

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

February 2019 | Volume V | ISSUE 9

Announcement

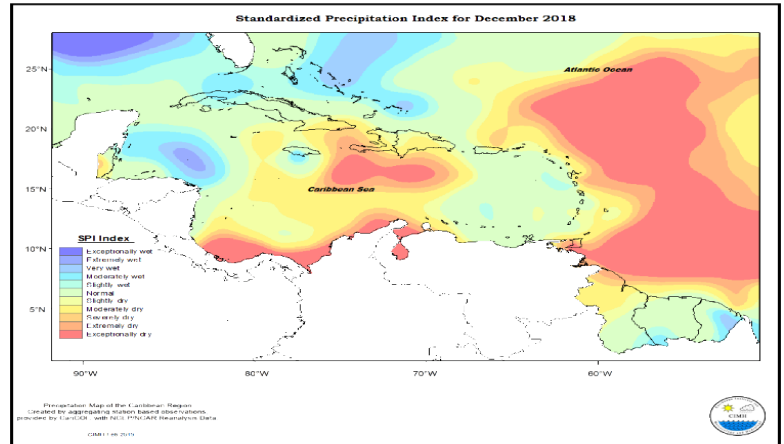
Since December, many parts of the Caribbean have become drier. Major concerns exist in the southern Caribbean, including from northern Guyana to Barbados and west to the ABC Islands for short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds, by the end of April 2019. Significant concerns also exist over long term drought that can impact large rivers and reservoirs, and groundwater by the end of May 2019, in parts of the eastern Caribbean, Jamaica, Hispaniola and southern French Guiana. In any case, the entire Caribbean basin should closely monitor water supplies for the next few months.

Month at a Glance

Rainfall in the islands of the eastern Caribbean was normal to below normal for the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was moderate to exceptionally dry; Tobago moderately dry; Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Kitts normal; Barbados, Antigua and St. Maarten slight to moderately dry; St. Vincent normal to slightly dry; Martinique, Dominica and Guadeloupe normal to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from severely dry in northern Guyana to very wet in eastern French Guiana, and with most of Suriname being normal. Aruba was moderately dry, while Curacao was predominantly slightly dry. Puerto Rico was normal to moderately dry, but Hispaniola ranged from normal in the north to extremely dry in the southwest. Jamaica was moderately wet in the south to slightly dry in the west and east, but Grand Cayman was normal. Western Cuba was normal to moderately wet and eastern Cuba normal to severely dry; but northern Bahamas was normal to moderately wet. Belize ranged from severely dry in the west to normal in the north.

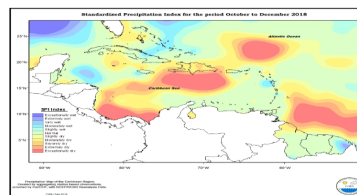
Latest News

Les Avocat Dam, Grenada experienced a 20% decline in water resources. Read more, <http://www.nowgrenada.com/2019/01/20-drop-in-water-resource-at-les-avocat-dam/>

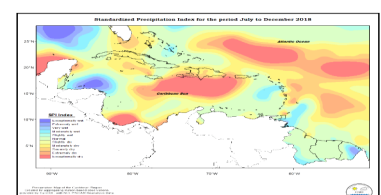


October-November-December

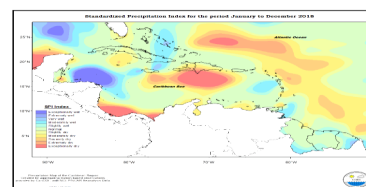
For the three month period, the islands of the eastern Caribbean experienced mixed rainfall amounts. Trinidad was normal apart from the extreme north that was slightly dry; Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten were normal; Barbados moderately dry; St. Lucia, Dominica and Guadeloupe normal to moderately wet; Martinique slight to moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from severely dry in northern Guyana to extremely wet in eastern French Guiana, with Suriname and most of Guyana being normal. Aruba and Curacao were normal. Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in the west to normal in the east, but Hispaniola ranged moderately dry in much of the islands to extremely dry in southwest, south and southeast. Jamaica was slightly wet in the southwest to moderately dry in the northwest and east, while Grand Cayman was severely dry. Western Cuba was normal to slightly dry and eastern Cuba moderately wet to moderately dry, and northern Bahamas normal to moderately dry. Belize was normal apart from slightly wet central areas.



OCT 2018- DEC 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



JUL 2018- DEC 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



JAN 2018- DEC 2018
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.....](#)

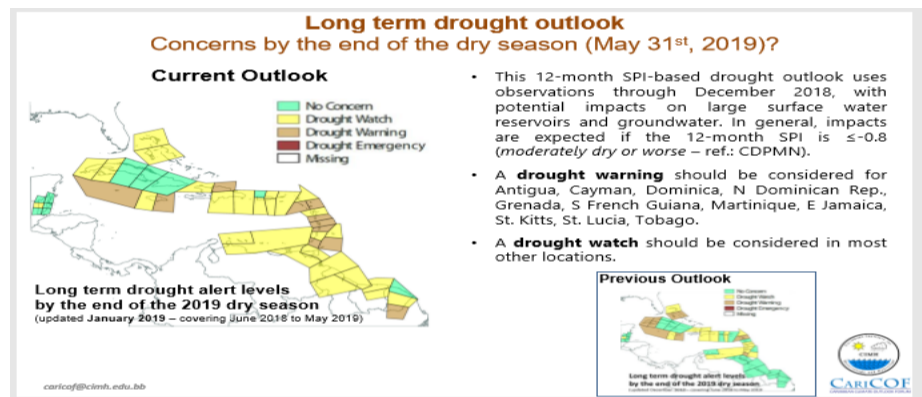
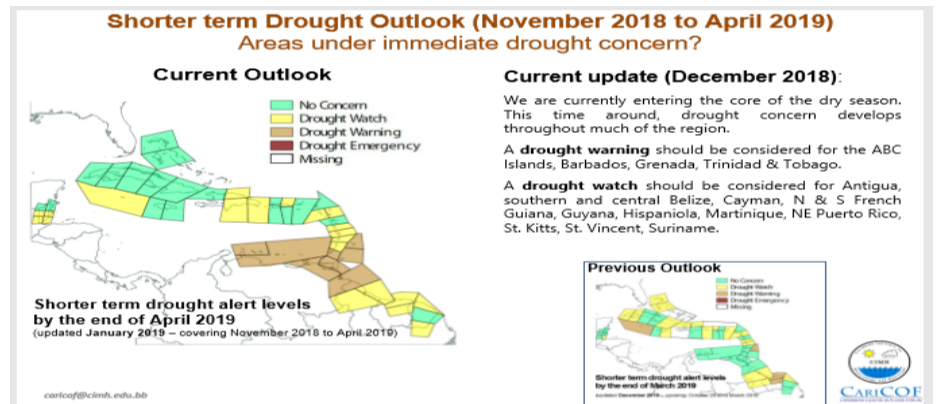
For more information contact:

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

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

Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

Drought Outlook for the End of April CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of December 2018):**
 - Portions of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman ISL, Guadeloupe, coastal Guyana, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Barths, Trinidad and the US C'bean territories have seen shorter term drought developing.
 - Moderate long term drought is seen in much of the Antilles, with even severe to extreme droughts in small pockets of Guadeloupe, Hispaniola and Martinique, but with the notable exception of Cuba.
- **Shorter term drought situation (by end of April 2019):**
 - Shorter term drought is evolving in the ABC Islands, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago.
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in Antigua, Southern and Central Belize, Cayman, N and S French Guiana, Guyana, Hispaniola, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Suriname.
- **Long term drought situation (by end of May 2019)**
 - A weak El Niño is expected to contribute to reduced rainfall until April.
 - Long term drought is evolving in Antigua, Cayman, Dominica, Northern Dominican Rep., Grenada, Southern French Guiana, Martinique, Eastern Jamaica, North East Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Tobago.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop in most other areas in the region.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)