

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Though some parts of the Caribbean, such as the Leeward Islands, experienced above normal rainfall in January, there are concerns over short and long term drought by the end of the dry season in May over much of the region. Of particular concern is the southern portion of the eastern chain into Guyana, where both short and long term drought are likely to evolve. Monitoring water reserves and enhancing water conservation measures are recommended.

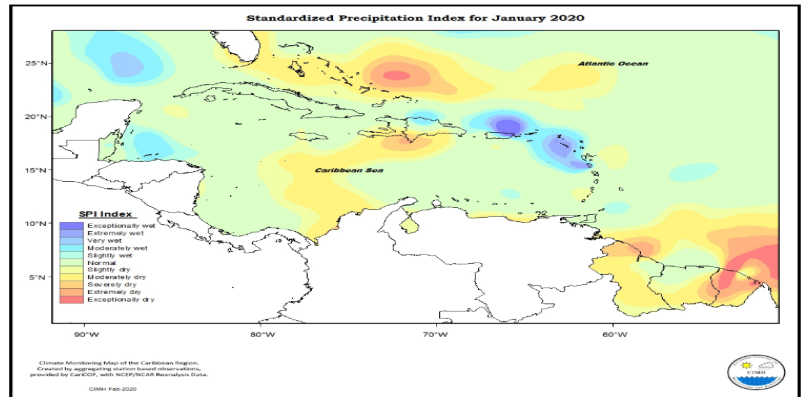
Month at a Glance

Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in most of the islands of the eastern Caribbean, during the month of January. Trinidad, Barbados, St Vincent, St Lucia, Martinique were normal; Tobago normal to slightly wet; Grenada normal to slightly dry; Dominica moderate to extremely wet; Guadeloupe moderately wet to normal from west to east; Antigua and St Croix, slight to moderately wet; St Kitts extremely wet; St Maarten very wet and St Thomas moderately wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from normal in northern Suriname and northeast Guyana to extremely dry in northern Guyana and exceptionally dry in the north east and northwest areas of French Guiana. Aruba and Curacao were normal. Puerto Rico was normal to exceptionally wet from west to east. Hispaniola ranged from extremely dry in the south to very wet in the north of the Dominican Republic. Jamaica was mostly normal with the exception of slightly dry conditions in west central areas. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal, with the exception of a small area on the north eastern border which was slightly dry. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to moderately dry and Belize predominantly normal with the exception of slightly wet conditions in central areas.

Latest News

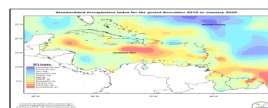
Barbadians being warned to brace for more drought-like conditions, Read more; <https://barbadostoday.bb/2020/02/01/dry-spell-to-drag-on-effects-to-worsen/>

Water prohibition to start again in Barbados, Read more; <https://www.caribbean360.com/news/water-prohibition-to-start-again-in-barbados-soon-as-island-continues-to->

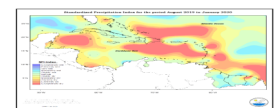


November-December-January

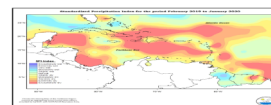
Mixed conditions prevailed in the eastern Caribbean over the three month period. Trinidad, Grenada, Martinique and St Croix were normal to slightly dry; Tobago, Antigua, St Maarten and St Thomas normal; Barbados and Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry; St Vincent severe to extremely dry; St Lucia moderate to severely dry; Dominica moderately wet to normal from south to north; and St Kitts normal to slightly wet. In the Guianas, conditions were mostly normal with the exception of slight to moderately wet conditions in the southern parts of Guyana to a slightly wet area in southeast French Guiana, slight to severely dry conditions in northern Guyana and north eastern French Guiana and slight to exceptionally dry in eastern Suriname and western French Guiana. Aruba was moderately dry and Curacao slight to moderately dry. In Puerto Rico moderately wet conditions prevailed with the exception of slightly dry conditions on the east to south east coast. Hispaniola ranged from slightly wet in north western Haiti to extremely dry in central Dominican Republic and to normal in the extreme east. Jamaica was predominantly normal with the exception of the north-west which was slightly dry. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was mostly normal apart from slight to moderately dry conditions in the southeast and slight to moderately wet in the east. Northern Bahamas was normal and Belize normal in central areas to slightly dry in the north and to moderately dry in the west.



NOV 2019- JAN 2020
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2019- JAN 2020
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2019- JAN 2020
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.....](#)

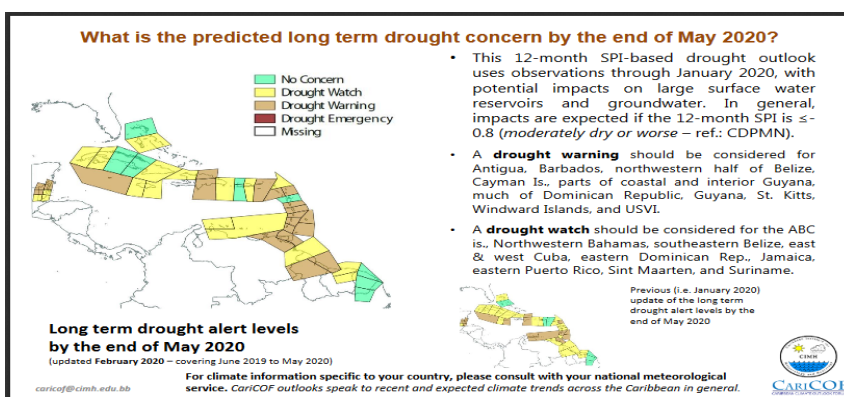
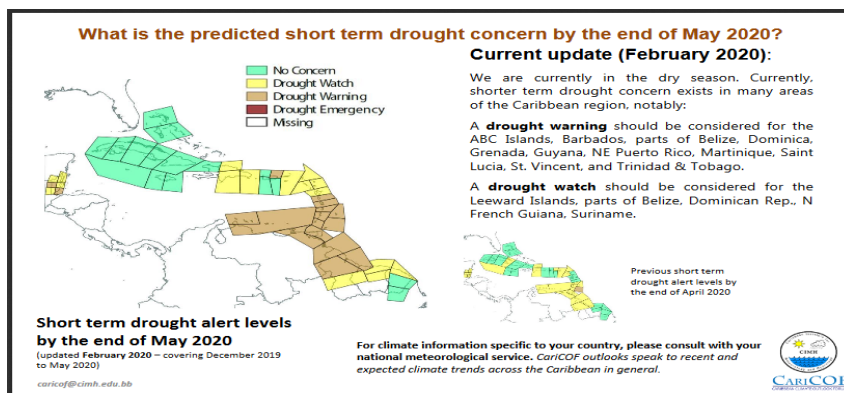
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

Drought Outlook for the End of May 2020 CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



Current Drought Situation

• Current drought situation (up to the end of January 2020):

- Moderate or worse shorter term drought has developed in ABC Islands, central Bahamas, southeastern Barbados, eastern Dominican Republic, eastern Guadeloupe, portions of French Guiana, northernmost Guyana, Saint Lucia and St Vincent.
- Moderate or worse long term drought has developed in the ABC Islands, the Antilles (except for Antigua, western Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, western Guadeloupe, western Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Tobago), northernmost and southeastern Bahamas, much of Northern French Guiana, Turks and Caicos Is.

• Shorter term drought situation (by end of May 2020):

- Shorter term drought is evolving in ABC Islands, Barbados, parts of Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, northeastern Puerto Rico, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago.

- Shorter term drought might possibly develop or continue in leeward Islands, parts of Belize, Dominican Republic, Northern French Guiana, Suriname.

• Long term drought situation (by end of May 2020):

- Long term drought is evolving in Antigua, Barbados, northwestern half of Belize, Cayman Islands, parts of coastal and interior Guyana, much of Dominican Republic, St. Kitts, Windward Islands and USVI.
- Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in the ABC Is, Northwestern Bahamas, southeastern Belize, east and west Cuba, eastern Dominican Republic, Jamaica, eastern Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten and Suriname.
- Areas ending up in long term drought by the end of May, 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.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)