

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

During the first half of the dry season, there is a clear distinction between the wetter northern and drier southern islands of the eastern Caribbean. There is much concern over short term drought that can impact streams and rivers in the southern portion of the eastern chain by the end of June 2020, with similar concerns for Suriname, French Guiana and eastern Belize. Concerns over long term drought that can impact large rivers, reservoirs and ground water sources extends to most of the basin with The Bahamas being an exception.

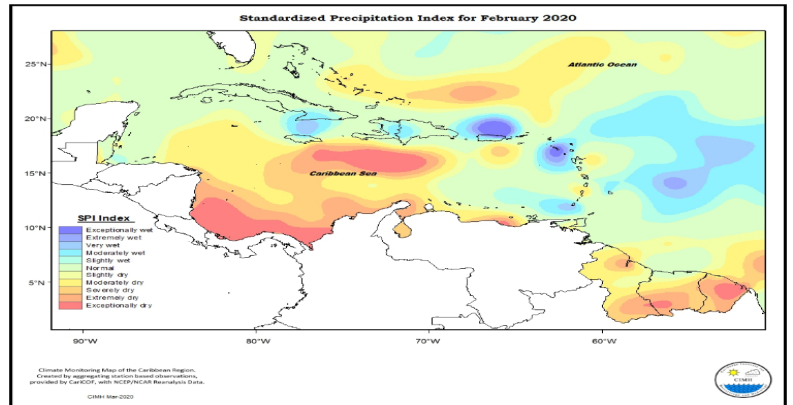
Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of February. Trinidad was predominantly normal, apart from the southwest which was slightly dry; Tobago, Dominica, St Croix and St Thomas normal; Grenada moderate to very wet; Saint Lucia and Martinique normal to moderately dry; Barbados normal to moderately wet; St Vincent moderately dry; Guadeloupe slightly wet in the west to moderately dry in the east; Antigua moderately wet; St Kitts mostly exceptionally wet, with extremely wet conditions in the extreme north; and St Maarten normal. In The Guianas, conditions ranged from normal in northern Suriname to exceptionally dry in the vicinity of the southern Guyana/Suriname border, and east central French Guiana. Curacao was slightly dry. Puerto Rico ranged from slightly wet in the south west to exceptionally wet in the north east, with normal conditions on the south central to south eastern coast. Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally wet at the Dominican Republic/Haiti border to normal in the east, west and south. Jamaica ranged from normal to moderately wet from south to north, except for slight to moderately dry conditions in the extreme east and the southern tip which was slightly dry. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. [Read more;](#)

Latest News

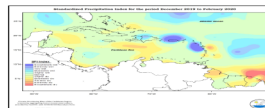
In Barbados, water woes continue in the north due to drought; read more; <https://www.loopnewsbarbados.com/content/water-woes-continue-north-under-drought-conditions>

Climate change and water; world water day2020; <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

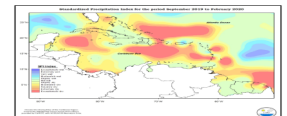


December-January-February

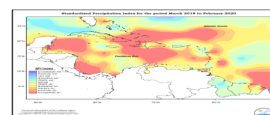
Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the three month period. Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Martinique and St Croix were normal; Barbados moderately dry in the extreme south east to normal on the north western border; St Vincent severe to moderately dry from south to north; Saint Lucia slightly dry; Dominica mostly exceptionally wet with severe to slightly wet conditions in the north east; Guadeloupe moderately wet to slightly dry from west to east; Antigua moderate to slightly wet; St Kitts exceptionally wet; St Maarten moderately wet; and St. Thomas very wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from normal in the southern half of Guyana, northern portions of Suriname and south eastern French Guiana, to severely dry in northern Guyana, and to exceptionally dry in north western French Guiana. Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was predominantly exceptionally wet. Hispaniola ranged from very wet in the north to slightly dry in the southeast. Jamaica was predominantly normal except for the extreme west which was slightly wet. Grand Cayman was slightly dry to normal from west to east. Cuba was predominantly normal, except for slightly dry conditions in east central areas. Northern Bahamas was predominantly normal, with a small area which was slightly wet. Belize was predominantly normal, with slight to moderately dry conditions on the western border.



DEC 2019- FEB 2020
SPI 3 MONTHS



SEP 2019- FEB 2020
SPI 6 MONTHS



MAR 2019- Feb 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.....](#)

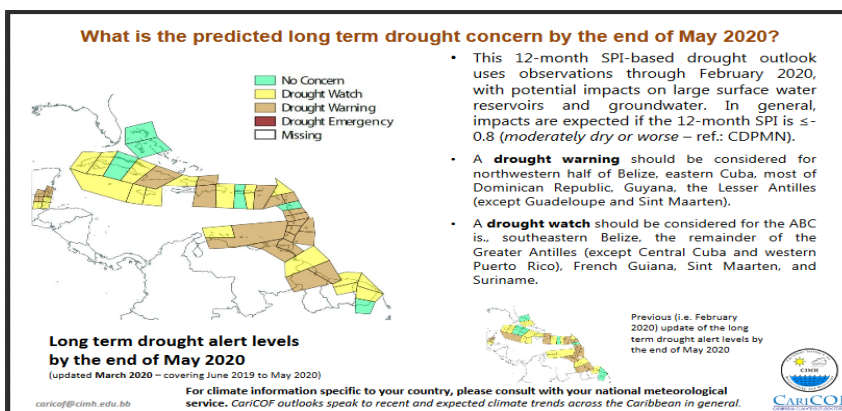
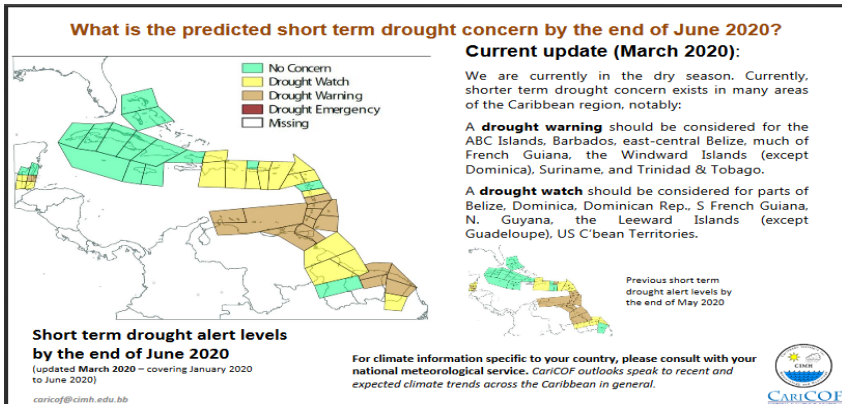
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

- Current drought situation (at the end of February 2020):**
 - Moderate (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in southeastern parts of The Bahamas, French Guiana, northern Guyana, St. Vincent and southern Suriname.
 - Moderate (or worse) long term drought has developed in ABC Is., northernmost and southeastern parts of the Bahamas, Barbados, most of Belize, the Cayman Islands, Central and Eastern Cuba, much of French Guiana, easternmost Guadeloupe, most of Hispaniola, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, eastern Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, USVI.
- Shorter term drought situation (by the end of June 2020):**
 - Shorter term drought is evolving** in ABC Islands, Barbados, east-central Belize, much of French Guiana, the Windward Islands (except Dominica), Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop or continue in parts of Belize, Dominica, Dominican Rep., S French Guiana, N. Guyana, the Leeward Islands (except Guadeloupe), US C'bean Territories.
- Long term drought situation (by the end of May 2020):**
 - Long term drought is evolving** in northwestern half of Belize, eastern Cuba, most of Dominican Republic, Guyana, the Lesser Antilles (except Guadeloupe and Sint Maarten).
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in ABC is., southeastern Belize, the remainder of the Greater Antilles (except Central Cuba and western Puerto Rico), French Guiana, 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.
- .Drought outlook available for download [here](#)**