

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of July 2016

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Participating territories

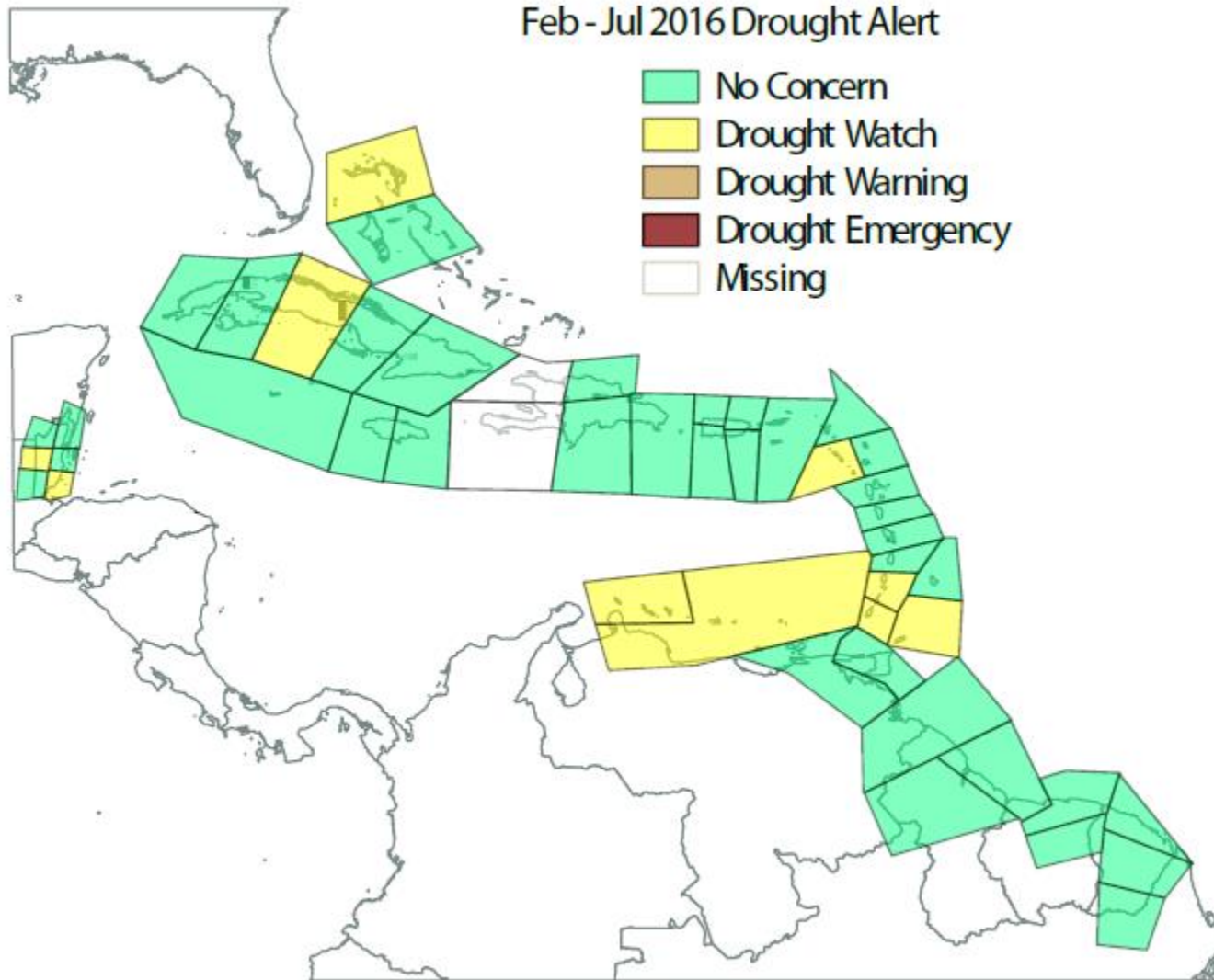
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname,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



Drought Outlook February to July

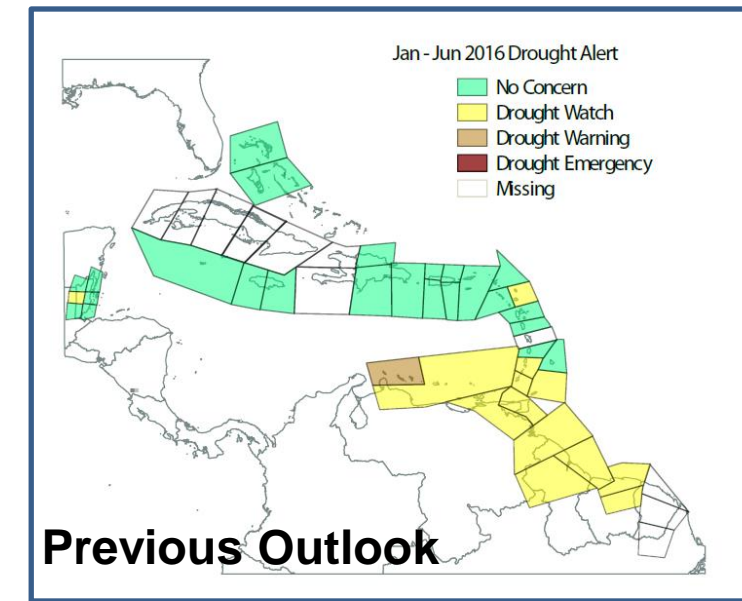
Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook



Current update (April 2016):

Drought concern is noted in ABC Islands, Grenada, N Bahamas, west-central and south-east Belize, central Cuba, St. Kitts, St. Vincent and Tobago.



Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- **Current drought situation** (up to the end of March 2016): *(more information [here](#))*
 - After below-normal rainfall during 2015 resulting in long-term drought, water shortages persist and intensify in many portions of the Antilles, notably Barbados, Haïti, Jamaica, St. Lucia and many of the Leewards.
 - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought.
 - In addition, a failure of the secondary wet season in the Guianas has led to short-term drought.
- **Shorter-term drought situation** (till July 2016):
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the ABC Islands, Grenada, St. Kitts and Saint Vincent.
- **Longer-term drought situation** (beyond May 2016):
 - El Niño has peaked in strength last November and is rapidly weakening. The El Niño resulted 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 has led to drought concerns carrying through to the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31).
 - In the islands, the wet season is expected to start up to one month earlier than usual, when longer-term drought recovery is expected for Barbados, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.
 - El Niño will likely be followed by a La Niña by the end of the year. This evolution should finally bring drought relief to the region, but may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood potential.

RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!

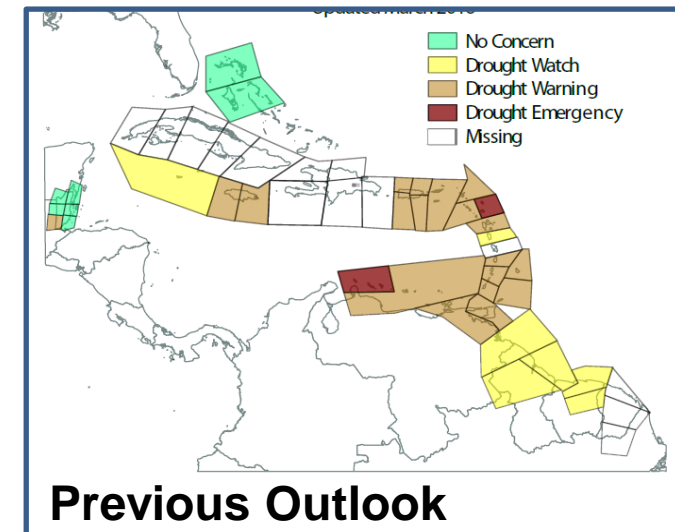
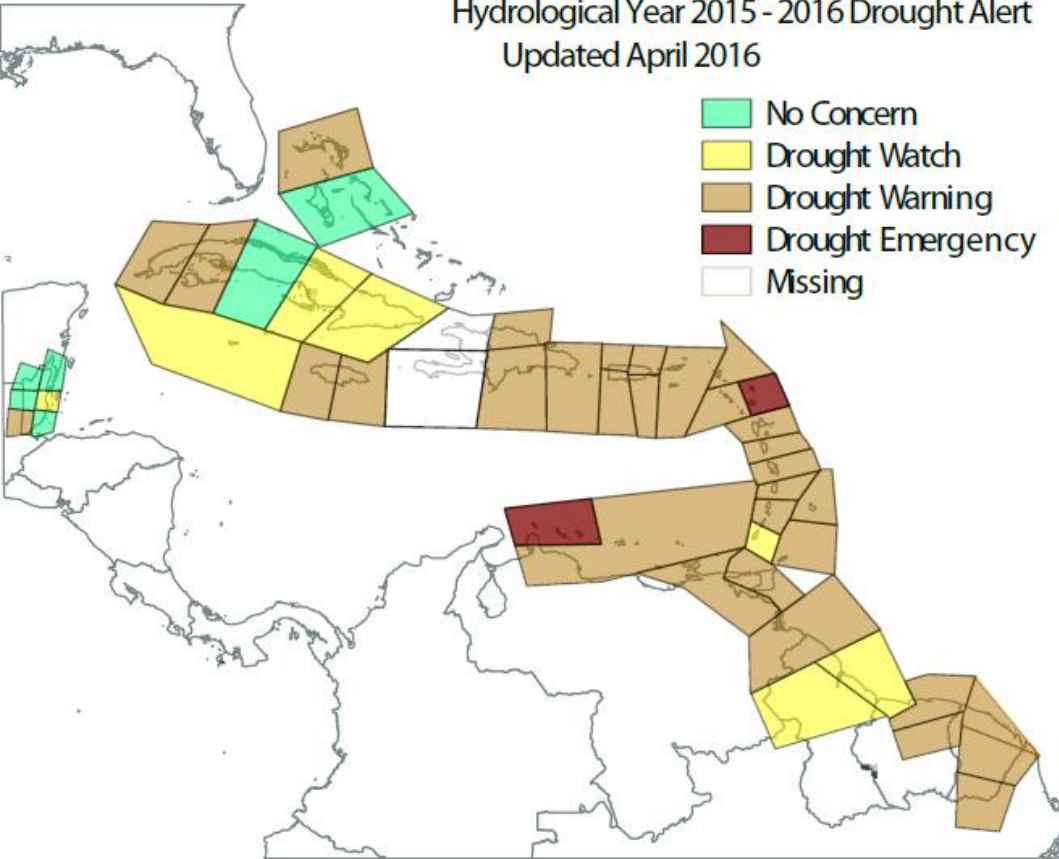
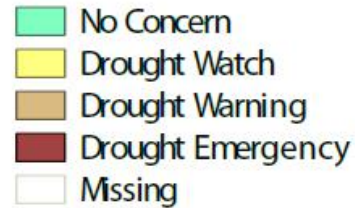
Long-term drought outlook

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

Current Outlook

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through March 2016, 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 the Caribbean (insufficient data available for Haiti).
- A **drought emergency** is issued for the ABC Islands and Antigua. A **drought warning** is issued for the remainder of the Antilles (except Cayman, central and E Cuba), as well as in N Bahamas, SW Belize and the Guianas. A **drought watch** is also issued for Cayman, E Cuba & east-central Belize.

Hydrological Year 2015 - 2016 Drought Alert
Updated April 2016



Previous Outlook

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	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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