

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

As the region approaches the heart of the dry season, greatest drought concern is for the Cayman Islands where there was an exceptional and record dry 2016, and is expected to worsen by end of May 2017. Interests in Cuba, Belize, Jamaica, French Guiana, and the southern and northern islands of the eastern Caribbean chain should also monitor water resources as the dry season progresses, and look out for the next drought update.

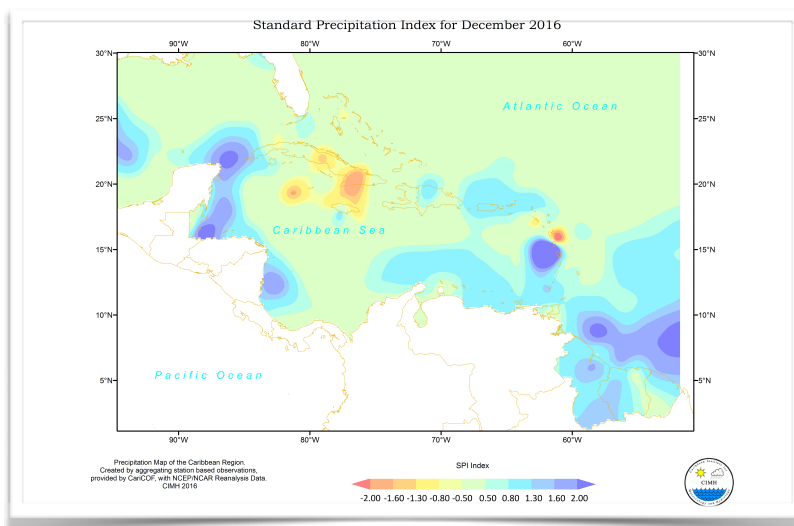
Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean during December 2016. Trinidad was normal to slightly wet; Tobago slight to moderately wet; Grenada moderate to very wet; Barbados, St. Vincent and Antigua slightly wet; St. Lucia and St. Maarten moderately wet; Dominica from slightly dry in the north to exceptionally wet in the south; St. Kitts moderately dry. Conditions in Guyana range from normal to extremely wet. Both Aruba and Curacao had normal rainfall, but the Dominican Republic ranged from normal in the south to moderately wet in the north. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from slightly wet in the south to moderately dry in the east and west; but Grand Cayman was extremely dry. Cuba was predominantly normal to below normal, but conditions in Belize ranged from normal in the northwest to exceptionally wet in the southeast. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

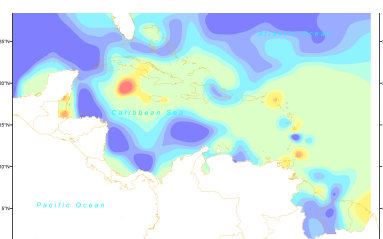
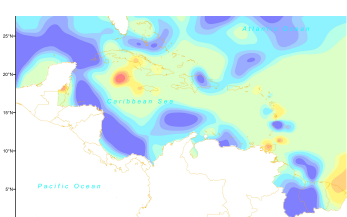
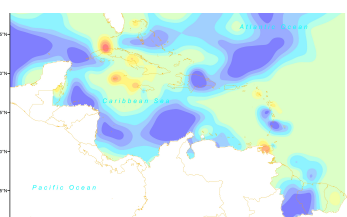
Cayman sees driest year on record in 2016. (Cayman News Service)

2 locations in French Guiana recorded their lowest rainfall, incl. a record low for any 3-month period during September-November. Cayman, French Guiana and Jamaica recorded their lowest rainfall in the month of November. (CariCOF Outlook Newsletter)



October-November-December Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean islands. Conditions in Trinidad ranged from moderately dry in the southwest to moderately wet in the northeast; Tobago, Grenada, Antigua and St. Maarten normal; Barbados very wet; St. Vincent extreme to exceptionally wet; St. Lucia slight to exceptionally wet; Dominica from normal to very wet; St. Kitts moderately dry; and Anguilla slightly wet. Rainfall in Guyana ranged from normal in the north to exceptionally wet in the south. Aruba was normal, but Curacao slightly wet. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from very to exceptionally wet. Jamaica was predominantly normal except for the extreme south that was slight to moderately wet, and the extreme west that was slight to moderately dry. Grand Cayman was extremely dry. [Read more...](#)



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:

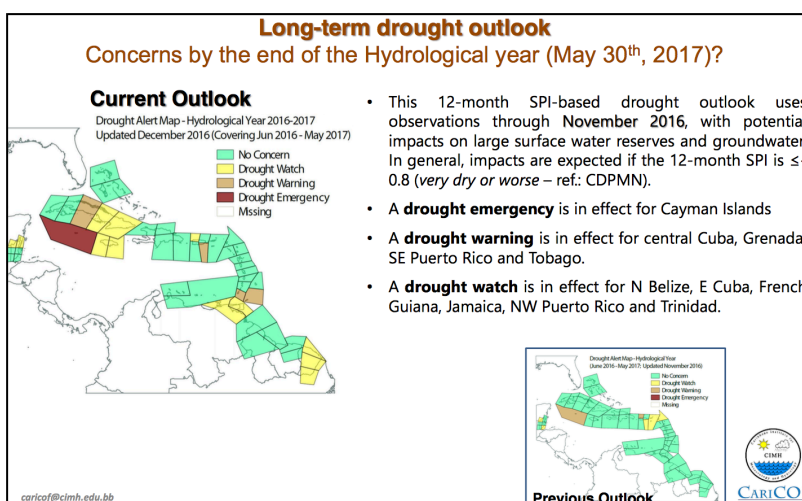
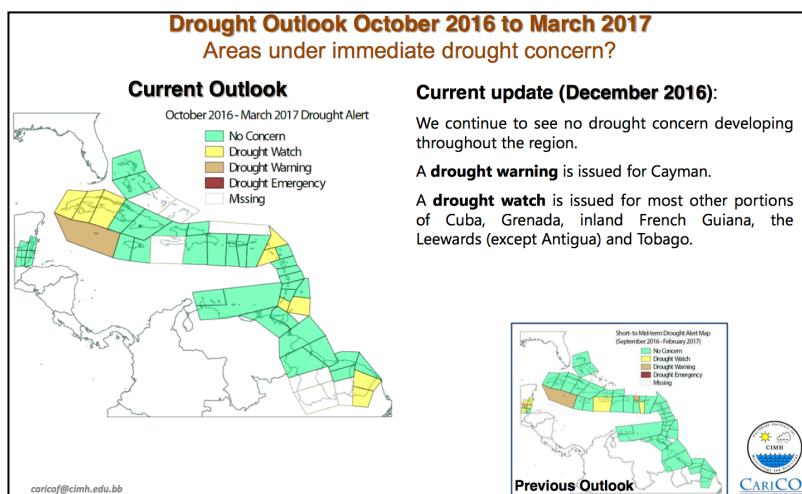
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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



Current Drought Situation

– Grand Cayman is likely to experience its driest year on record with an observed wet season rainfall sum of only 50% of average. As a result, the island is in both short- and long-term drought. South Belize, central Cuba, Northern Leewards and Tobago are in long-term drought.

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

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

– We expect a shorter-term drought situation to continue in Cayman and to possibly develop in Cuba, Grenada, French Guiana, the Leewards (except Antigua), and to possibly remain in Tobago.

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

– Longer-term drought is very likely to remain in Cayman (~90% chance) and potentially become more impactful as the dry (tourism) season progresses. It is evolving in central Cuba, Grenada, SE Puerto Rico and Tobago, and is possible in N Belize, French Guiana, NW Puerto Rico and Trinidad.

– Though dry season impacts may be quite similar to the usual, longer-term drought will not likely be a major concern by the end of the dry season in other areas.

– A borderline La Niña appeared since September and is expected to fade by February. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought during the dry season. The exception is the Bahamas and Cuba, where drought chances tend to increase towards March with La Niña. **[Available for download]**