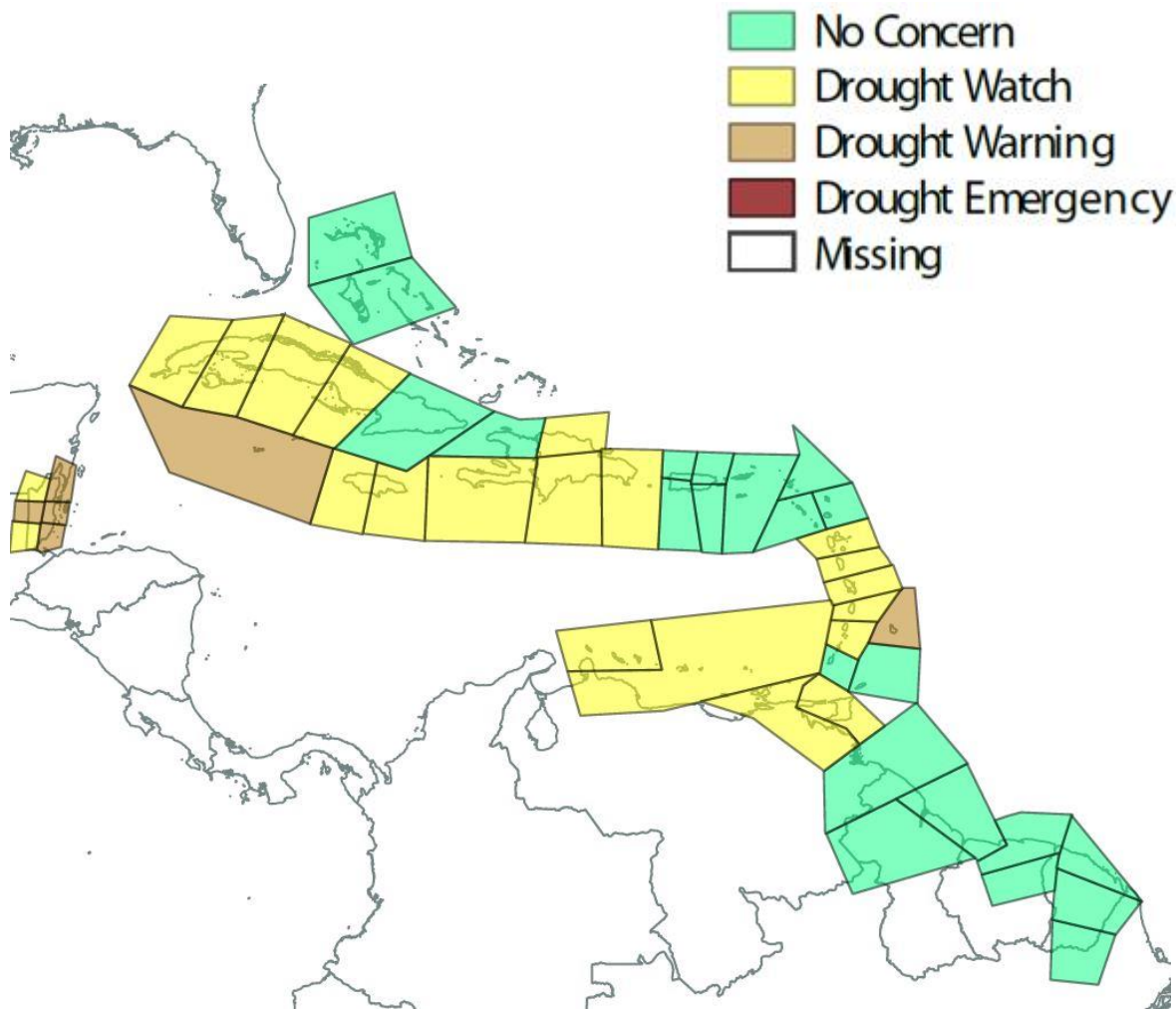


Previous short term drought alert levels by the end of January 2020

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. *CariCOF outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.*



# What is the predicted long term drought concern by the end of May 2020?



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through October 2018, with potential impacts on large surface water reservoirs and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -0.8$  (*moderately dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- A **drought warning** should be considered for Barbados, eastern and west-central Belize, and the Cayman Islands.
- A **drought watch** should be considered for the ABC islands, north- and southwestern Belize, much of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands (except Grenada).

## Long term drought alert levels by the end of May 2020

(updated November 2019 – covering June 2019 to May 2020)

# Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- Current drought situation (up to the end of October 2019): *(more information [here](#))*
    - Severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in Barbados, eastern Hispaniola, St. Vincent, Trinidad.
    - Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Aruba, Barbados, Cayman, eastern Cuba, eastern-, southern- and western-most Hispaniola, Martinique, western Puerto Rico, St-Barth, St. Thomas, Trinidad
  - Shorter term drought situation (by the end of February 2020):
    - Shorter term drought is evolving in NW Bahamas, Cayman Isls., and western Cuba.
    - Shorter term drought might possibly continue in the northernmost Bahamas, Barbados, west-central and southeastern Belize, and northwestern Puerto Rico.
  - Long term drought situation (by the end of May 2020):
    - Long term drought is evolving in Barbados, eastern and west-central Belize, and the Cayman Isls.
    - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in ABC islands, NW and SW Belize, much of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, and the Windwards (except Grenada).
    - Areas ending up in long term drought may experience significantly reduced water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater during the dry season.
- \* We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.\**

**CONTINUE TO MONITOR &  
CONSERVE WATER !!**



| ALERT LEVEL              | MEANING                      | ACTION LEVEL   |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>NO CONCERN</b>        | No drought concern           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>monitor resources</b></li> <li>✓ update and ratify management plans</li> <li>✓ public awareness campaigns</li> <li>✓ upgrade infrastructure</li> </ul>   |
| <b>DROUGHT WATCH</b>     | Drought possible             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>keep updated</b></li> <li>✓ protect resources and conserve water</li> <li>✓ implement management plans</li> <li>✓ response training</li> <li>✓ monitor and repair infrastructure</li> </ul>  |
| <b>DROUGHT WARNING</b>   | Drought evolving             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>protect resources</b></li> <li>✓ conserve and recycle water</li> <li>✓ implement management plans</li> <li>✓ release public service announcements</li> <li>✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades</li> <li>✓ report impacts</li> </ul>           |
| <b>DROUGHT EMERGENCY</b> | Drought of immediate concern | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>release public service announcements</b></li> <li>✓ implement management and response plans</li> <li>✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling</li> <li>✓ enforce resource protection</li> <li>✓ repair infrastructure</li> <li>✓ report impacts</li> </ul> |



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