

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

March 2023 | Volume IX | ISSUE 10

Announcement

With conditions possibly shifting from La Nina to El Nino in the Pacific, some uncertainty lies regarding conditions in the Caribbean for the latter half of the 2023 dry season. Near-normal conditions across the region would likely lead to drought concerns continuing over Cuba until at least the end of May. Most of the eastern Caribbean, extending to Hispaniola, should monitor their water resources for short term drought that can impacts streams, small rivers and ponds. Southern portions of Puerto Rico should also be concerned about long term drought that can impact larger water resources and ground water.

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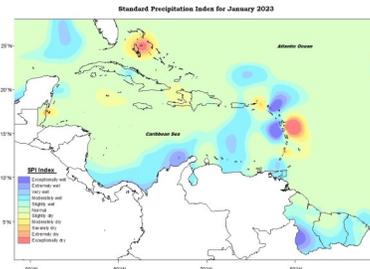
Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of January. Grenada was moderately wet to normal; Barbados slightly dry in the south to predominantly normal; St Vincent severe to slightly dry; Saint Lucia slightly wet to normal; Martinique ranged from normal in the south to slightly wet on the northern coast and moderately dry in the east; Dominica ranged from extremely wet in the south to slightly wet in the north and severely dry in the northeast; Guadeloupe ranged from extremely wet in the west to severely dry in the east; Antigua predominantly slight to moderately wet in the north; St Kitts and St Maarten normal to very wet; Anguilla normal to moderately wet; St Croix normal and St Thomas normal to slightly dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally wet in southwestern Guyana to normal in northern areas of Guyana and Suriname as well as northeastern French Guiana. [Read more;](#)

Latest News

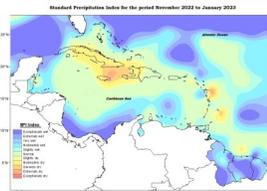
Jamaican Government to spend \$100 million due to drought conditions, [Read more;](#)

Cuban president keeps a close eye on the fight against forest fires in the east of the country, [Read more;](#)

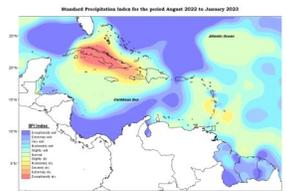


November-December-January

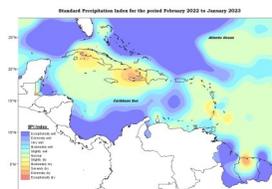
Mixed conditions were seen over the three month period throughout the eastern Caribbean. Grenada, Antigua, St Kitts, St Maarten, St Thomas, St Croix normal and Barbados were moderately dry on the southern coast to normal; St Vincent predominantly slightly dry to normal; Saint Lucia normal to slightly wet; Martinique normal to extremely dry; Dominica very wet to normal; Guadeloupe moderately wet to severely dry and Anguilla normal to moderately wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally wet to normal. Aruba was normal and Curacao slight to moderately wet. Puerto Rico was normal. The Dominican Republic ranged from moderately dry in the west to mostly normal. Jamaica ranged from slight to extremely dry. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from extremely wet in the extreme west to severely dry in the southeast. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to extremely wet, and Belize from very wet in central areas to normal in the west and northeast.



NOV 2022 - JAN 2023
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2022 - JAN 2023
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2022 - JAN 2023
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:

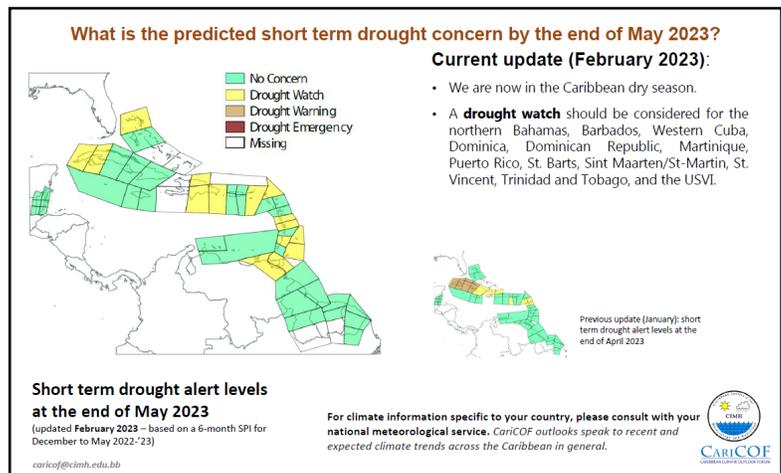
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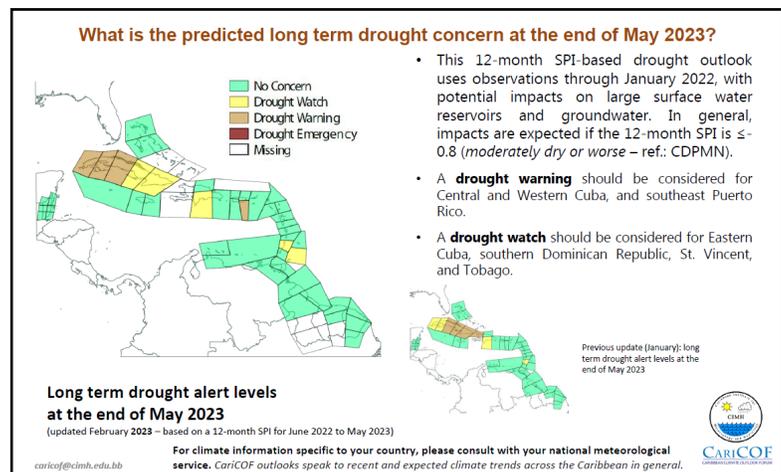
CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

Map of short-term drought by the end of May 2023



- Short-term drought situation (by the end of May 2023):
 - Short term drought might possibly develop in the Northern Bahamas, Barbados, Western Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barts, Sint Maarten/St-Martin, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USVI.

Map of long-term drought by the end of May 2023



- Long-term drought situation (by the end of May 2023):
 - Long term drought is evolving across Central and Western Cuba, and southeast Puerto Rico.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in Eastern Cuba, southern Dominican Republic, St. Vincent, and Tobago.
 - Areas ending up in long term drought by the end of May are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater.

"We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring their environment for signs of drought, and look out for our monthly updates"

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)