

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

July 2020 | Volume V II | ISSUE 2

## Announcement

Rains are expected to increase as the region traverses the wet season. There will be very little concern over short term drought that affect small rivers and streams, though the south eastern Caribbean should still be watchful, but is expected to fear better by the end of July. The more recently developed drought concerns in islands further north can persist into August. Islands in the southeast, along with Suriname should pay close attention to long term drought that can impact groundwater and large rivers approaching the end of the season in November.

## Month at a Glance

Rainfall in the eastern Caribbean was predominantly below normal during the month of May. Trinidad was normal in the south to severely dry in the northeast; Tobago, St Vincent, Antigua and St Croix moderately dry; Grenada slightly dry; Barbados slight to moderately dry; Saint Lucia, St Maarten and St Thomas extremely dry; Martinique moderately dry in the south to extremely dry in the north; Dominica and Guadeloupe severe to extremely dry and St Kitts severely dry. In the Guianas conditions ranged from moderately dry in north-eastern Suriname and southeast French Guiana to exceptionally wet in north-eastern French Guiana, and to extremely wet in southern Guyana. Curacao was slight to moderately dry and Aruba severely dry. Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry in the west to extremely dry in the northeast.

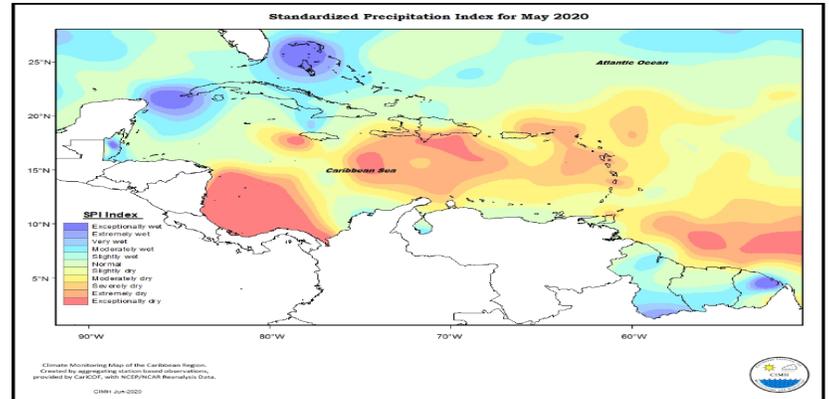
[Read more;](#)

## Latest News

St Vincent's water authority urging consumers to pray for rain, Read more; <http://pridenews.ca/2020/06/04/st-vincents-water-authority-urging-consumers-pray-rain/>

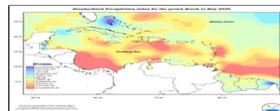
Saint Lucians give suggestions for Water Woes Eradication, Read more; <https://www.thevoiceslu.com/2020/06/saint-lucians-give-suggestions-for-water-woes-eradication/>

Puerto Rico hit with water rationing and severe drought, Read more; <https://apnews.com/c7fec884e19eee4265e3fe401e89fdb2>

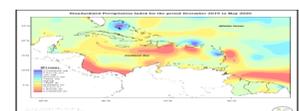


## March-April-May

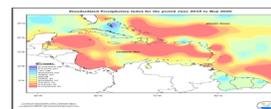
Over the three month period, normal to below normal rainfall prevailed throughout the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad ranged from slightly dry in the southeast to exceptionally dry in the northwest; Tobago slight to severely dry; Grenada slightly dry to normal; Barbados, St. Vincent and Dominica moderate to severely dry; St Kitts and St Maarten moderately dry; Saint Lucia exceptionally dry; Martinique exceptionally dry in the south to severely dry in the north; Guadeloupe normal in the west to severely dry in the east; Antigua and St Thomas slightly dry; St Croix normal. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from extremely dry in northern Guyana to, moderately dry in northeast central Suriname. to exceptionally wet in northeast French Guiana. Aruba was extreme to exceptionally dry and Curacao normal. Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in the south to normal in the north. Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally dry in a small area of southern Dominican Republic to normal in the north and eastern areas. Jamaica ranged from extremely dry in the west, to slightly dry in the east and normal in the north. Grand Cayman was moderate to severely dry. Cuba ranged from moderately wet in the west to moderately dry in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from moderate to exceptionally wet, and Belize from exceptionally wet in central areas to normal in the south and moderately dry in western and northern areas.



**MAR 2020- MAY 2020**  
**SPI 3 MONTHS**



**DEC 2019- MAY 2020**  
**SPI 6 MONTHS**



**JUN 2019- MAY 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:

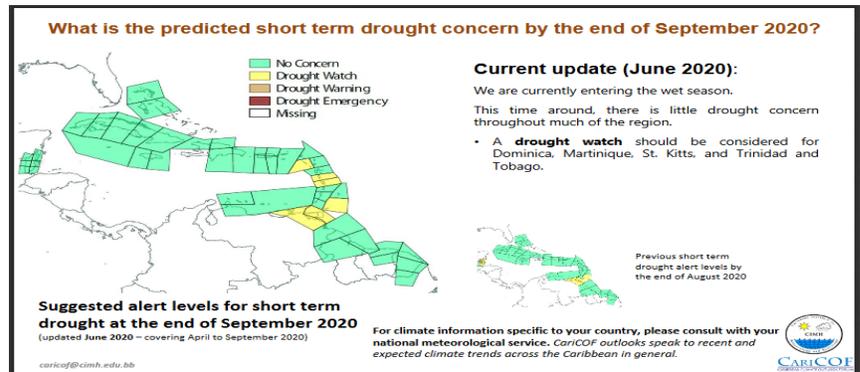
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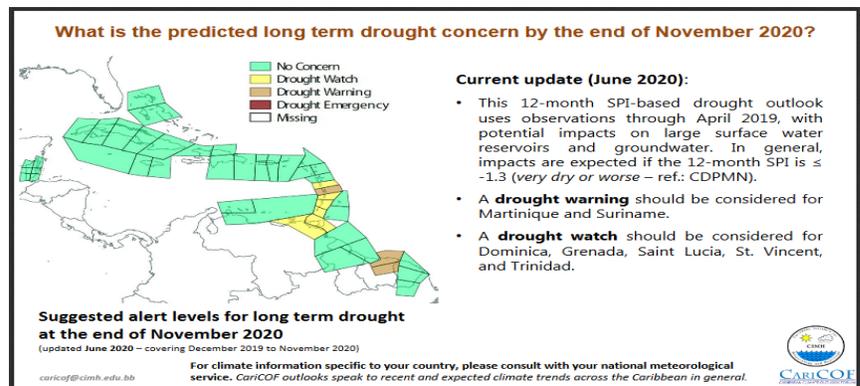
## CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

### Map of short-term drought by the end of September 2020



- Shorter term drought situation (by the end of September 2020):
  - Shorter term drought might possibly develop or continue in Dominica, Martinique, St. Kitts, and Trinidad and Tobago..

### Map of long-term drought by the end of November 2020



- Long term drought situation (by the end of November 2020):
  - Long term drought is evolving in Martinique and Suriname.
  - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad.
  - Areas ending up in long term drought by the end of November may experience water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater that are lower than usual, which would become a concern for the 2020-21 dry season.
  - Special note: most areas that are currently experiencing agricultural drought are expected to see impacts ease by the end of July. Likewise, the majority of areas with lower water levels in very large surface and in underground reservoirs are expected to see progressive improvement towards August and September.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)