

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

April 2023 | Volume IX | ISSUE 11

## Announcement

With conditions possibly shifting from La Nina to El Nino in the Pacific during the summer of 2023, there is some uncertainty regarding conditions in the Caribbean for April to June, except in the vicinity of the Guianas. Near-normal conditions across the region would likely lead to drought concerns continuing over western Cuba until at least the end of May. Some concern also exists over St Vincent and the Grenadines. It is suggested that the southern portion of the eastern Caribbean (except for the Guianas) and the Greater Antilles monitor their water resources for drought impacts.

## Month at a Glance

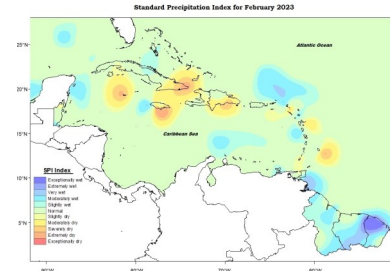
Mixed conditions prevailed throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of February. Trinidad ranged from very wet to slightly dry southeast to northwest; Grenada slightly dry; Barbados moderately dry to normal; St Vincent and St Thomas normal; Saint Lucia, Martinique and St Maarten normal to slightly wet; Dominica moderately wet to normal; Guadeloupe and St Kitts normal to moderately dry; Antigua moderate to slightly wet and St Croix slightly dry to normal. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from normal to exceptionally wet in French Guiana. Aruba ranged from normal to predominantly slightly wet, and Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was normal. The Dominican Republic ranged from severely dry in southern areas to normal in the north. Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the west to extremely dry in the south and to severely dry in the east. Grand Cayman was extreme to severely dry. [Read More;](#)

## Latest News

Cuba's Matanzas province works to counter drought; [Read More;](#)

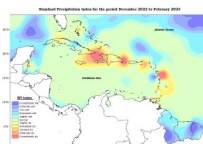
Parched Cuba grappling with prolonged drought; [Read More;](#)

Dozens of forest fires scorch Cuba, threatening brittle economy; [Read More;](#)

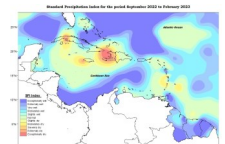


## December-January-February

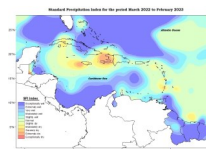
Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the three month period. Trinidad and St Thomas ranged from slight to moderately dry; Grenada, St Kitts and St Maarten normal to slightly dry; Barbados moderately dry to normal; St Vincent severe to slightly dry; Saint Lucia and Antigua normal; Martinique normal to extremely dry; Dominica very wet to exceptionally dry on the southwestern to the northeastern coastlines; Guadeloupe slightly wet to severely dry; St Kitts slightly dry to normal; St Maarten moderately dry to normal; St Croix moderate to severely dry and St Thomas slight to moderately dry. In the Guianas conditions ranged from exceptionally wet in southwestern Guyana and in the vicinity of the northern border of Suriname and French Guiana to normal in northern Suriname. Aruba and Curacao were normal. Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the west to mostly normal. The Dominican Republic ranged from severely dry in the west to normal in the extreme north and to exceptionally dry in the east. Jamaica was predominantly moderately dry with slightly dry conditions in the extreme west and to severely dry on the northeastern coastline. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from moderately wet in the extreme west and central areas to exceptionally dry in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to moderately dry and Belize from moderately wet in the south to moderately dry in the northeast.



**DEC 2022 - FEB 2023**  
**SPI 3 MONTHS**



**SEP 2022 - FEB 2023**  
**SPI 6 MONTHS**



**MAR 2022 - FEB 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:

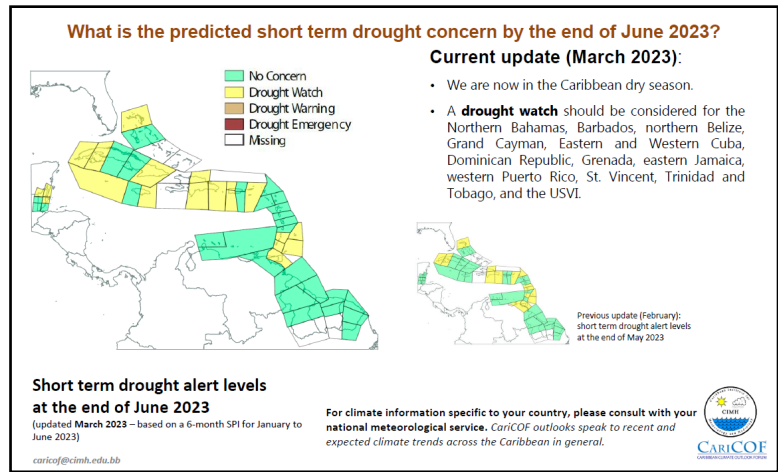
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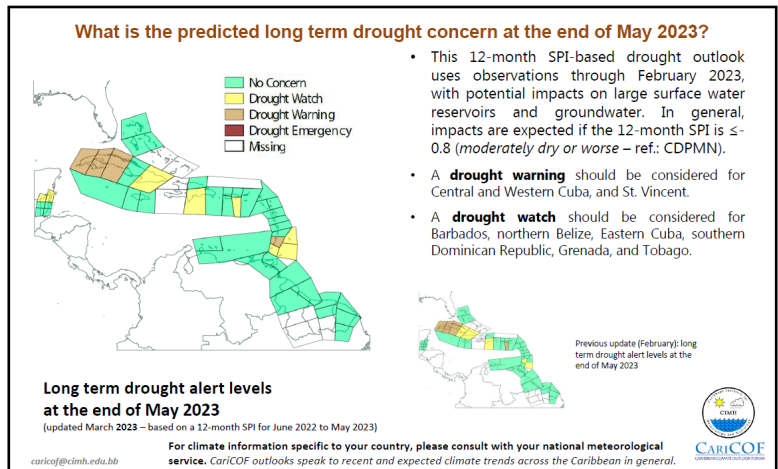
## CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

### Map of short-term drought by the end of June 2023



- Short-term drought situation (by the end of June 2023):
  - Short term drought might possibly develop in the Northern Bahamas, Barbados, northern Belize, Grand Cayman, Eastern and Western Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, eastern Jamaica, western Puerto Rico, 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 St. Vincent.
  - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in Barbados, northern Belize, Eastern Cuba, southern Dominican Republic, Grenada, 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](#)**