

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

With normal to above normal rainfall being experienced in most of the Caribbean in September, concerns over drought continued to diminish, particularly as related to short-term drought. Shorter-term drought is more likely to impact agriculture, streams and small rivers. Concern over long-term drought (up until November 2016) is also largely alleviated over the Caribbean except in the southern portion of the eastern chain from Trinidad to St. Lucia where further monitoring of water resources is necessary. Longer term drought affects aquifer resources and large rivers.

Month at a Glance

Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the eastern Caribbean and the Guianas for the month. Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts, Anguilla, St. Maarten, St. Thomas and St. Croix were normal; Barbados very wet; St. Vincent, Martinique and Antigua moderately wet; St. Lucia extremely wet; and the Guianas ranging from normal in northwest Guyana and French Guiana to exceptionally wet in eastern Guyana and western Suriname. Puerto Rico was normal. The Dominican Republic ranged from exceptionally dry in the west to normal in the east. Central Jamaica was moderately dry becoming normal to the east and moderately wet to the west. Grand Cayman was severely dry. Apart from being slightly wet in the west, Cuba was normal. Conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the south to moderately dry further north. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

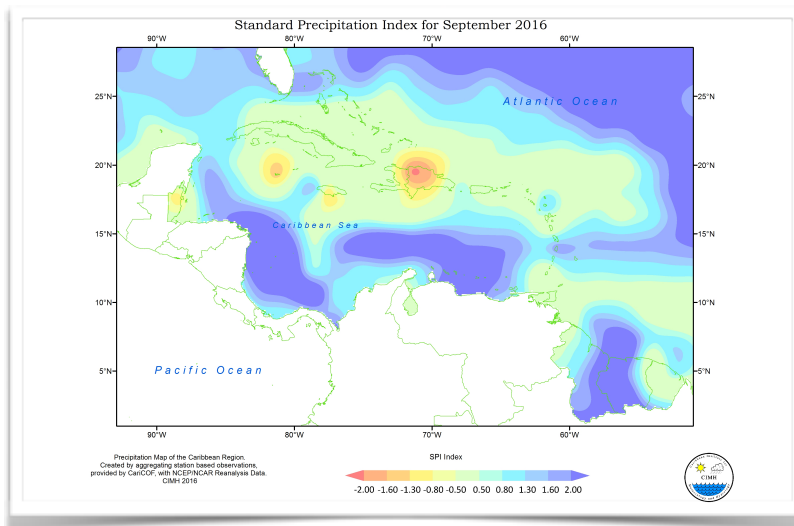
4 territories had locations recording their lowest rainfall (20-45% of avg.) in August, notably 3 locations in Barbados. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

Bajans cry out as water woes continue. ([Nation News](#))

Cayman Islands reporting rainfall deficits in 2016. ([Cayman 27](#))

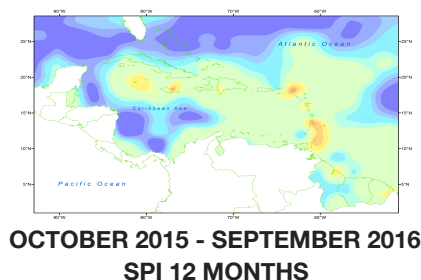
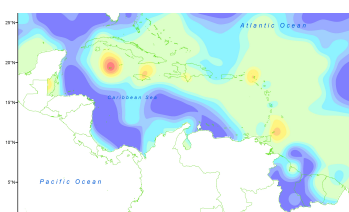
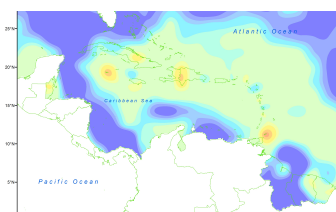
Latest News

Download the new FAO report entitled "Drought characteristics and management in the Caribbean." ([Click here to download](#))



July-August-September Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was slight to moderately dry; Tobago extremely dry; Grenada, Barbados, St Vincent, and St Croix normal; St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Maarten slightly dry; Martinique and Antigua moderately wet; St Kitts and St. Thomas slightly wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from slightly dry to exceptionally wet. Puerto Rico was normal but conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from severely dry in the west to slightly wet in the east. Jamaica was predominantly normal, but Grand Cayman severely dry. Normal to above rainfall was experienced in western Cuba, but normal to below normal rainfall in the east. Conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the south to moderately dry further north.



The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation and Monitoring Network (CDPMN)

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative (CARIWIN). The goal of CARIWIN was to increase the capacity of Caribbean countries to deliver equitable and sustainable Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM).

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 in demonstration phase, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more...](#)

For more information contact:

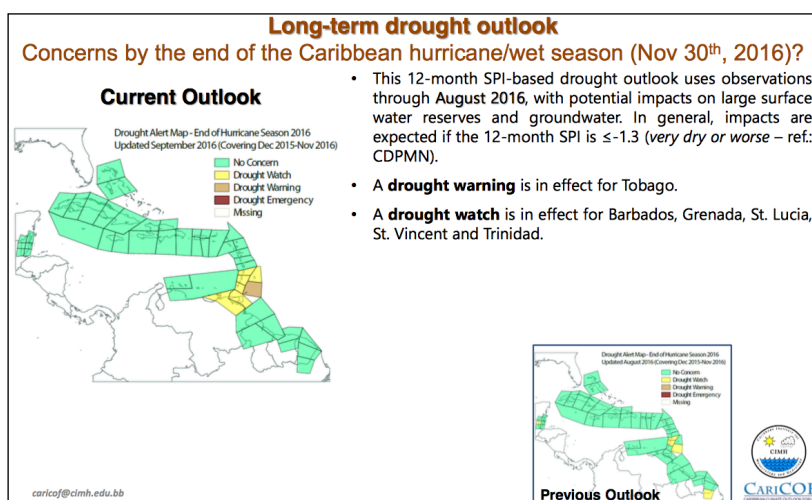
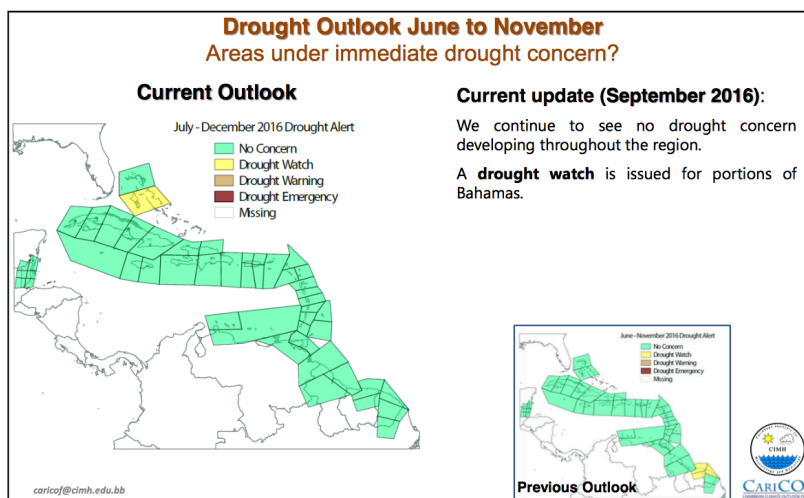
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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



Current Drought Situation

With the exception of Barbados, S Belize, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago, August rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016. In Tobago, extremely dry conditions during June-July-August have led to the re-establishment of water restrictions.

• Shorter-term drought situation (until December 2016):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in portions of the Bahamas.

• Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):

– Longer-term drought is evolving in Tobago and is possible in Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad. However, September through to November usually is the wettest part of the year in these areas. Thus, rainfall during this period might easily offset the deficits occurring earlier this year.

Neutral ENSO conditions are now slightly favoured over La Niña, but there is still some chance that a weak La Niña can form in the late months of the year. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought towards the end of the year and during the upcoming 2016-7 dry season. However, this evolution may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood and long-term flooding potential until the end of 2016. The exception is the Bahamas and Cuba, where drought chances tend to increase towards February with La Niña.

[Available for download]