

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of May 2017

*Coordination – CIMH – Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck  
caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

## Participating territories

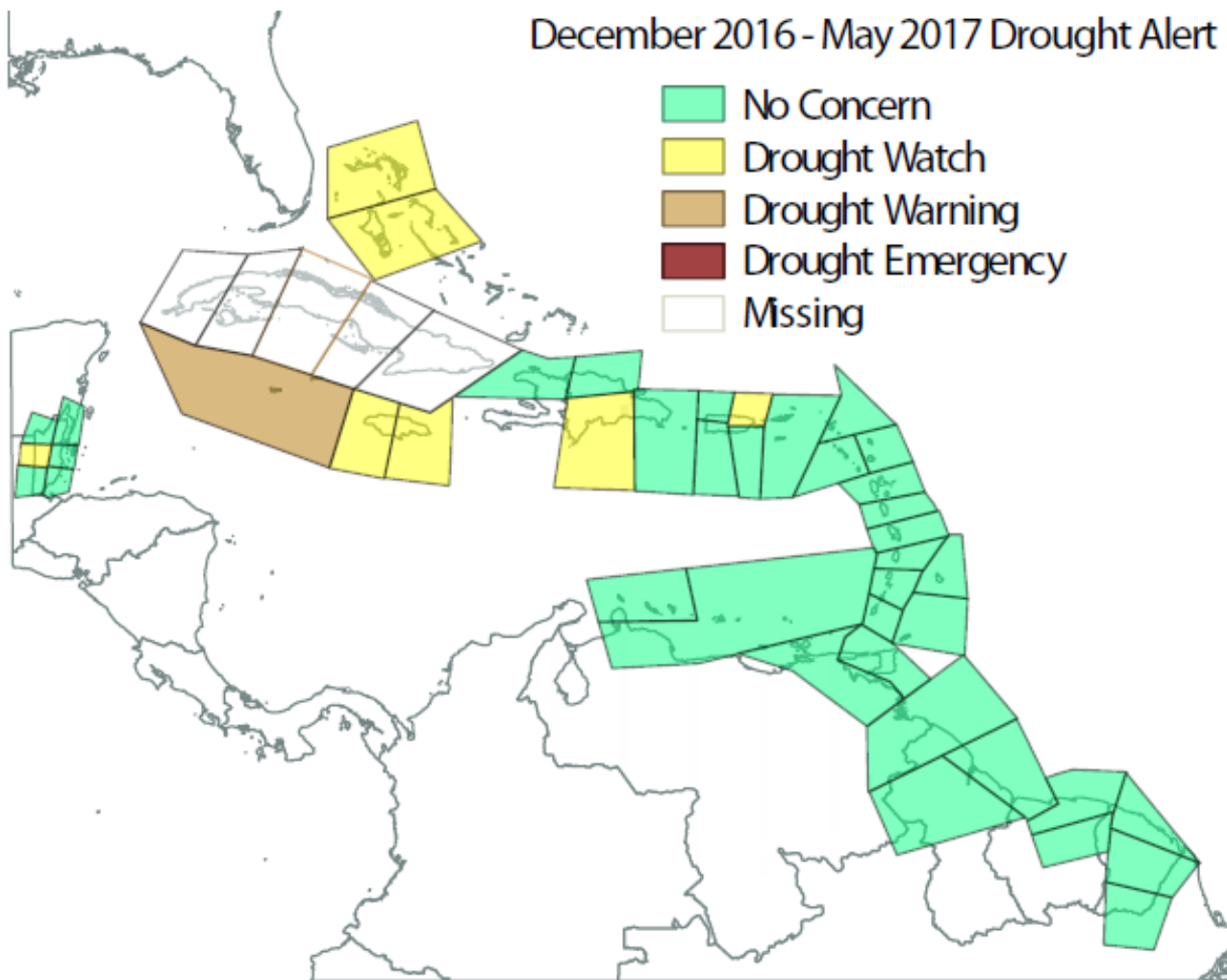
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname,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



# Drought Outlook December 2016 to May 2017

## Areas under immediate drought concern?

### Current Outlook

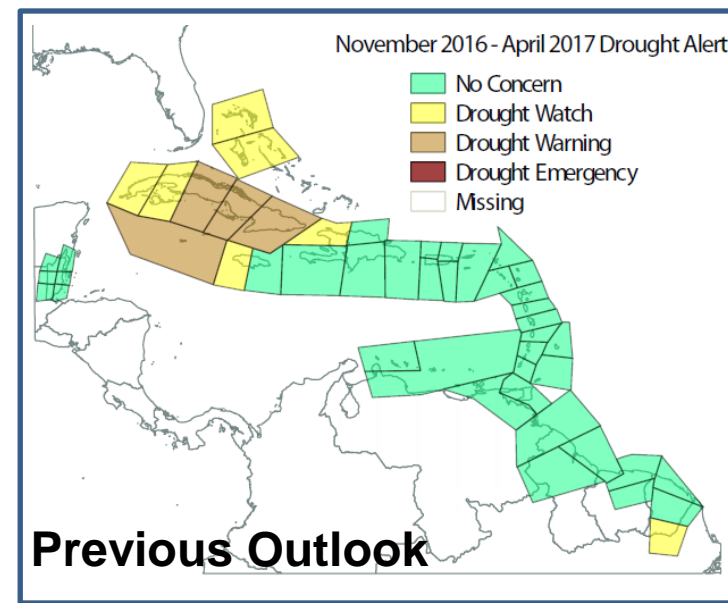


### Current update (February 2017):

We continue to see no drought concern developing throughout the region, except:

A **drought warning** is still in effect for Cayman.

A **drought watch** is issued for Bahamas, central inland Belize, S Dominican Republic, Jamaica and NE Puerto Rico.

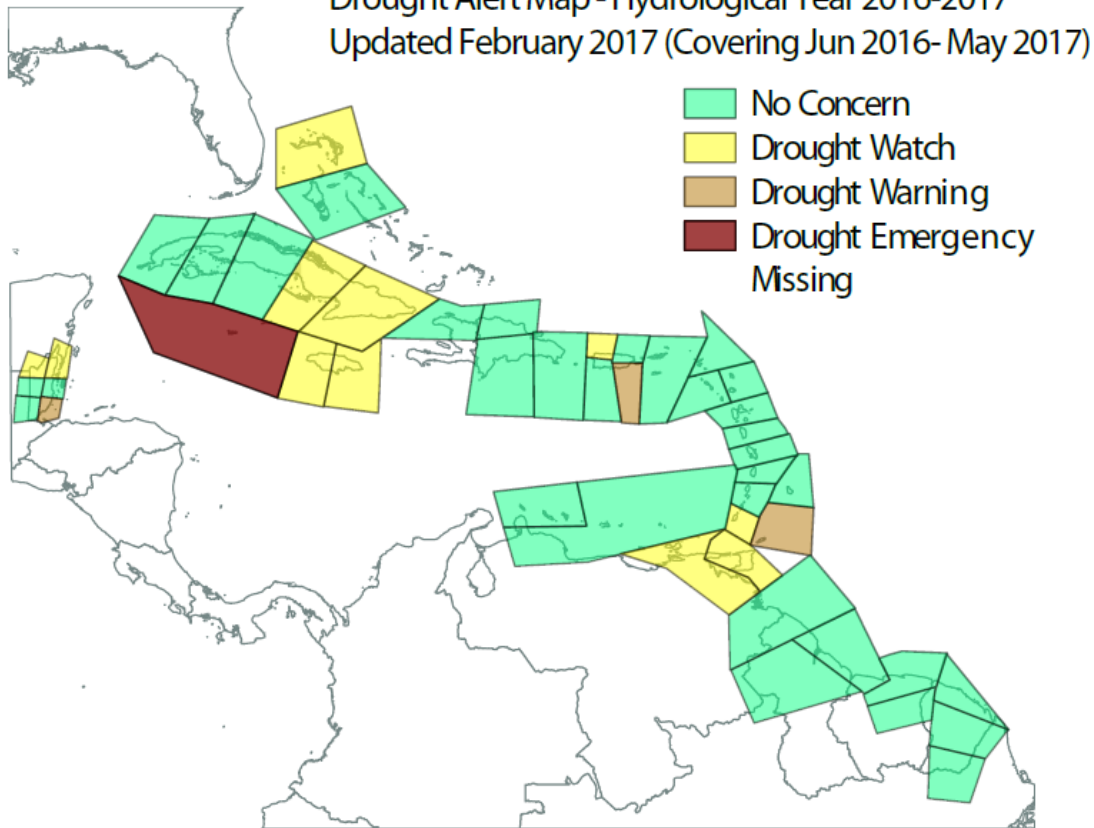


# Long-term drought outlook

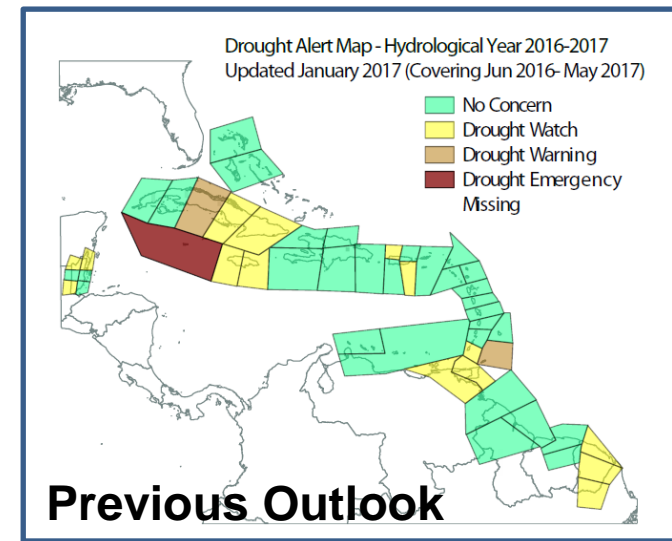
## Concerns by the end of the Hydrological year (May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017)?

### Current Outlook

Drought Alert Map - Hydrological Year 2016-2017  
Updated February 2017 (Covering Jun 2016- May 2017)



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through January 2017, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -0.8$  (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- A **drought emergency** is still in effect for Cayman.
- A **drought warning** is in effect for SE Belize, SE Puerto Rico and Tobago.
- A **drought watch** is in effect for parts of N Bahamas, N Belize, E Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, NW Puerto Rico and Trinidad.



# Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- Current drought situation (up to the end of January 2017): *(more information [here](#))*
  - Grand Cayman has experienced 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.
  - Some other areas in the northern Caribbean are also facing potential drought concern, incl. N Belize, central Cuba and Tobago, which are also in long-term drought.
- Shorter-term drought situation (until May 2017):
  - We expect a shorter-term drought situation to continue in Cayman and, to possibly develop in Bahamas, central inland Belize, SE Dominican Republic, Jamaica and NE Puerto Rico.
- Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):
  - Longer-term drought is likely to persist in Cayman and potentially become more impactful as the dry (tourism) season progresses. It is evolving in SE Belize, SE Puerto Rico and Tobago, and is possible in N Bahamas, N Belize, E Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, 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 most other areas.
  - ENSO neutral conditions expected beyond February. These ENSO neutral conditions are not expected to worsen or improve drought during the dry season.

**CONTINUE TO MONITOR &  
CONSERVE WATER !!**

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



**CARICOF**  
CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

*caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

rcc.cimh.edu.bb

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology

TEL: (246) 425-1362/3 | FAX: (246) 424-4733