

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of December 2026

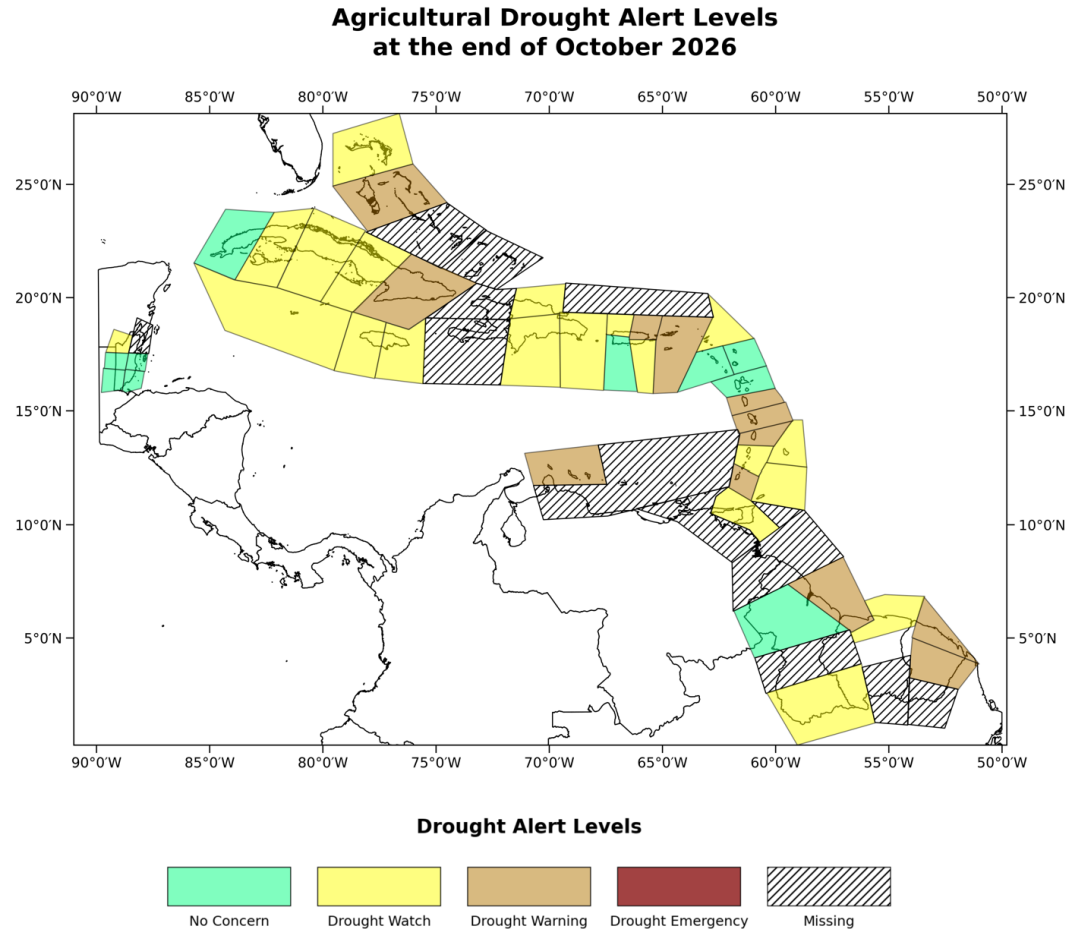
*Coordination: Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology
Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck - Climatologist
caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

Participating territories

Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, 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 *agricultural drought* concern at the end of October 2026?

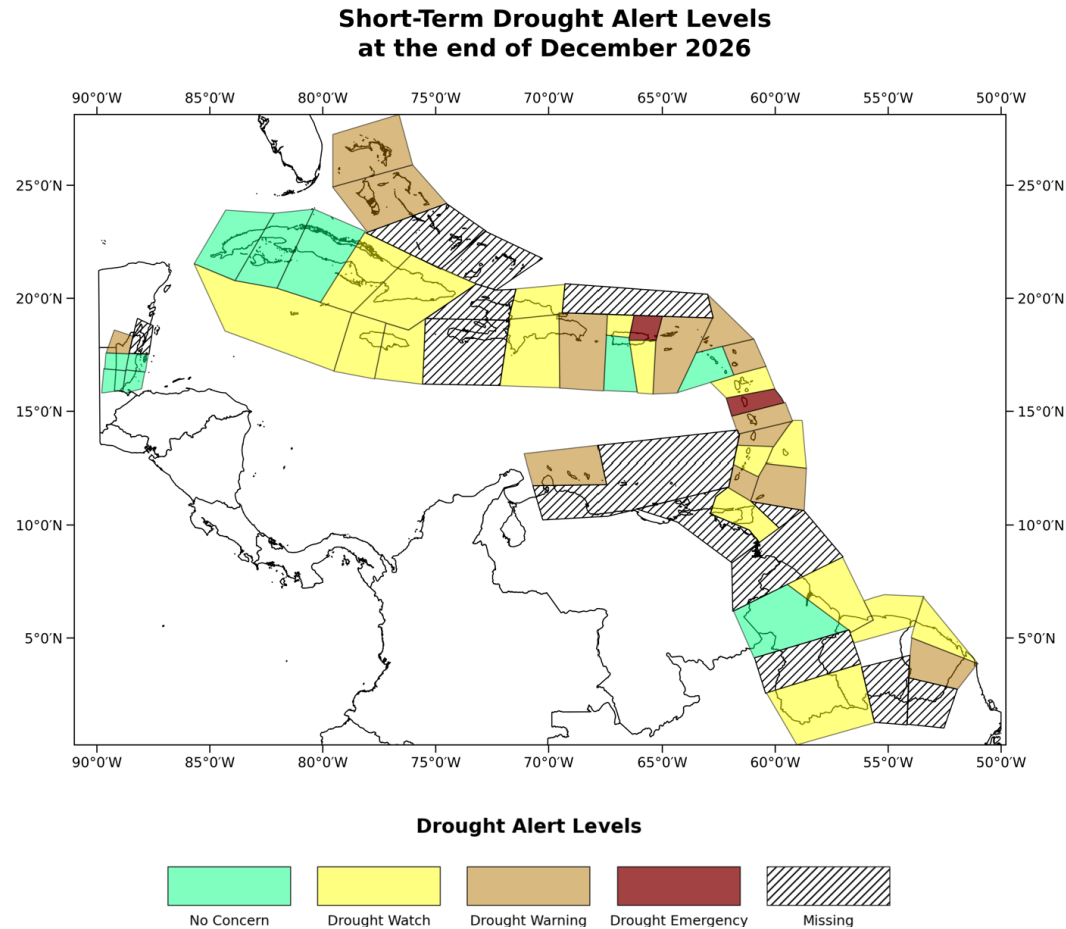


September 2026 update:

- During the Caribbean Wet Season, rainfall totals are usually higher. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions ($SPI \leq -1.3$; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to surface and soil moisture leading to negative impacts on rainfed crop agriculture.
- **Drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Northwest Bahamas, Eastern Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, USVI.
- **Drought watch** should be considered for Northern Bahamas, Barbados, northwest Belize, northern & Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, Dominican Republic, far southern Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.

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.

What is the predicted *short-term drought* concern at the end of December 2026?

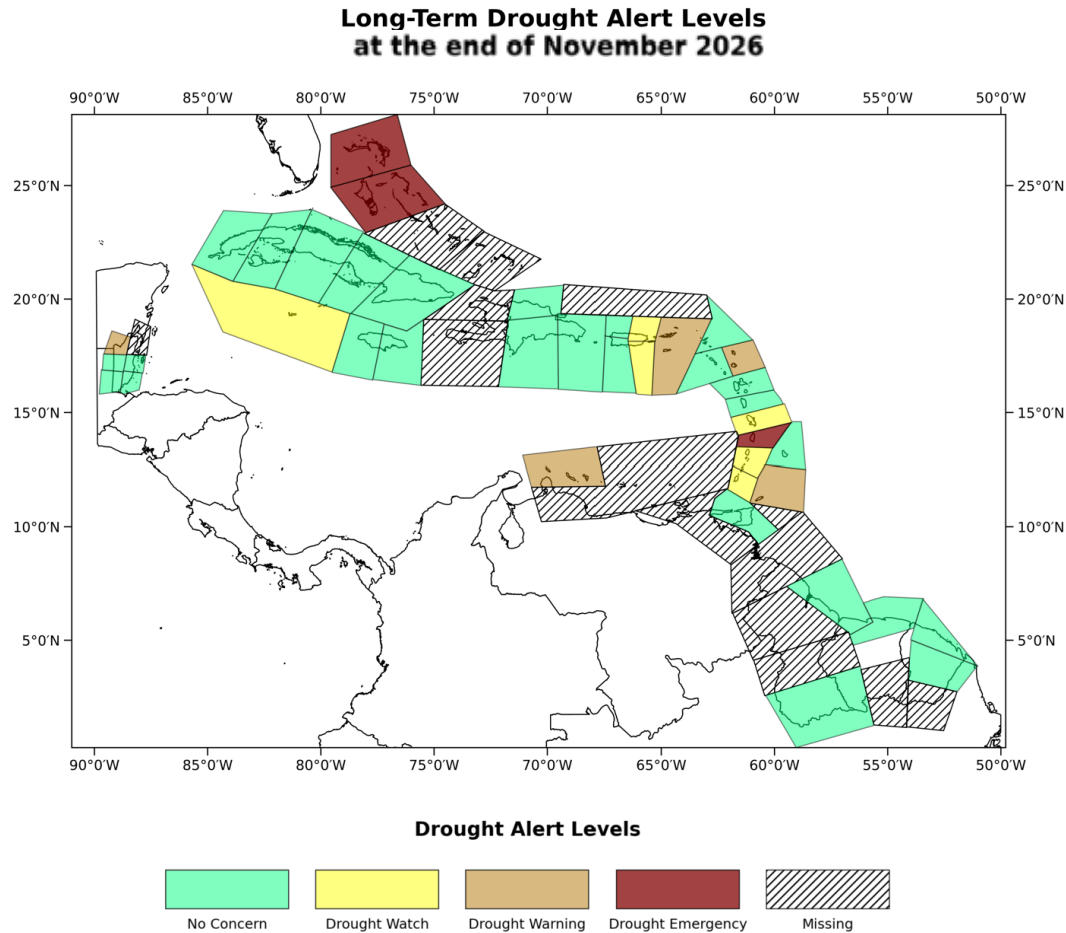


September 2026 update:

- After November, the Caribbean moves from the Wet Season – when rainfall totals are usually higher – to the Dry Season. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions ($SPI \leq -1.3$; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to soil moisture, stream and small river flow, as well as surface water reservoirs are expected, with implications for agriculture and hydrology.
- **Drought emergency** should be considered for Dominica, northeast Puerto Rico.
- **Drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, northwest Belize, easternmost Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, Grenada, Martinique, St. Barts, Saint Lucia, St. Martin, Tobago, USVI.
- **Drought watch** should be considered for Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Eastern & parts of Central Cuba, northern & southern Dominican Republic, coastal Guianas, far southern Guyana, other areas in the Lesser Antilles, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico.

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.

What is the predicted *long-term drought* concern at the end of November 2026?



September 2026 update:

- During the Caribbean Wet Season, rainfall totals are usually higher. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions ($SPI \leq -1.3$; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to large river flow, very large surface water reservoirs and aquifers are expected, with implications across most climate-sensitive sectors of society.
- A **drought emergency** should be considered for the Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Saint Lucia.
- A **drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest Belize, Tobago, USVI.
- A **drought watch** should be considered for Grand Cayman, Grenada, Martinique, eastern Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, USVI.

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.

Outlook – agricultural / short- / long-term drought concern?

- **Current drought situation** (up to the end of August 2026): (more information [here](#))
 - Severe (or worse) **agricultural drought** has developed in the Northwest Bahamas, cays of northern Belize, Grand Cayman, Central Cuba, southwest & eastern Dominican Republic, French Guiana, eastern Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Windward Islands.
 - Severe (or worse) **short-term drought** has developed in Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, Grenada, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Tobago.
 - Severe (or worse) **long-term drought** has developed in Grand Cayman, parts of western French Guiana, Tobago, St. Barts, St. Kitts, Windward Islands.
- **Anticipated Agricultural drought situation** (at the end of October 2026):
 - Agricultural drought is *evolving* in the ABC Islands, Northwest Bahamas, Eastern Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, USVI.
 - Agricultural drought *might possibly develop or continue* in the Northern Bahamas, Barbados, northwest Belize, northern & Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, Dominican Republic, far southern Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.
- **Anticipated Short-term drought situation** (at the end of December 2026):
 - Short-term drought is *imminent* in Dominica and *evolving* in the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, northwest Belize, easternmost Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, Grenada, Martinique, St. Barts, Saint Lucia, St. Martin, Tobago, USVI.
 - Short-term drought *might possibly develop or continue* in Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Eastern & parts of Central Cuba, northern & southern Dominican Republic, coastal Guianas, far southern Guyana, other areas in the Lesser Antilles, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico.
- **Anticipated Long-term drought situation** (at the end of November 2026):
 - Long-term drought is *imminent* in the Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Saint Lucia, and *evolving* in the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest Belize, Tobago, USVI.
 - Long-term drought *might possibly develop or continue* in Grand Cayman, Grenada, Martinique, eastern Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, 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 in the ensuing dry season.

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

ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
NO CONCERN	No drought concern	✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
DROUGHT WATCH	Drought possible	✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
DROUGHT WARNING	Drought evolving	✓ protect resources ✓ conserve and recycle water ✓ implement management plans ✓ release public service announcements ✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades ✓ report impacts
DROUGHT EMERGENCY	Drought of immediate concern	✓ release public service announcements ✓ implement management and response plans ✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling ✓ enforce resource protection ✓ repair infrastructure ✓ report impacts



**Regional climate data, information, tools,
experimental and operational products
are available at**

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

Coordination:
Contact:

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology
caricof@cimh.edu.bb

Author(s):

Dr. Cedric VAN MEERBEECK – *Climatologist*
(cmeerbeeck@cimh.edu.bb)

