

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

December 2016 | Volume III | ISSUE 7

Announcement

A very wet November over the eastern half of the basin has just about alleviated any concern over drought in that area. However, the western Caribbean have evolving drought concerns. The Cayman Islands is heading towards its record driest year, and parts of Cuba, Puerto Rico and Belize have concerns over short and long term drought, with watches to warnings being recommended. There is also concern over short term drought in Haiti.

Month at a Glance

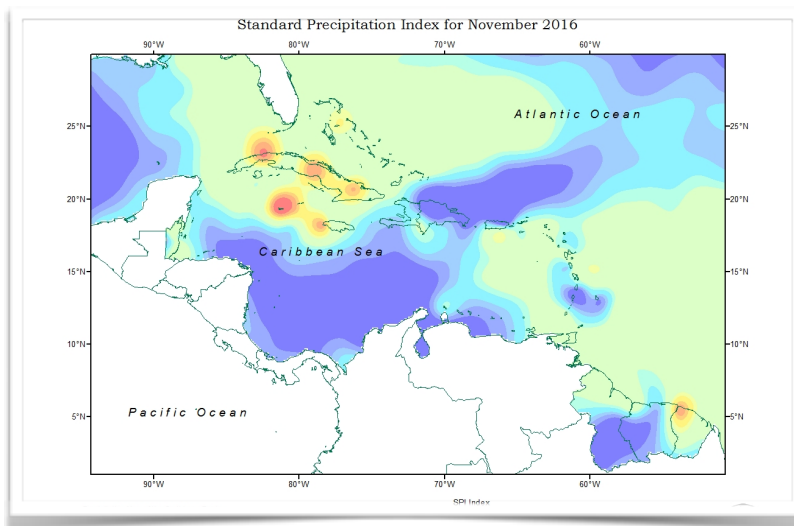
The islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to above normal regarding the month's rainfall. Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Martinique, St. Kitts and St. Maarten were normal; Barbados very to extremely wet; St. Vincent exceptionally wet; St. Lucia moderate to exceptionally wet; Dominica normal to moderately wet; Guadeloupe normal to slightly wet; Antigua moderately wet; Anguilla, St. Croix and St. Thomas slightly wet. Guyana and Suriname were normal to exceptionally wet from north to south, while French Guiana ranged from extremely dry in the northwest to moderately wet in the south. Aruba was slightly wet, but Curacao moderate to very wet. Conditions in the Puerto Rico ranged from slightly wet in the south to exceptionally wet in the north, but in the Dominican Republic ranged from normal to exceptionally wet from south to north. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

2016 shaping up to be the driest year on record for the Cayman Islands. ([Cayman Compass](#))

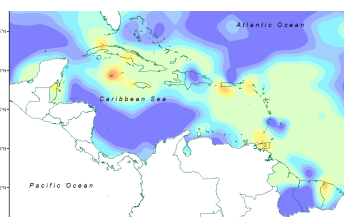
Latest News

CIMH hosts 2016 Dry Season CariCOF in Grenada on December 5th-6th, 2016. ([Jamaica Observer](#))

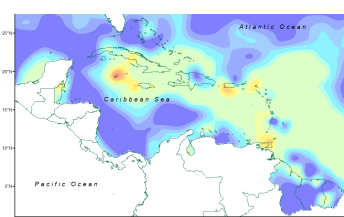


September-October-November Rainfall Summary

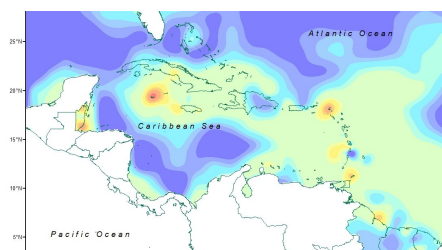
For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad and St. Maarten were moderately dry; Grenada and St. Kitts slightly dry; Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Anguilla and St. Croix normal; Barbados very to extremely wet; St. Vincent extremely wet; St. Lucia slight to exceptionally wet; and Antigua and St. Thomas slightly wet. Exceptionally wet conditions dominated the interior of the Guianas, while coastal Guyana was predominantly normal, but in the vicinity of Georgetown and the coastal border of Suriname and French Guiana were below normal. Aruba was normal, but Curacao moderately wet. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry to exceptionally wet, but in the Dominican Republic they ranged from slight to exceptionally wet. [Read more...](#)



SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2016
SPI 3 MONTHS



JUNE - NOVEMBER 2016
SPI 6 MONTHS



DECEMBER 2015 - NOVEMBER 2016
SPI 12 MONTHS

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:

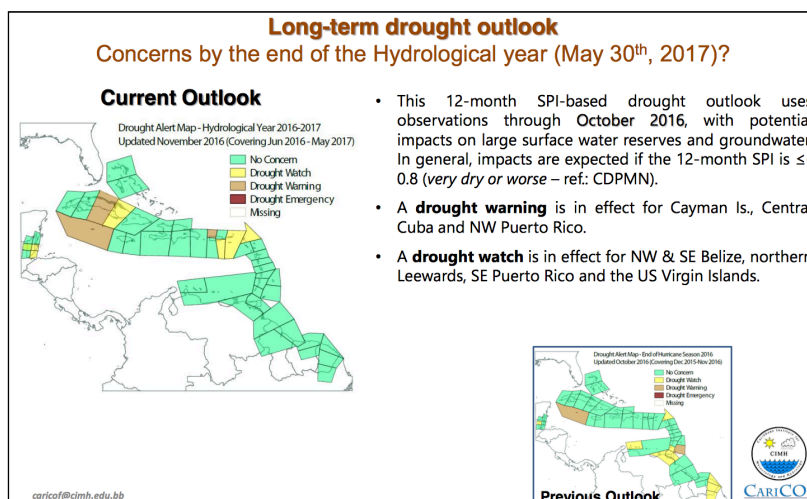
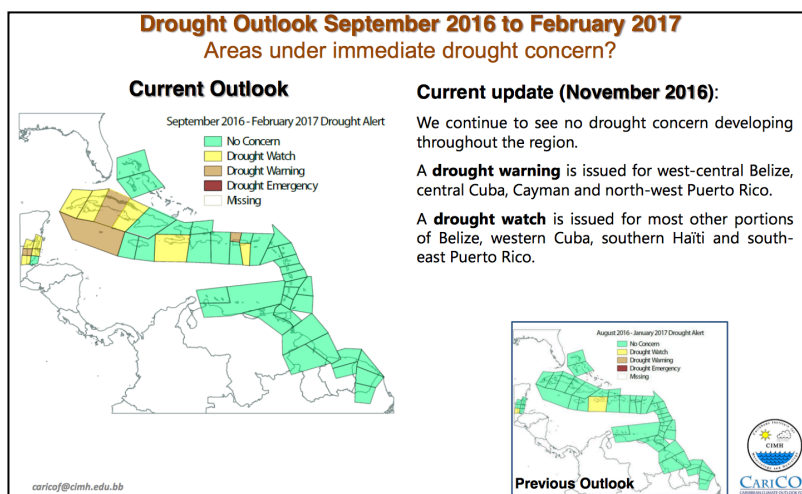
Mr. Adrian Trotman:
[atrotman\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:atrotman(at)cimh.edu.bb)

Mr. Anthony Moore:
[amoores\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:amoores(at)cimh.edu.bb)

Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
[scox\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:scox(at)cimh.edu.bb)

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

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



Current Drought Situation

– Grand Cayman is likely to experience its driest year on record. As a result, the island is in both short- and long-term drought. Western and central Cuba, the northern Leewards and Tobago remain in long-term drought.

– September and October rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016 in most other areas.

– Hurricane Matthew prevented September from ending up drier than normal in the Windwards.

• Shorter-term drought situation (until February 2017):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in Belize and S Haiti, parts of Puerto Rico and continue in Cayman and central Cuba.

• Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):

– Longer-term drought is evolving in Cayman, central Cuba and NW Puerto Rico, and is possible in NW & SE Belize, western Cuba, northern Leewards, SE Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

– However, elevated rainfall totals for November in portions of the Caribbean imply that drought will not likely become a concern by the end of the upcoming dry season.

– A weak La Niña appeared since September. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought during the 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]**