

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of January 2024

*Coordination: Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology  
Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck - Climatologist  
Dr. Teddy Allen – Assistant Climatologist  
caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

## Participating territories

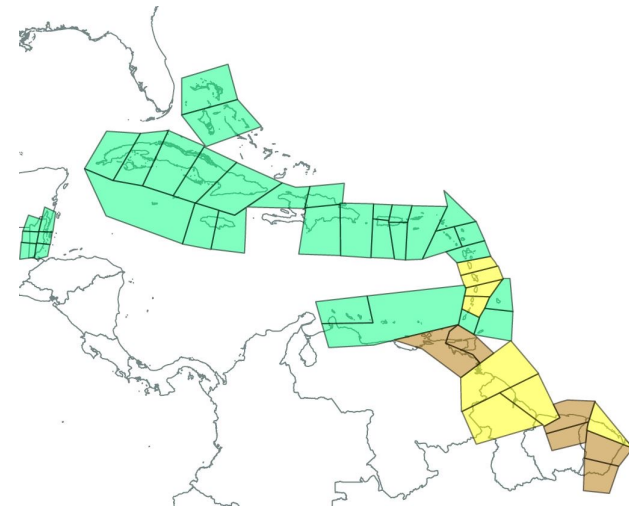
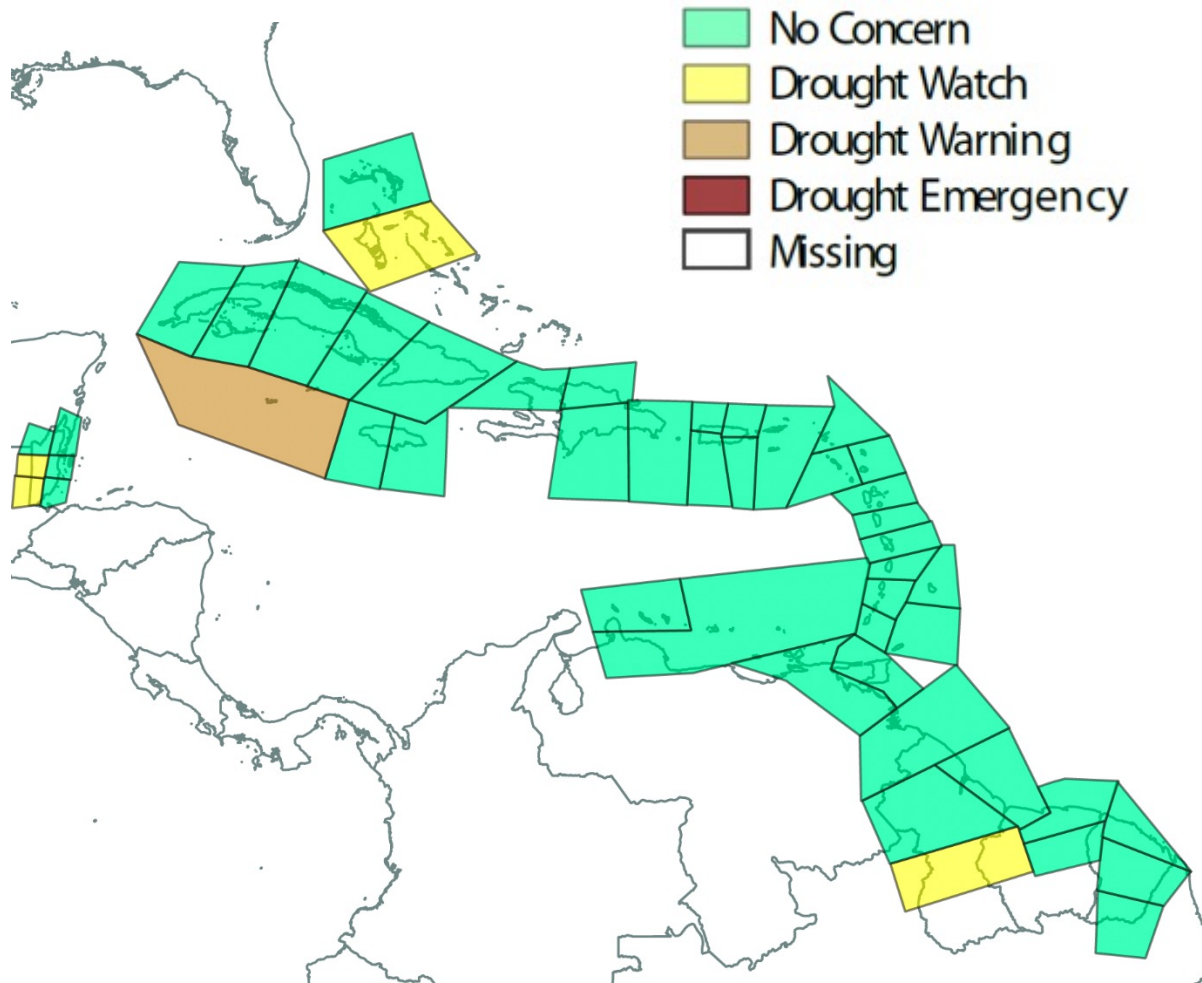
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



# What is the predicted short term drought concern by the end of January 2024?

## Current update (October 2023):

- We are entering the late Caribbean wet season.
- A **drought warning** should be considered for Grand Cayman.
- A **drought watch** should be considered for southwest Belize, The Bahamas, and southern Guyana.



Previous update (September):  
short term drought alert levels  
at the end of December 2023

## Short term drought alert levels at the end of January 2024

(updated **October 2023** – based on a 6-month SPI for July to  
December 2023)

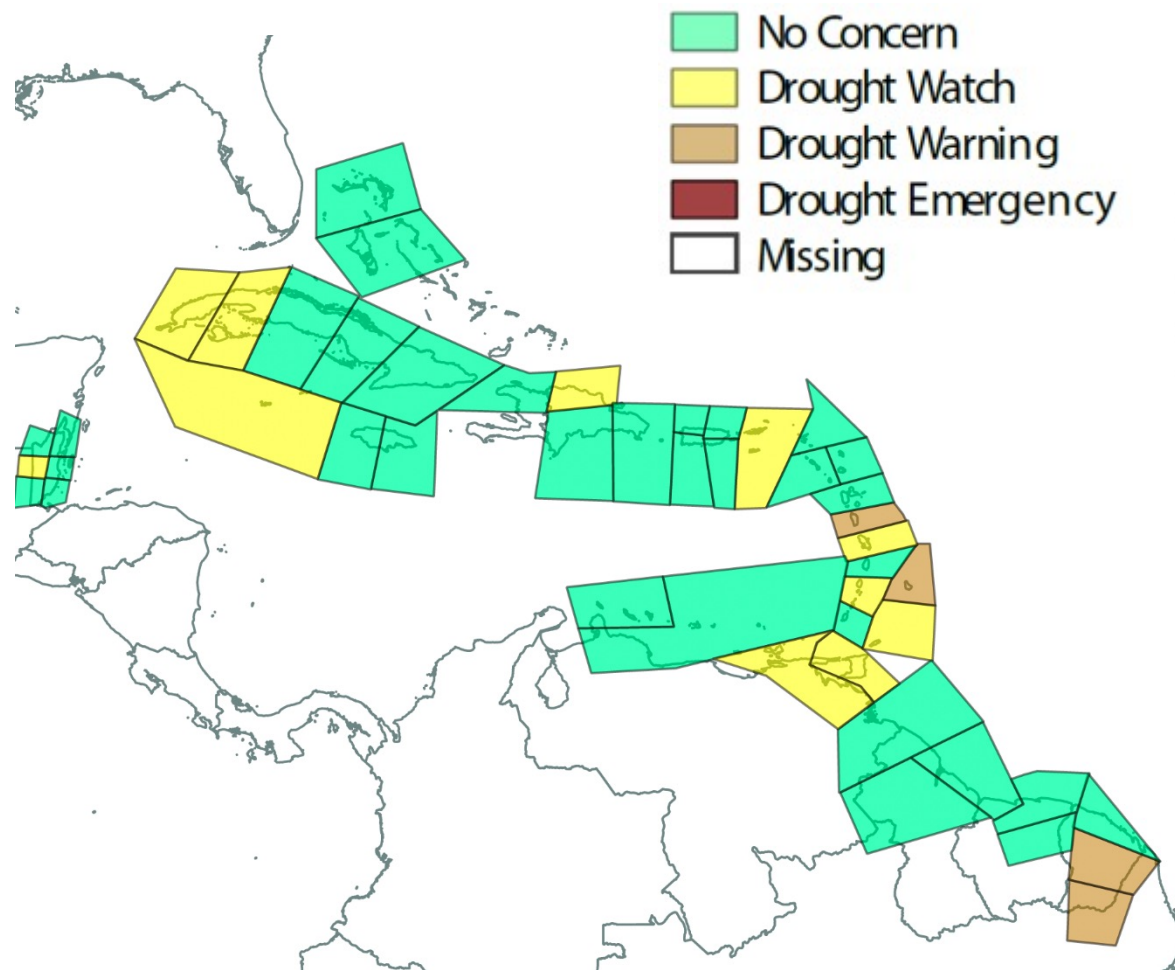
[caricof@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:caricof@cimh.edu.bb)

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. *CariCOF outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.*



**CARICOF**  
CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

# What is the predicted long term drought concern at the end of November 2023?



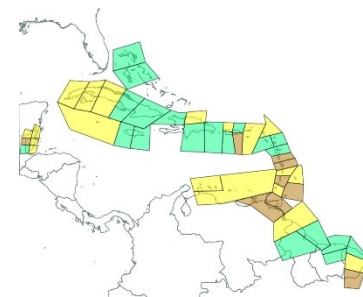
- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through September 2023, with potential impacts on large surface water reservoirs and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (*severely dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- A **drought warning** should be considered for Barbados, Dominica, and the interior of French Guiana.
- A **drought watch** should be considered for western Belize, Grand Cayman, Cuba, northern Dominican Republic, Martinique, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USVI.

## Long term drought alert levels at the end of November 2023

(updated October 2023 – based on a 12-month SPI for December 2022 to November 2023)

[caricof@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:caricof@cimh.edu.bb)

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. CariCOF outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.



Previous update (September): long term drought alert levels at the end of November 2023



**CARICOF**  
CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

# Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- Current drought situation (up to the end of September 2023): *(more information [here](#))*
  - Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Barbados, parts of Central Cuba, southeast French Guiana, northeast Guyana, southern Saint Lucia, and northwest Suriname.
  - Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in parts of Barbados, northeast Belize, eastern Cuba, eastern Guadeloupe.
- Short-term drought situation (by the end of January 2024):
  - Short-term drought is evolving in Grand Cayman.
  - Short-term drought might possibly develop or continue in southwest Belize, The Bahamas, and southern Guyana.
- Long-term drought situation (by the end of November 2023):
  - Long-term drought is evolving in Barbados, Dominica, and the interior of French Guiana.
  - Long-term drought might possibly develop or continue in western Belize, Grand Cayman, Cuba, northern Dominican Republic, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USVI. .
  - Areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of November are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater going into the Caribbean Dry Season, increasing chances of long-term drought impacts then.

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

**CONTINUE TO MONITOR &  
CONSERVE WATER !!**



**CARICOF**  
CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

*caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

*rcc.cimh.edu.bb*

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology

TEL: (246) 425-1362/3 | FAX: (246) 424-4733