

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Drought concerns continued in many parts of the Caribbean entering the month of July, with conservation and water rationing measures being imposed in some countries. However, as rains increase to normal to above normal levels over most of the region between August and October, those countries and territories not yet feeling some ease from the conditions should do so by the end of August. There are no concerns regarding short term drought at the end of October that impacts streams, small rivers and ponds. However, there is some concern for longer term drought, that impacts large rivers, reservoirs and groundwater, in the southern portion of the eastern Caribbean and Grand Cayman by the end of November. This we will continue to monitor.

Month at a Glance

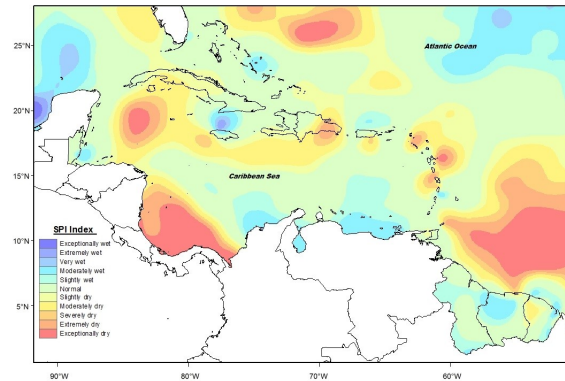
Rainfall in the eastern Caribbean was predominantly normal to below normal for the month of June. Trinidad and Antigua were normal to slightly dry; Tobago normal to severely dry; Grenada, Barbados, St Vincent, St Croix and St. Thomas normal; Saint Lucia slightly wet in the south to moderately dry in the north; Martinique slight to extremely dry from south to north; Dominica severe to slightly dry; Guadeloupe mostly normal to extremely dry from west to east; St Kitts moderate to extremely dry; and St Maarten moderately dry. Most of the Guianas was normal to slightly wet, but ranged from very wet in north eastern French Guiana to moderately dry in north western French Guiana. Curacao was normal to slightly wet and Aruba was normal. Puerto Rico ranged from predominantly normal in central areas to moderately dry in the southeast and to slightly wet in the north west. [Read more;](#)

Latest News

water woes to worsen if drought conditions persist, [Read more; https://barbadostoday.bb/2020/07/02/water-woes-to-worsen-if-drought-conditions-persist/](https://barbadostoday.bb/2020/07/02/water-woes-to-worsen-if-drought-conditions-persist/)

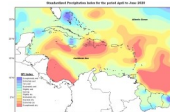
Worsening water crisis in the eastern Caribbean, [Read more; https://eos.org/articles/worsening-water-crisis-in-the-eastern-caribbean](https://eos.org/articles/worsening-water-crisis-in-the-eastern-caribbean)

Standardized Precipitation Index for June 2020

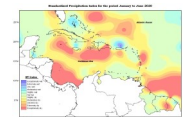


April-May-June

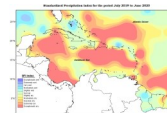
Over the three month period, rainfall in the eastern Caribbean was normal to below normal. Trinidad was normal to moderately dry from the south-east to the northwest; Tobago and Guadeloupe moderate to exceptionally dry; Grenada normal; Barbados slightly dry; St Vincent slightly dry to normal in the extreme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



APR 2020- JUN 2020
SPI 3 MONTHS



JAN 2020 - JUN 2020
SPI 6 MONTHS



JUL 2019- JUN 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:

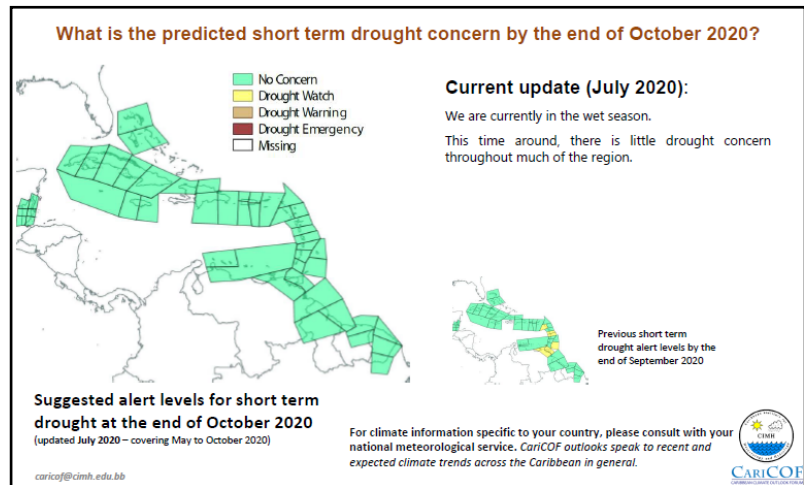
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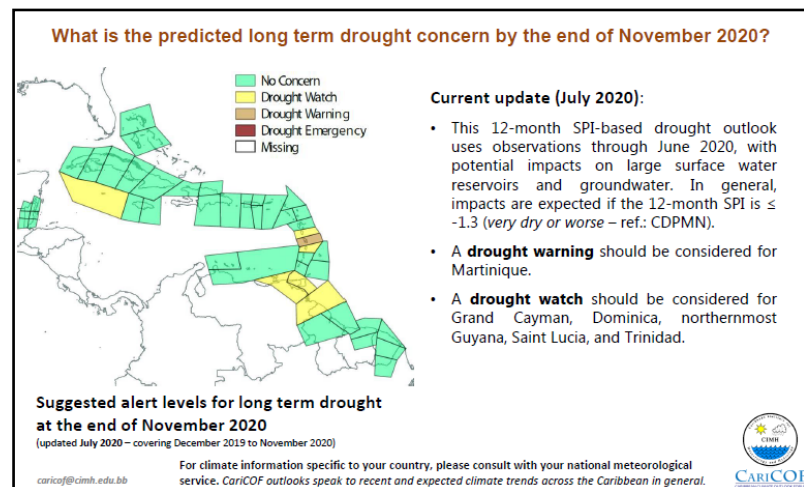
Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

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



- **Shorter term drought situation (by the end of October 2020):**
 - This time around, there is little drought concern throughout much of the region.



- **Long term drought situation (by the end of November 2020):**
 - Long term drought is evolving in Martinique.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in Grand Cayman, Dominica, northernmost Guyana, Saint Lucia, 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: areas currently experiencing agricultural drought are expected to see impacts ease by the end of August. Likewise, the majority of areas with lower water levels in very large surface and in underground reservoirs are expected to see progressive improvement towards September.

** We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.**
Drought outlook available for download [here](#)