

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

May 2023 | Volume IX | ISSUE 12

Announcement

Conditions are likely to shift from La Nina to El Niño in the Pacific during the summer of 2023, which would likely result in a decline in rainfall, particularly in the eastern Caribbean and the Guianas by late summer. However, drought conditions continue to be expressed currently across much of Cuba and would likely not improve before June. Drought is also likely to be impactful over parts of Hispaniola and Jamaica over the next month or two. By the end of July, there is likely to be little concern over short term drought that can impact ponds, streams and small rivers. However the rainfall in the eastern Caribbean and the Guianas due to the establishment of the El Niño, would likely result in drought impacts during the second half of the climatological wet season, and an early start to the next dry season.

Month at a Glance

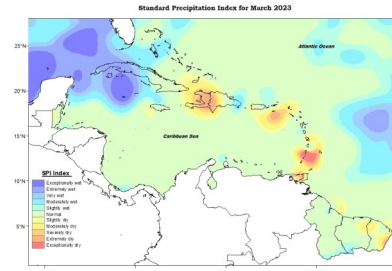
Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the month of March, with the exception of Dominica which was slightly dry to predominantly slightly wet. Trinidad ranged from extremely dry in western areas to normal in the east; Grenada slight to severely dry; Barbados extreme to slightly dry; St Vincent exceptional to severely dry south to north; Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, Antigua and St Thomas normal; Martinique, St Maarten and Anguilla moderately dry; St Kitts normal to slightly dry; and St Croix extreme to moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions were predominantly normal, ranging from moderately wet on the southern Guyana/ Suriname border to extremely dry in southeastern French Guiana. Aruba was normal to predominantly slightly wet and Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in western areas to normal in the east.

[Read more;](#)

Latest News

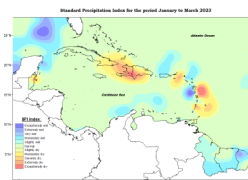
Rainfall levels rebounded in March, but drought persists in Jamaica; [Read more;](#)

Drought in Cuba and unequal deficient solutions; [Read more;](#)

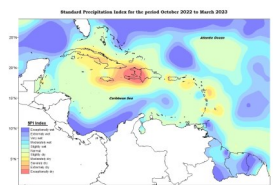


January-February-March

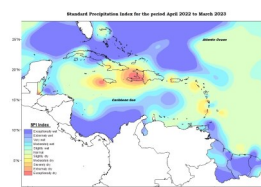
Over the three month period, conditions throughout the southern portion of the eastern Caribbean were mostly normal to below normal, while the northern portion were mixed. Trinidad and St Thomas were normal to slightly dry; Grenada and St Kitts normal; Barbados and St Croix severe to moderately dry; St Vincent extreme to moderately dry; Saint Lucia and Antigua normal to slightly wet; Martinique normal to severely dry; Dominica extremely wet to slightly dry; Guadeloupe very wet to moderately dry; and St Maarten and Anguilla moderately dry to normal. In the Guianas conditions ranged from normal to extremely wet. Aruba and Curacao were normal. Puerto Rico ranged from moderately wet in northwestern areas to normal in the east. The Dominican Republic ranged from exceptionally dry in the southwest to normal in eastern and northern areas. Jamaica was predominantly normal with slightly dry areas on the extreme northeastern coast. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was mostly normal ranging to slightly wet in the west and to extremely dry in the extreme east. Northern Bahamas was normal and Belize ranged from normal in the south to severely dry in the northeast.



JAN 2023 - MAR 2023
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2022 - MAR 2023
SPI 6 MONTHS



APR 2022 - MAR 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:

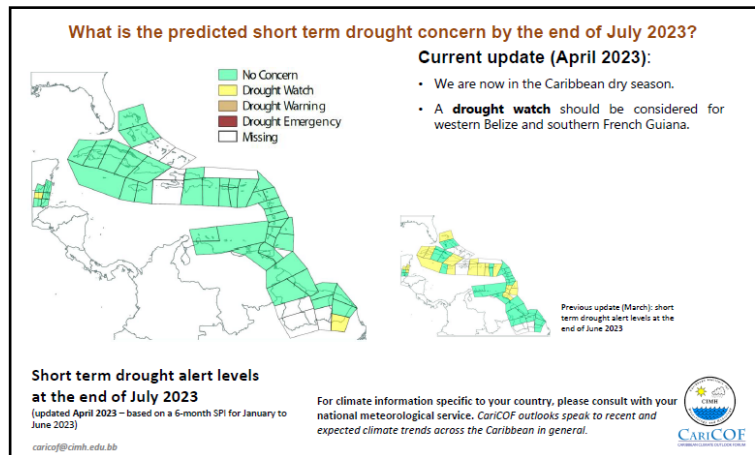
Mr. Adrian Trotman:
atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

Mrs. Lisa Kirton-Reed
lkreed@cimh.edu.bb

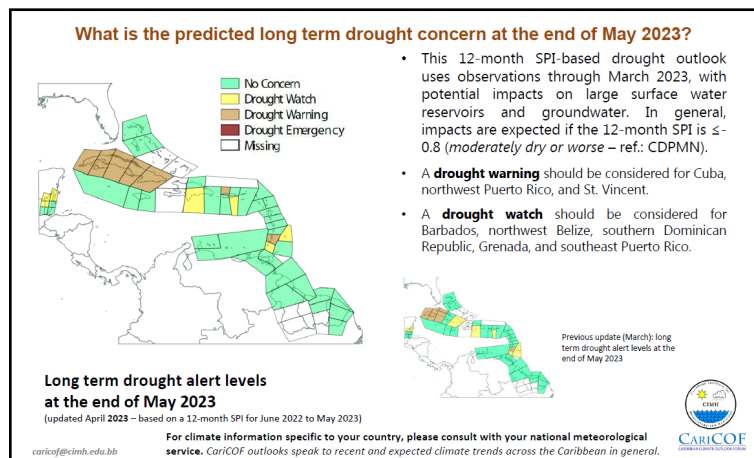
Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

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



- Short-term drought situation (by the end of July 2023):
 - Short term drought is evolving in Haiti.
 - Short term drought might possibly develop in western Belize and southern French Guiana.



- Long-term drought situation (by the end of May 2023):
 - Long term drought is evolving across Cuba, northwest Puerto Rico, and St. Vincent.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in Barbados, northwest Belize, southern Dominican Republic, Grenada, and southeast Puerto Rico.
 - 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](#)