

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

September 2019 | Volume VI | ISSUE 4

Announcement

Rainfall continued to increase across the region. Though there were pockets of concern, including in parts of Belize and Jamaica, there was at least temporary relief for the most part, as the El Niño dissipated. Though there not many concerns over short term drought that can impact agriculture, streams and ponds by the end of November, there is much more concern over long term drought that can continue to cause below normal levels of groundwater, large rivers and reservoirs. Long term drought is most likely to evolve in portions of the Guianas, the eastern Caribbean and Belize by the end of November.

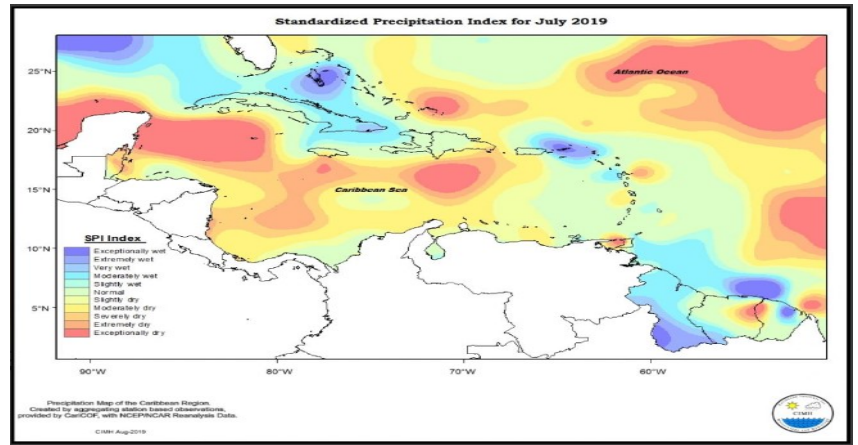
Month at a Glance

Mixed rainfall conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for July. Trinidad was exceptionally dry in the west to slightly wet in the east; Tobago normal to moderately wet; Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica and St. Kitts normal; Barbados and Antigua normal to slightly wet; St. Lucia and Martinique normal to moderately dry; Guadeloupe moderately wet to moderately dry from west to east; St. Maarten and Anguilla very to extremely wet; St. Croix moderate to very wet; and St. Thomas exceptionally wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally wet in southwest Guyana and northern French Guiana to exceptionally dry around the northern Suriname/French Guiana border. Curacao was moderately dry. Both Puerto Rico and Hispaniola were predominantly normal, but with Puerto Rico ranging from slightly dry in the southwest to moderately wet in the northeast, and Hispaniola from moderately wet in the northwest to severely dry in the east. Jamaica ranged from severely dry in the south to slightly wet in the northwest. Cuba ranged from normal in the south and southwest to moderately wet in the west and north and to very wet in the east, while northern Bahamas ranged from exceptionally wet to moderately dry from south to north. Conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the south to extremely dry in central and eastern areas and to the north.

Latest News

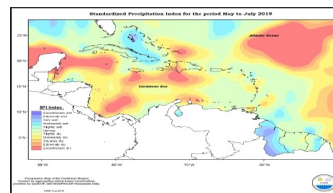
Jamaica Gov't is spending \$15m to assist drought-affected farmers, Read more; [http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latetsnews/ Gov%26%238217;t_spending_\\$15m_to_assist_drought-affected_farmers?profile=1228](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latetsnews/ Gov%26%238217;t_spending_$15m_to_assist_drought-affected_farmers?profile=1228)

Water ban could be extended in Barbados, Read more; <https://www.cbc.bb/2019/08/20/water-ban-could-be-extended-due-to-current-drought/>

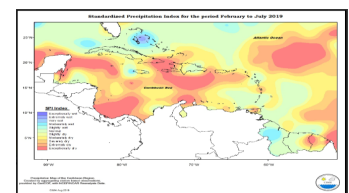


May-June-July

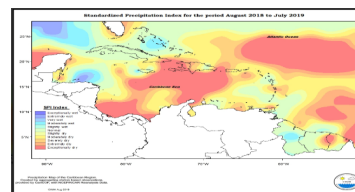
Apart from the nation of Antigua and Barbuda that received above normal rainfall, with Antigua being slight to moderately wet, the islands of the eastern Caribbean received normal to below normal rainfall for the three month period. Trinidad was normal to severely dry from southeast to northwest; Tobago, Barbados and St. Lucia normal to moderately dry; Grenada, St. Vincent, Anguilla and St. Maarten normal; Martinique, Dominica and St. Kitts slight to moderately dry; Guadeloupe predominantly normal with areas in the southeast that were slightly dry; and St. Croix and St. Thomas slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from exceptionally wet in southwest and north central Guyana to slightly dry around the northern Suriname/French Guiana border, with Suriname being predominantly normal. Curacao was extremely dry. Puerto Rico was normal to slightly dry, but Hispaniola ranged from normal in eastern Dominican Republic and western parts of Haiti to exceptionally dry in the vicinity of the southern Haiti/Dominican Republic border. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from slightly wet in the extreme west to extremely dry in the south. Western Cuba was predominantly normal with the eastern Cuba slight to moderately wet, but northern Bahamas normal to very wet. Conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the south to exceptionally dry in the north.



MAY 2019- JUL 2019
SPI 3 MONTHS



FEB 2019- JUL 2019
SPI 6 MONTHS



AUG 2018- JUL 2019
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.....](#)

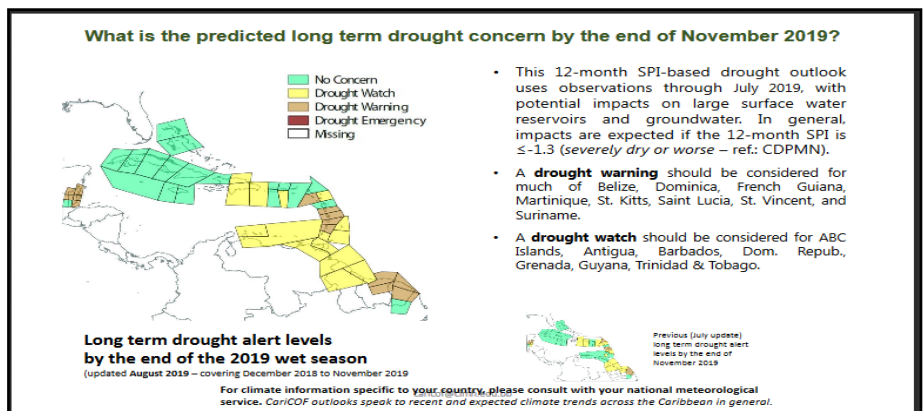
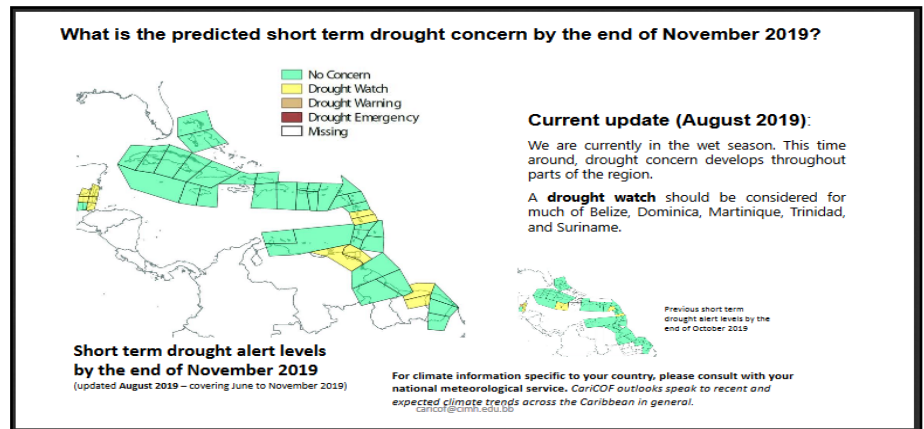
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

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



Current Drought Situation

● Current drought situation (up to the end of July 2019):

- Severe (or worse) shorter term drought has developed in much of the ABC Islands, Belize, parts of Hispaniola, northwestern Trinidad, Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Severe (or worse) long term drought has developed in Aruba, southern Belize, easternmost Cuba, southern and easternmost Dominican Rep, parts of French Guiana, Haiti, the northern leewards, Martinique, northern Trinidad, US C'bean Territories.

● Shorter term drought situation (by end of November 2019):

- Shorter term drought might possibly develop in much of Belize, Dominica, Martinique, Trinidad and Suriname.

● Long term drought situation (by end of November 2019):

- Long term drought is evolving in much of Belize, Dominica, French Guiana, Martinique, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Suriname.
- Long term drought might possibly develop in ABC islands, Antigua, Barbados, Dom. Repub, Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad.

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

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)