

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

During the first three months of 2020, there was a clear distinction between the wetter northern and drier southern islands of the eastern Caribbean. The northwest portion of the Caribbean was also very dry. There is much concern over both short and long term drought in Belize in the coming months. There is also significant concern over impacts on large rivers and reservoirs, and groundwater resources in the southern Caribbean Islands, parts of the Guianas, Cayman Islands and Belize, at least until the end of May.

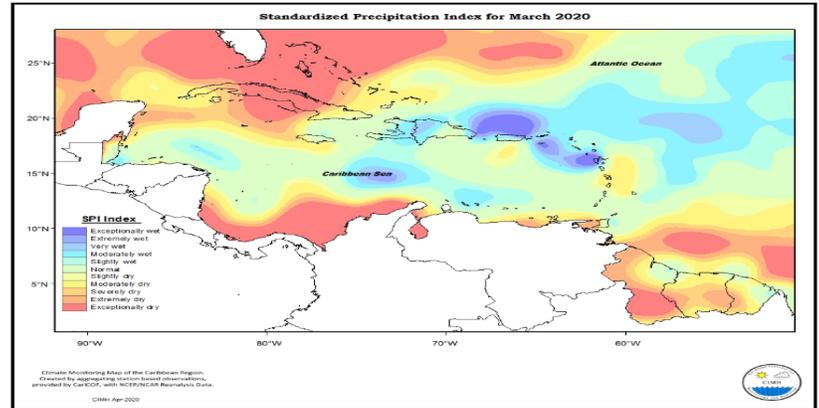
Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of March. Trinidad was severely dry in the west to slightly wet in the north-east; Tobago and Grenada normal; Barbados and St Vincent normal to slightly dry from south to north; Saint Lucia slight to moderately dry; Martinique moderately dry; Dominica normal in the south to moderately wet in the north; Guadeloupe exceptionally wet in the west to normal in the east; Antigua very wet in the south to moderately wet in the north; St Kitts moderate to slightly wet south to north; Anguilla and St Maarten moderately wet; St Croix extreme to exceptionally wet west to east; and St Thomas moderately wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from slightly wet in the northeast of Guyana and French Guyana to exceptionally dry in southern Guyana. Curacao was moderately wet. Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the south to exceptionally wet in the north east. Hispaniola ranged from very wet in western Dominican Republic to normal in north-west and southwest Haiti and to extremely wet in the east and slightly dry in the southeast. Jamaica ranged from severely dry to normal from west to east. Grand Cayman was severely dry and Cuba ranged from exceptionally dry in central areas to slightly dry in the west and normal in the east. Northern Bahamas was predominantly exceptionally dry and Belize ranged from slightly wet in the southeast to exceptionally dry in the north.

Latest News

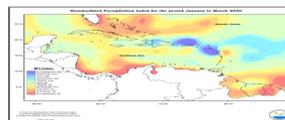
National Met service in Belize says drought likely for 2020 rainy season, read more; <https://amandala.com.bz/news/national-met-service-says-drought-likely-for-2020-rainy-season/>

CDB supports measures for Drought-Hit farmers in Belize' Read more; <https://today.caricom.org/2020/04/06/cdb-supports-relief-measures-for-drought-hit-farmers-in-belize/>

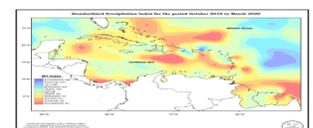


January-February-March

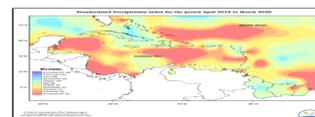
Over the three month period, mixed conditions were seen throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was moderately dry in the south-west to normal in the north east; Tobago, Barbados and Grenada normal; St Vincent moderately dry; Saint Lucia and Martinique slight to moderately dry; Dominica slight to very wet; Guadeloupe exceptionally wet in the west to normal in the east; Antigua extreme to very wet; St Kitts exceptionally wet; St Maarten extreme to very wet; St Croix moderate to very wet from west to east; and St Thomas very wet. In the Guianas, apart from in the vicinity of the northern Guyana/Suriname border that was normal, conditions mostly ranged from slight to exceptionally dry. Curacao was normal. In Puerto Rico, conditions ranged from normal in the extreme south east to exceptionally wet in northern areas. Hispaniola ranged from extremely wet in the north to normal in western portions of Haiti, and to slightly dry in south-eastern Dominican Republic. Jamaica was moderately dry in the extreme west to normal in central and eastern areas. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba ranged from extremely dry in the north to normal in north western and south eastern areas. Northern Bahamas was extreme to moderately dry from south to north, and Belize ranged from predominantly normal, with slight to moderately dry areas in the west.



JAN 2020- MAR 2020
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2019- MAR 2020
SPI 6 MONTHS



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

For more information contact:

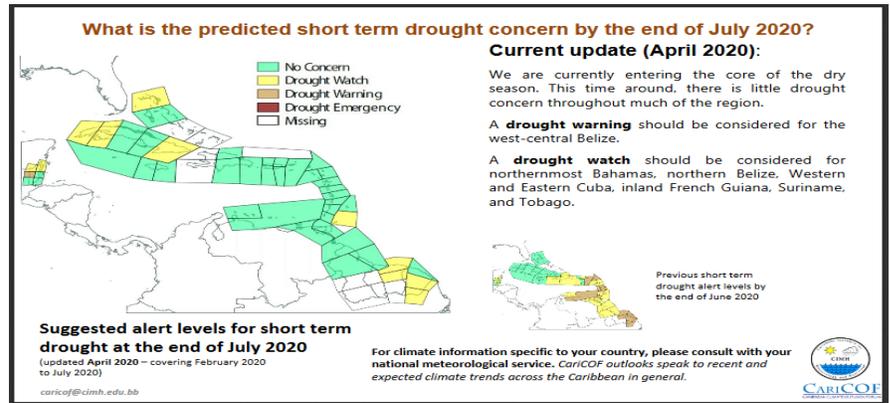
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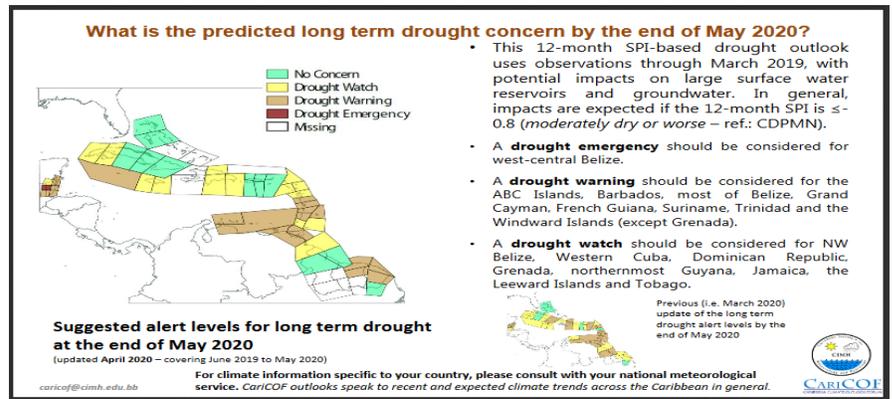
CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

Map of short-term drought by the end of July 2020



- Shorter term drought situation (by the end of July 2020):
 - Shorter term drought is evolving in west-central Belize.
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop or continue in northernmost Bahamas, northern Belize, Western and Eastern Cuba, inland French Guiana, Suriname, and Tobago.

Map of long-term drought by the end of May 2020



- Long term drought situation (by the end of May 2020):
 - Long term drought is of immediate concern in west-central Belize and is evolving in the ABC Islands, Barbados, most of Belize, Grand Cayman, French Guiana, Suriname, Trinidad and the Windward Islands (except Grenada).
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in NW Belize, Western Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, northernmost Guyana, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands and Tobago.
 - 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.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)