

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

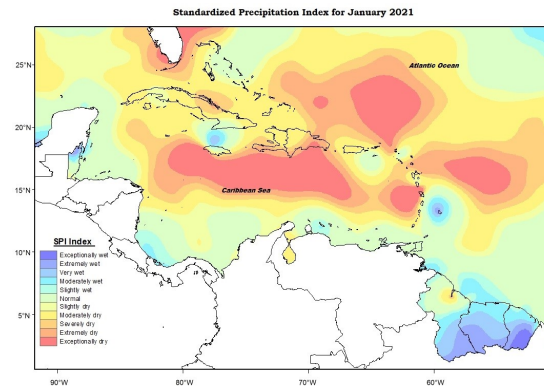
Many parts of the Caribbean were drier than normal in January 2021. The dry season continues with some concerns, particularly over short term drought that can impact streams, small rivers and ponds, by the end of May 2021 - with heightened concern in the vicinity of northern Bahamas, western Cuba, eastern Dominican Republic and Cayman Islands. Many other parts of the Caribbean, including the remainder of the Greater Antilles and eastern Caribbean islands should monitor their water resources. Long term drought concerns, that could likely impact large rivers and reservoirs, and groundwater supplies, exist in southern portions of Belize and in the ABC islands by the end of May 2021. Such resources should be monitored in the southern islands of the eastern Caribbean, the Virgin Islands, northern Dominican Republic and central Cuba.

Month at a Glance

The islands of the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the month of January. Trinidad, Tobago and St Croix normal; Grenada and St Vincent slight to moderately dry; Barbados very to extremely wet; Saint Lucia normal to moderately dry; Martinique and Dominica slight to exceptionally dry; Guadeloupe slight to extremely dry; Antigua extremely dry; St Kitts severe to slightly dry; St Maarten moderate to extremely dry; St Thomas moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from severely dry in northeastern Guyana to exceptionally wet in southern French Guiana. Aruba normal and curacao slight to moderately wet. Puerto Rico ranged from moderate to slightly dry west to southeast. The Dominican Republic ranged from moderate to exceptionally dry. Jamaica ranged from exceptionally dry in the west to moderately wet in the north and severely dry in the east. Grand Cayman was moderately dry. Cuba ranged from extremely dry in the northeast to slightly dry in the extreme west and slightly wet in the extreme southeast. Northern Bahamas ranged from normal to severely dry and Belize ranged from slightly dry in the south to extremely wet in northern areas.

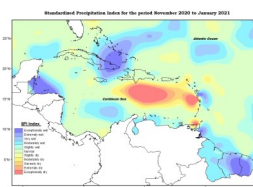
Latest News

There are no drought impacts reported from the region at this time.

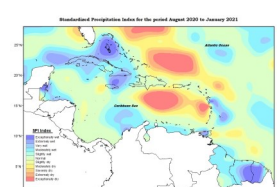


November-December-January

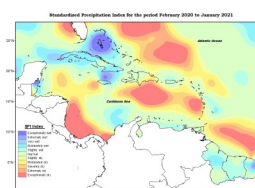
Mixed conditions prevailed over the three month period in the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad ranged from very wet in the southeast to exceptionally dry in the northwest; Tobago and St Kitts slightly dry to normal; Grenada and St Thomas normal; Barbados, Saint Lucia and Guadeloupe normal to slightly wet; St Vincent slight to moderately dry; Martinique slightly wet to exceptionally dry; Dominica exceptionally dry in the south to extremely wet in the northeast; Antigua slight to moderately wet; St Kitts normal to slightly dry; St Maarten moderately dry; and St Croix slightly dry. In The Guianas, conditions ranged from normal in northern French Guiana to exceptionally wet in eastern portions of Suriname across the border to western portions of French Guiana. Aruba normal and Curacao slight to moderately wet. Puerto Rico was normal. The Dominican Republic was predominantly normal, ranging from severely dry in the extreme south to slightly wet in the northeast. Jamaica ranged from slightly dry in the extreme west to very wet in the northeast. Grand Cayman was slightly wet. Cuba ranged from slightly dry in west central areas to moderately wet in the extreme western tip and to exceptionally wet in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from moderately wet to slightly dry and Belize was normal in the south to exceptionally wet in the north.



NOV 2020- JAN 2021
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2020 - JAN 2021
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2020 - JAN 2021
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:

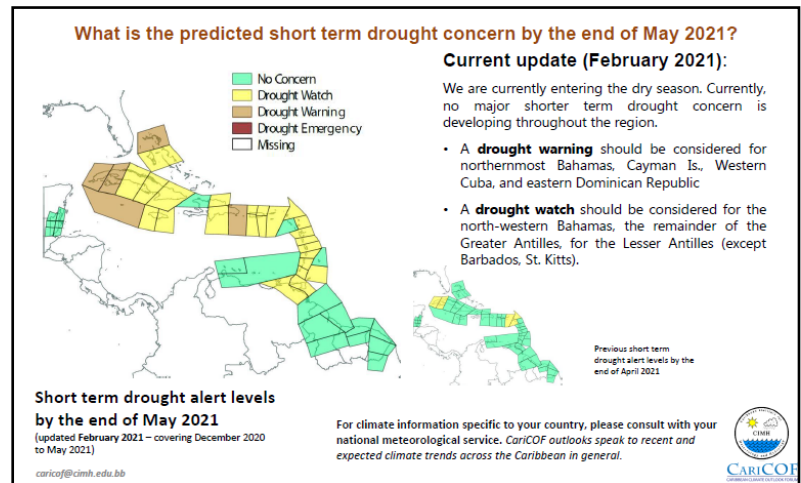
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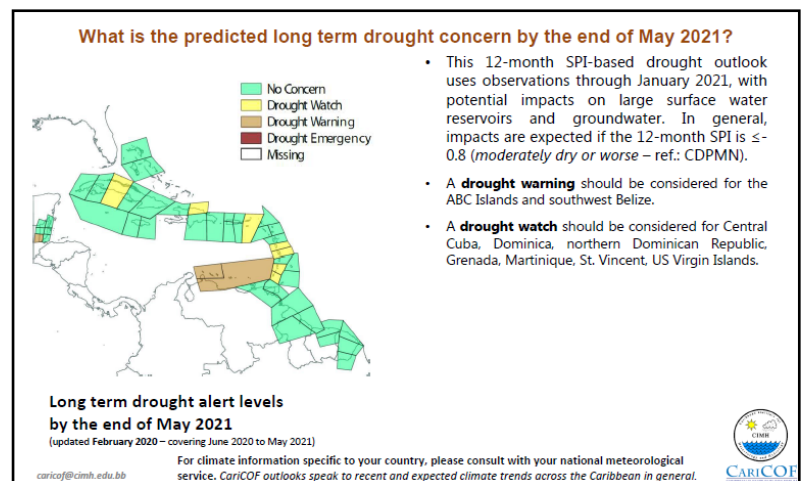
CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

Map of short-term drought by the end of May 2021



- Shorter term drought situation (by the end of May 2021):
 - Short term drought is evolving in the northernmost Bahamas, Cayman Is., Western Cuba, and eastern Dominican Republic.
 - Short term drought might possibly develop or continue in north-western Bahamas, the remainder of the Greater Antilles, for the Lesser Antilles (except Barbados, St. Kitts).

Map of long-term drought by the end of May 2021



- Long term drought situation (by the end of May 2021):
 - Long term drought is evolving in Aruba and southwest Belize.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop in Central Cuba, Dominica, northern Dominican Republic, Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, US Virgin Islands.
 - Areas ending up in long term drought by the end of May may experience significantly reduced water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater during the dry season.

"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](#)