

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of April 2016

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Participating territories

Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



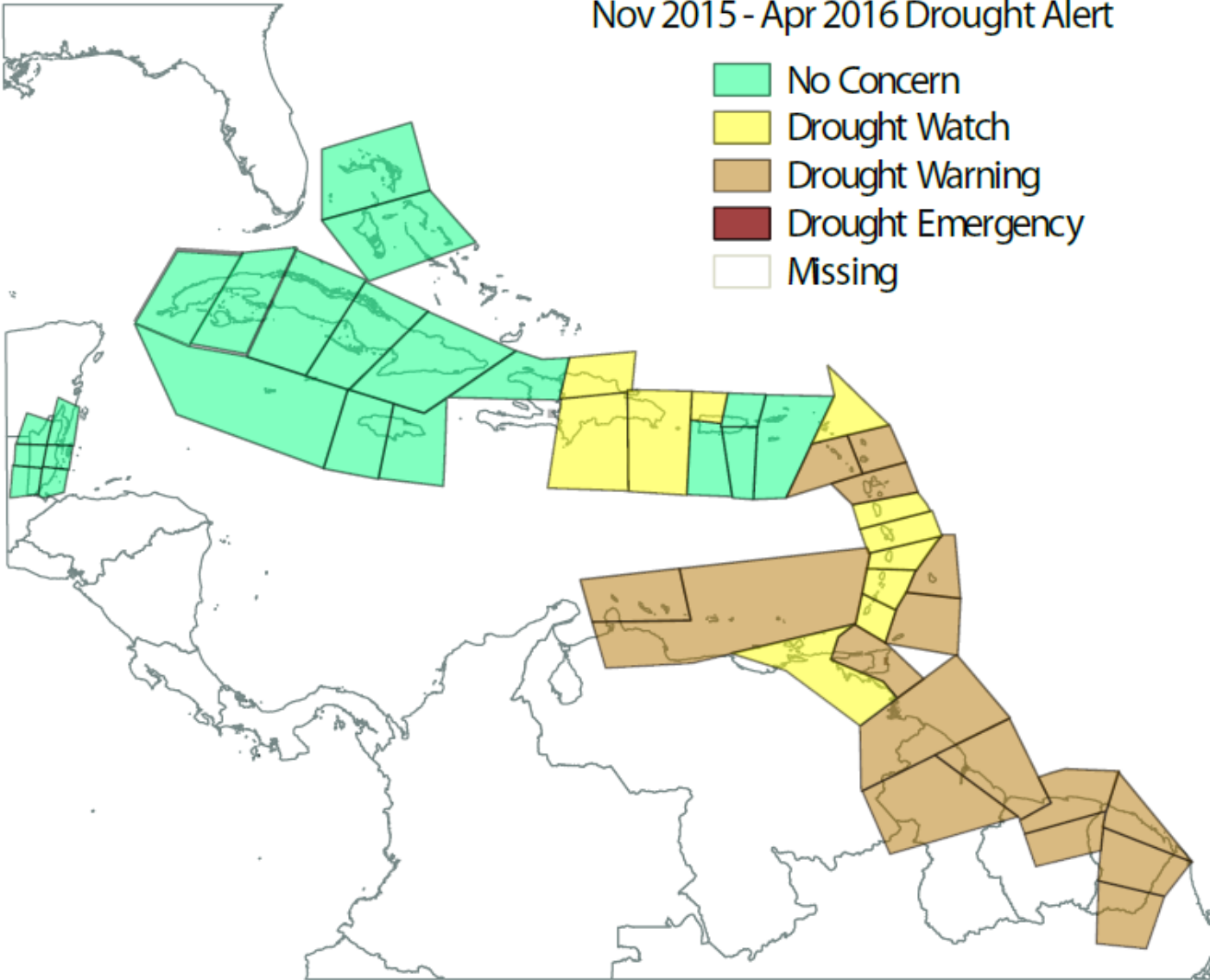
Drought Outlook Nov to Apr

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

Nov 2015 - Apr 2016 Drought Alert

- No Concern
- Drought Watch
- Drought Warning
- Drought Emergency
- Missing

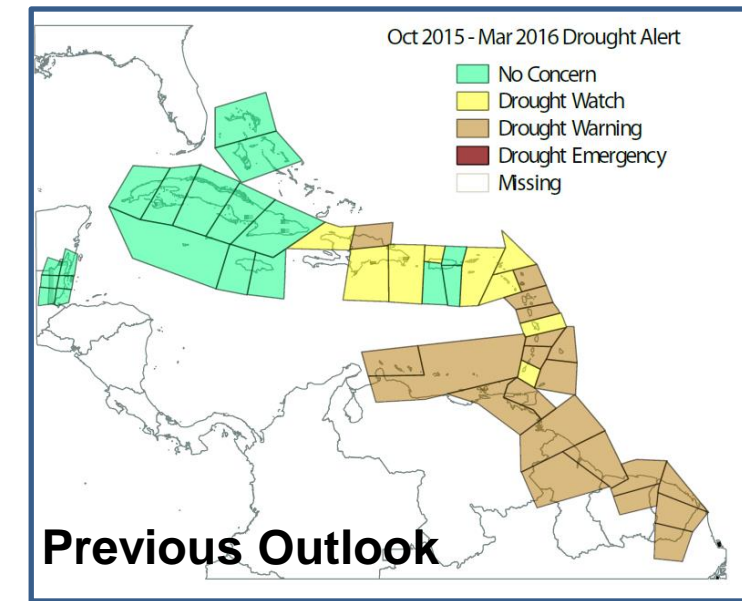


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Current update (January 2015):

Drought concern is noted from Hispaniola east- and southward, except for most parts of the US C'bean Territories.

We issue a drought warning in ABC Islands, Antigua, Barbados, Guadeloupe, Guianas, St. Kitts, Trinidad & Tobago.



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Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

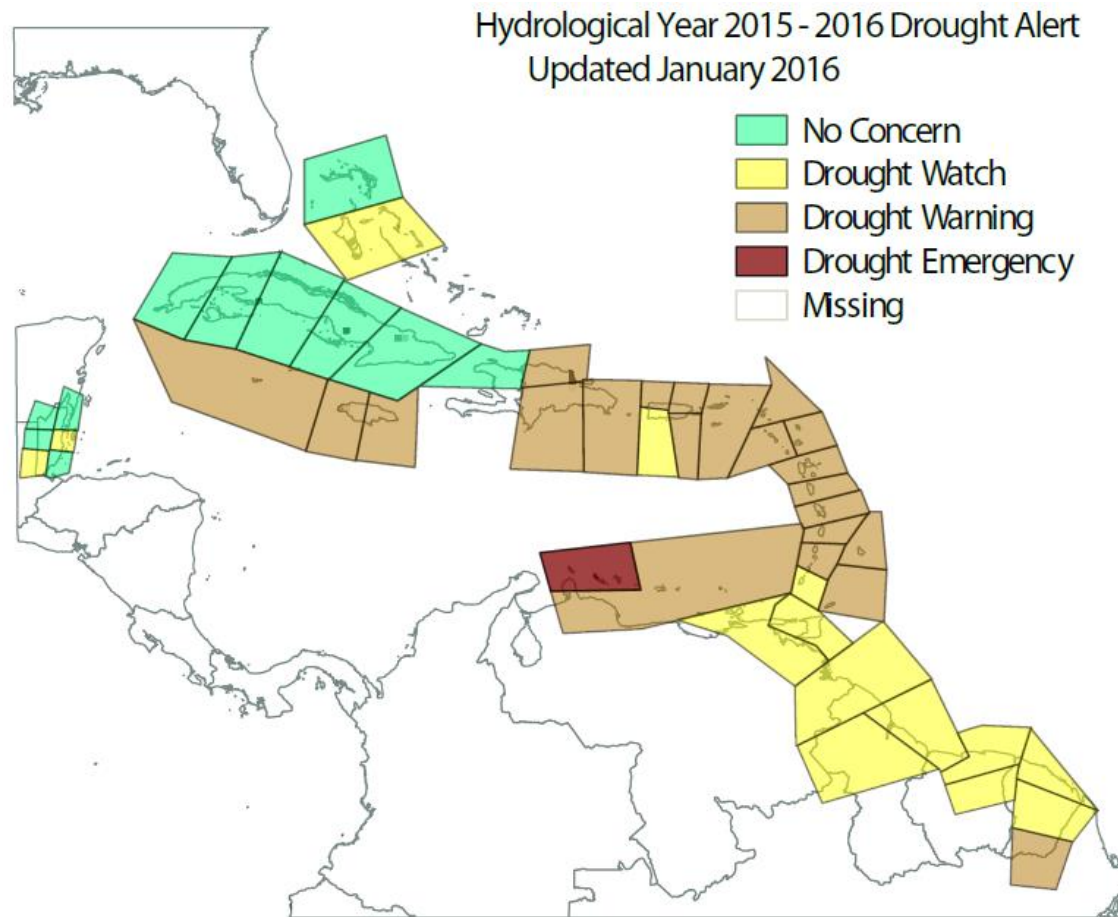
- **Current drought situation (up to the end of December 2015):** (*more information [here](#)*)
 - Because of below-normal rainfall during 2015, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles, notably Barbados, St. Lucia and many of the Leewards.
 - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Cuba).
 - Thanks to the return of more seasonable rainfall in parts of the region during October and November, some Antilles islands are currently no longer facing severe shorter-term drought. Likewise, Belize is no longer under drought.
- **Shorter-term (till April 2016):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist from Hispaniola east- & southward, notably in ABC Islands, Antigua, Barbados, Guadeloupe, St. Kitts, Trinidad & Tobago, Guianas.
- **Longer-term (beyond April 2016):**
 - Very strong El Niño seems to have peaked in strength. El Niño often results in a drier early part of the year in the Lesser Antilles and a failure of the secondary wet season in the northern Guianas. This may lead to drought concerns towards the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31).
 - After El Niño peaked, it tends to dissipate towards the middle – and possibly replaced by a La Niña by the end – of the year. This evolution could finally bring drought relief to the region.
 - Areas with existing water shortages may not see recovery until the next wet season, in particular Barbados, Belize, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.

RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!

Long-term drought outlook

Concerns by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 31st, 2016)?

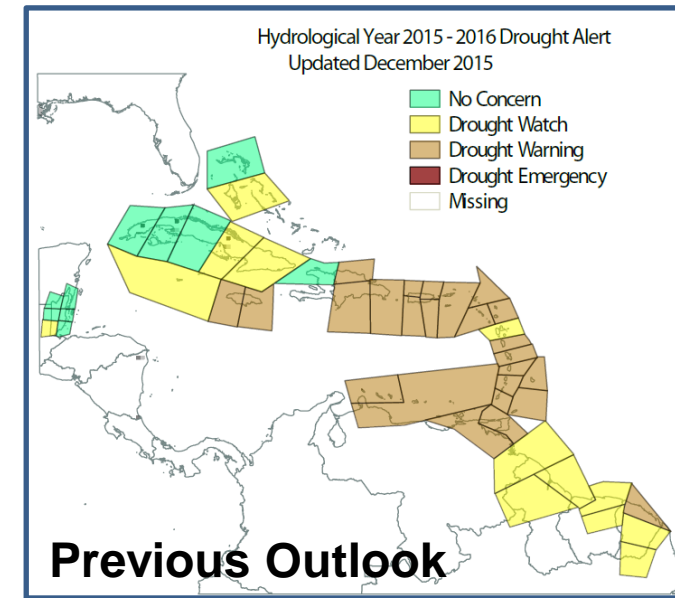
Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until December 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -0.8 (*moderately dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).

Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the dry season (May 31st) is a concern across all the Antilles except western Cuba (no data available for Haïti), and the Guianas.

A **drought emergency** is issued for ABC Islands. A **drought warning** is issued for southern French Guiana and the Antilles, except Cuba. A **drought watch** is also issued for parts of the Bahamas and Belize, and the rest of the Guianas.



ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
NO CONCERN	No drought concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
DROUGHT WATCH	Drought possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
DROUGHT WARNING	Drought evolving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ protect resources ✓ conserve and recycle water ✓ implement management plans ✓ release public service announcements ✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades ✓ report impacts
DROUGHT EMERGENCY caricof@cimh.edu.bb	Drought of immediate concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ release public service announcements ✓ implement management and response plans ✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling ✓ enforce resource protection ✓ repair infrastructure ✓ report impacts





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