

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Though some parts of the Caribbean have been receiving below normal rainfall in the past few months, concerns over short term drought that can impact streams, small rivers and crop performance by the end of January 2019 currently only exist for St. Lucia and northern Bahamas. It is recommended that water resources be monitored in these two countries. However, there is great concern over long term drought in northern Belize where large rivers and groundwater can be impacted.

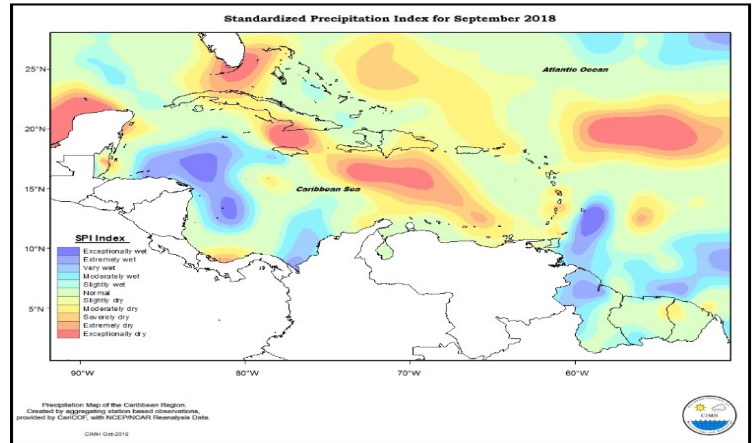
Month at a Glance

Apart from Barbados that was moderate to exceptionally wet, and Trinidad that was normal to moderately wet, rainfall totals in the islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to below normal. Tobago was moderately dry to normal from west to east; Grenada slightly dry; St. Vincent severely dry; St. Lucia normal to moderately dry; Martinique moderate to severely dry; Dominica normal; Guadeloupe slightly dry; and Antigua, St. Kitts, Anguilla and St. Maarten normal. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from extremely wet in northern portions of Guyana to moderately dry in the vicinity of the northern French Guiana/Suriname border. Aruba was slightly dry but Curacao normal. Puerto Rico was normal to slightly dry, while Hispaniola ranged from normal in the northwest to moderately dry in the east and south. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the south to exceptionally dry in the north, but Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Conditions in Cuba ranged from normal in the west and east to exceptionally dry in the southeast and severely dry in the northwest, while northern Bahamas ranged from normal to extremely dry. Belize ranged from moderately wet in the west to extremely dry in the east.

Latest News

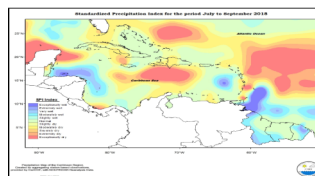
The Climate Prediction Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society state that El Niño is favoured to form in the next couple of months and continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2018-19. Read more:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.pdf

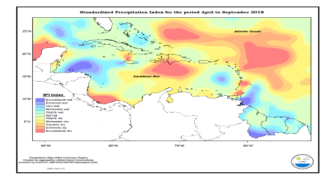


July-August-September

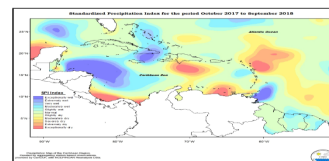
Apart from Barbados that was slightly dry to moderately wet, and Trinidad that was slightly dry to moderately wet, rainfall totals in the islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to below normal for the three month period. Tobago ranged from exceptionally dry in the west to normal in the east; Grenada, Antigua and St. Kitts normal; St. Vincent extremely dry; St. Lucia extreme to exceptionally dry from north to south; Martinique moderate to severely dry; Dominica normal to moderately dry; Guadeloupe normal to severely dry; and St. Maarten moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally wet in northern Guyana to normal in eastern Guyana, across northern Suriname into western French Guiana. Aruba was moderately dry, but Curacao normal. Apart from in the west that was slightly dry, Puerto Rico was normal; but Hispaniola ranged from extremely dry in the south to normal in the east and northwest. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from extremely dry in the northwest to slightly wet in the east, while Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba and northern Bahamas ranged from normal to moderately dry. Belize was normal in the south to severely dry in the northwest



JUL 2018- SEP 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



APR 2018- SEP 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



OCT 2017- SEP 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.....](#)

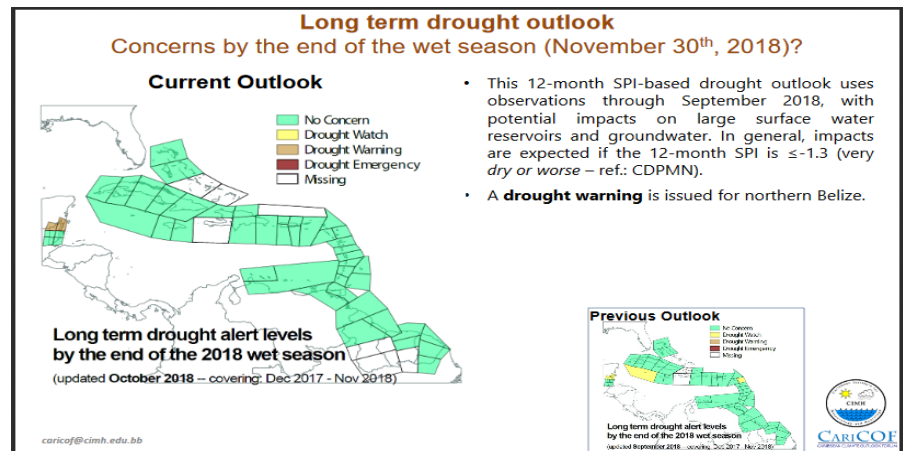
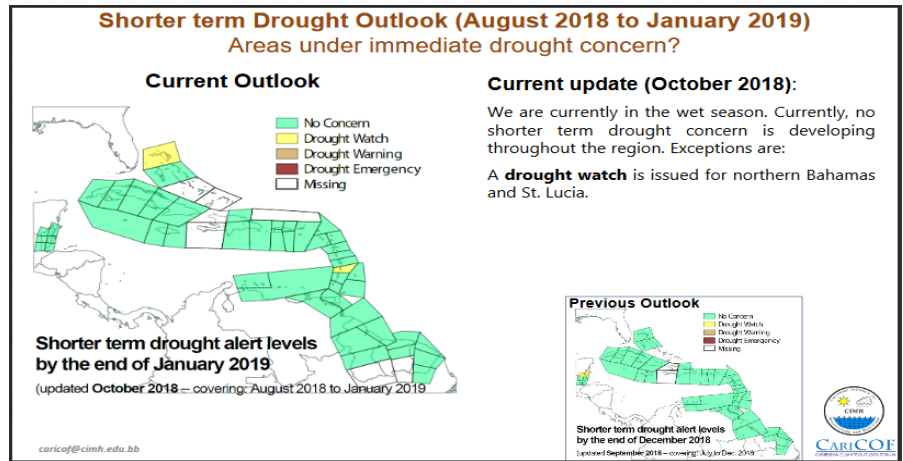
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of September 2018):**
 - Antigua, Northern Belize and Southern-Most Hispaniola have seen long term Drought developing.
 - Shorter term drought is seen in northern Belize, St. Lucia and Tobago.

Shorter term drought situation (by end of January 2019):

- Shorter term drought might possibly develop in the Northern Bahamas and Possibly remain in St. Lucia.

Long term drought situation (by end of November 2018)

- Long term drought is evolving in Northern Belize.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)