CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

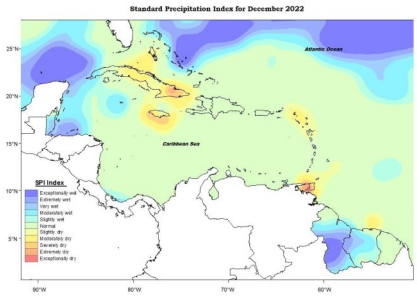
As the region moves into the heart of its dry season, rainfall will continue to decrease. With the likelihood of normal to below normal rainfall in the northwest of the Caribbean during February to April 2023, this can, over Cuba in particular, result in short and long term drought, by the end of April and May respectively. Like Cuba, interests in Hispaniola, parts of the Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico and St. Vincent (for long term drought that can impact large rivers and groundwater) should closely monitor their water resources over the coming months.

Month at a Glance

Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the month of December. Trinidad ranged from exceptional to moderately dry; Tobago, Antigua and St Kitts moderate to slightly dry; Grenada and Dominica slightly dry to normal; Barbados, St Vincent, Saint Lucia, Martinique, St Croix and St Thomas normal; Guadeloupe slightly dry; St Maarten and Anguilla moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally wet in central areas of Guyana to moderately dry in northern Suriname. Aruba and Curacao were normal. Puerto Rico was normal. Hispaniola was predominantly normal apart from in western portions of Haiti that were slightly dry. Jamaica ranged from severely dry in southern areas to normal in the north. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Cuba ranged from very wet in the extreme west to extremely dry in the east. Northern Bahamas ranged from moderately dry to extremely wet from south to north, and Belize ranged from extremely wet in the extreme south to normal in the north.

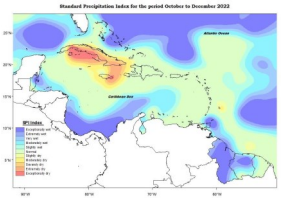
Latest News

Climate action: what's new and what's next in 2023, Read more;

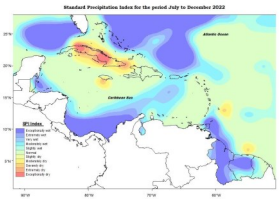


October-November-December

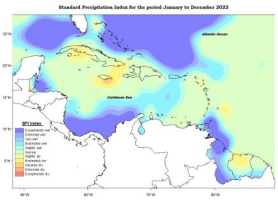
Over the three month period, apart from Barbados that was slight to moderately dry, rainfall throughout the eastern Caribbean was normal to above normal. Trinidad ranged from normal to exceptionally wet; Tobago exceptionally wet; Grenada slightly wet to normal; St Vincent, Saint Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St Kitts, St Maarten, Anguilla, St Croix and St Thomas normal. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally wet to normal. Aruba was normal, but Curacao was slightly wet. Puerto Rico was normal. Hispaniola was predominantly normal apart from in western Haiti which was slight to moderately dry. Jamaica ranged from moderately dry in the extreme west to normal in the northwest and to exceptionally dry in the extreme east. Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba ranged from exceptionally dry in southern areas to moderately wet in the extreme west and to extremely dry in the southeast. Northern Bahamas ranged from exceptionally wet to normal, and Belize from normal to exceptionally wet from south to north.



OCT 2022 - DEC 2022
SPI 3 MONTHS



JUL 2022 – DEC 2022
SPI 6 MONTHS



JAN 2022 – DEC 2022
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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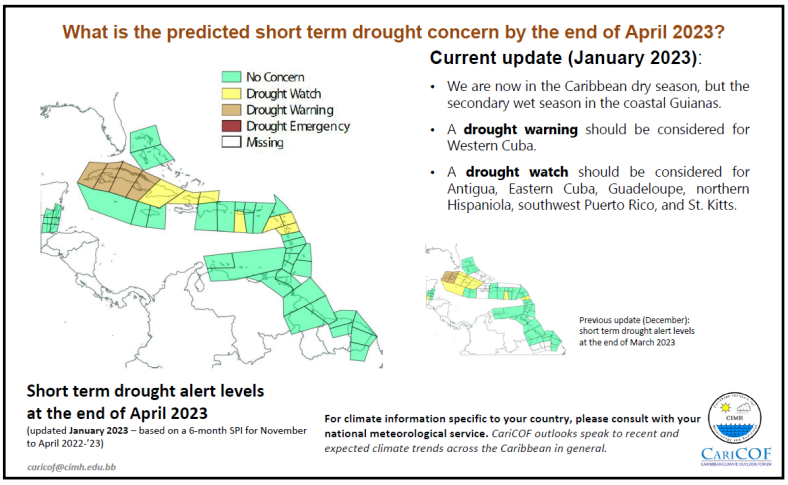
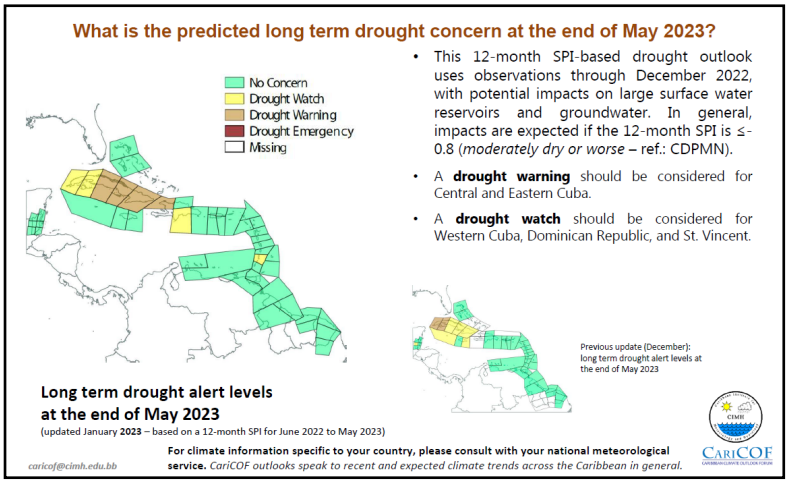
CariCOF Drought Alert Maps

Map of short-term drought by the end of April 2023



- Short-term drought situation (by the end of March 2023):
  - Short term drought is evolving across Western Cuba.
  - Short term drought might possibly develop in Antigua, Eastern Cuba, Guadeloupe, northern Hispaniola, southwest Puerto Rico, and St. Kitts.

Map of long-term drought by the end of May 2023



- Long-term drought situation (by the end of May 2023):
  - Long term drought is evolving across Central and Eastern Cuba.
  - Long term drought might possibly develop or continue in western Cuba, Dominican Republic, and St. Vincent.
  - Areas ending up in long term drought by the end of May are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater.

"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