

# *Authorities in Eastern Cuba Take Steps to Ease Critical Drought*

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Guantanamo, April 20 (RHC) -- Local authorities in eastern Guantanamo province, where scarce rainfall and severe drought affects the area, have begun to limit water supply to large state entities and called on the population to rationally use water, which is being supplied by trucks.

Rainfalls have decreased to only 24.3 percent for their historic records in the province, according to the provincial water resources office.

National Water Institute official Alfredo Correa said that the area has thus far received 85 millimeters of rainfall, below one fourth of the normal average, which is 346 millimeters for this period of the year.

The lack of rainfall has negatively affected reservoirs that provide water to the city of Guantanamo, which has reserves for only two months.

With this in mind, the water supply will be limited for state-run entities considered large consumers, while communities will be receiving water by trucks, said the official who called on local residents to rationally

use the natural resource.

Meanwhile, the reserve of a major reservoir known as Manuel Tames is under constant surveillance to detect its restriction limit and its approach to what is known as dead level.

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