

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of June 2017

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## Participating territories

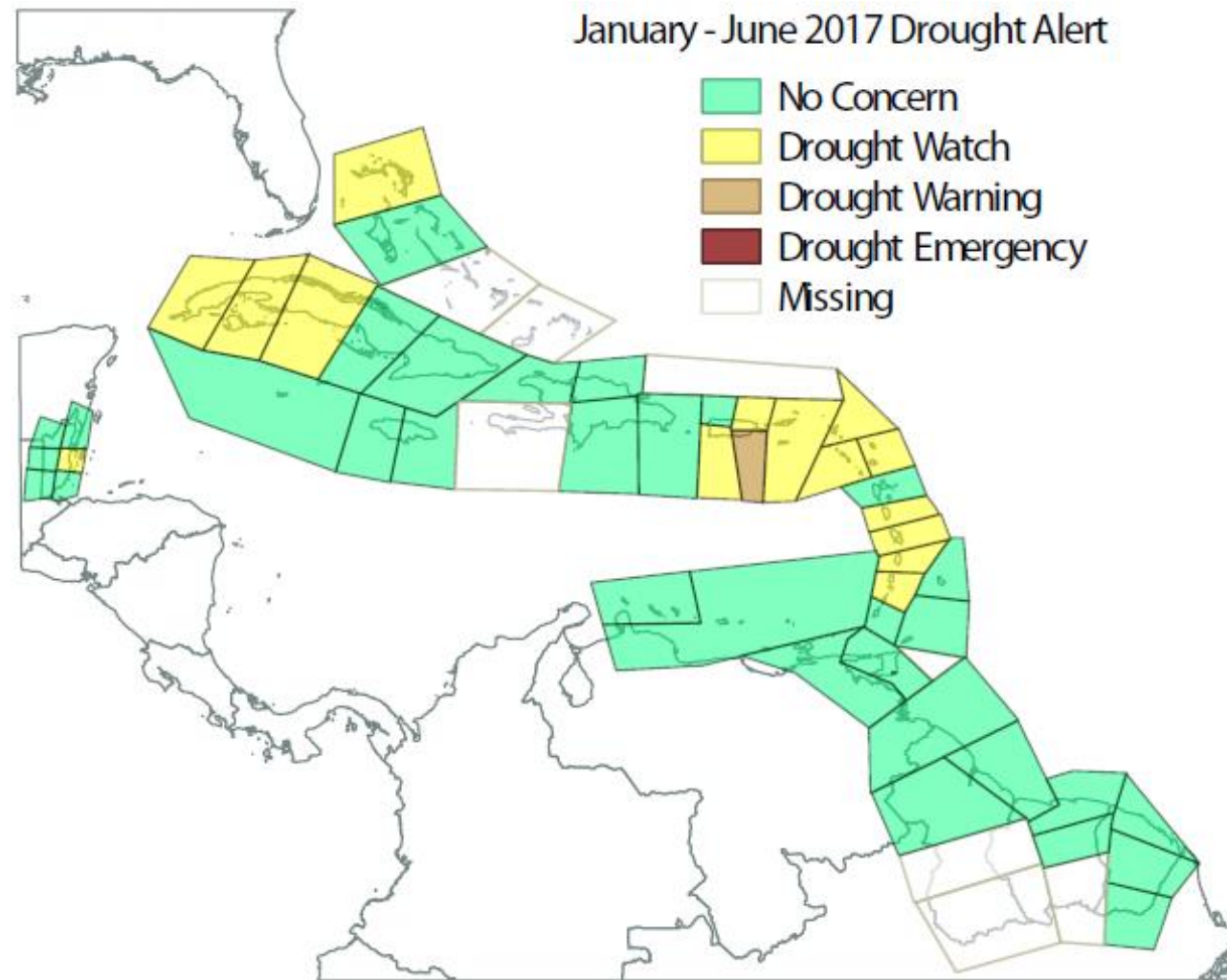
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname,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



# Drought Outlook January to June 2017

## Areas under immediate drought concern?

### Current Outlook

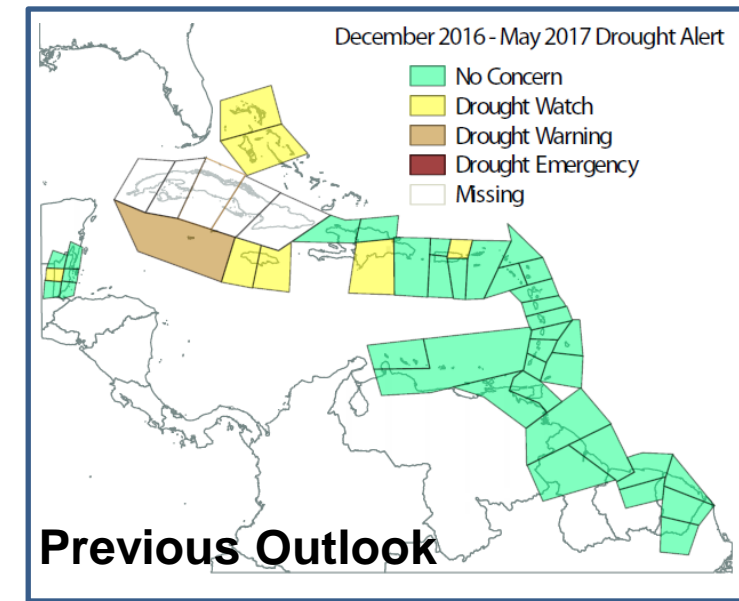


### Current update (March 2017):

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

A **drought warning** is in effect for south east Puerto Rico.

A **drought watch** is issued for N Bahamas, central coastal Belize, west and central Cuba, Leewards (except Guadeloupe), SW & NE Puerto Rico, and Windwards (except Grenada).



# Long-term drought outlook

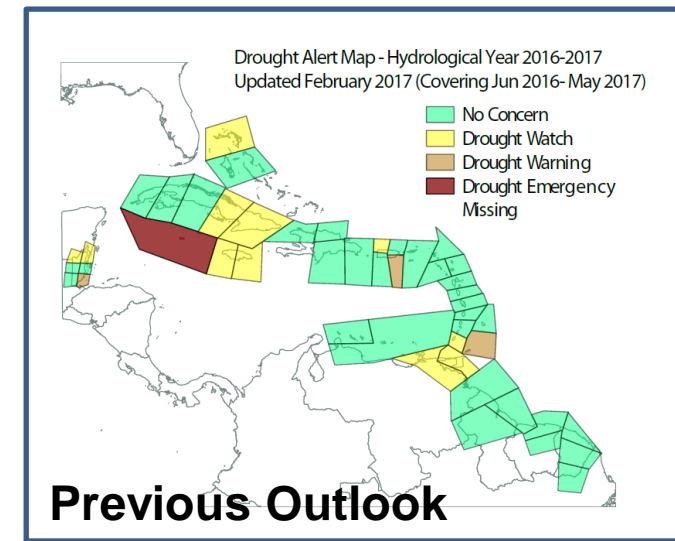
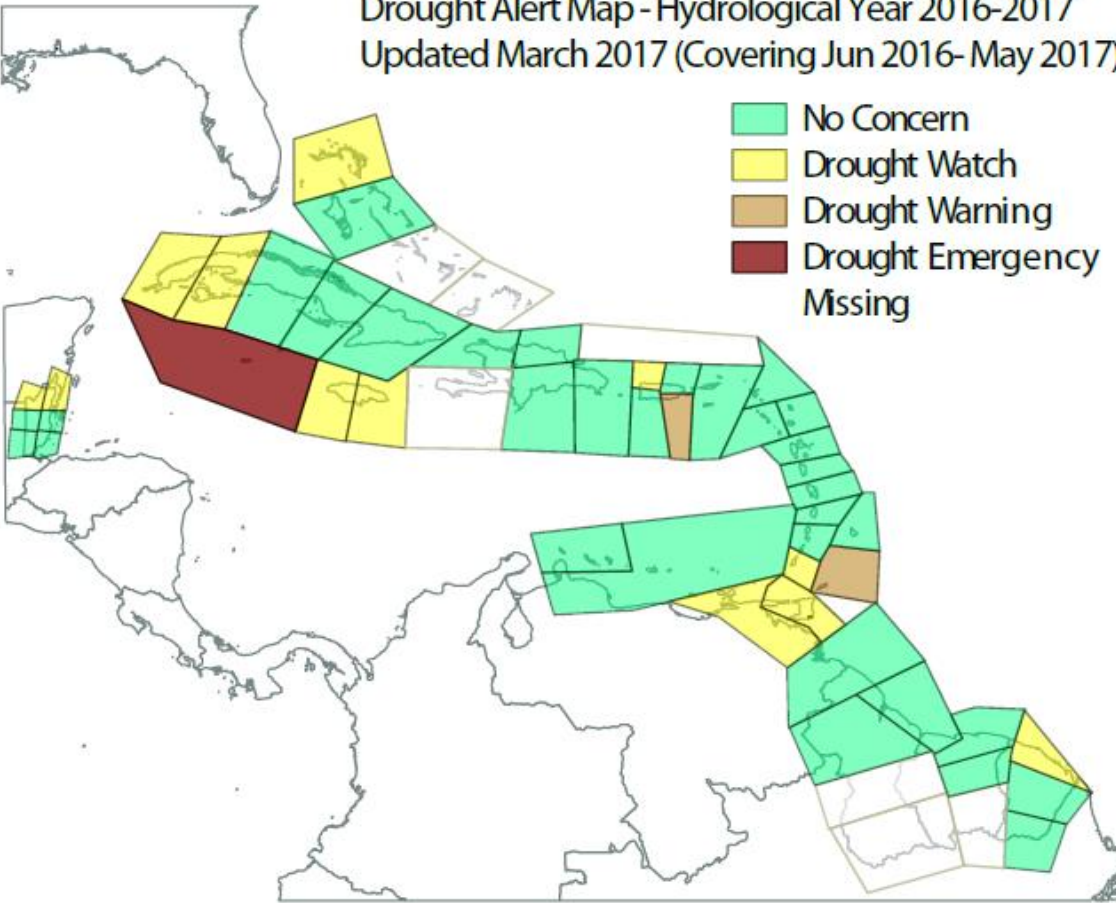
Concerns by the end of the Hydrological year (May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017)?

## Current Outlook

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through February 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 Puerto Rico and Tobago.
- A **drought watch** is in effect for parts of N Bahamas, N Belize, W Cuba, N French Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, NW Puerto Rico and Trinidad.

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

■ No Concern  
■ Drought Watch  
■ Drought Warning  
■ Drought Emergency  
■ Missing



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

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of February 2017):** *(more information [here](#))*
  - Grand Cayman has experienced its driest year on record (50% of avg. rainfall) and 13 consecutive months of below-average rainfall. 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, St. Maarten and Tobago, which are also in long-term drought.
- **Shorter-term drought situation (until June 2017):**
  - We expect a shorter-term drought situation to likely improve in Cayman, but to evolve in SE Puerto Rico, and possibly develop in N Bahamas, west and central Cuba, Leewards (except Guadeloupe), SW & NE Puerto Rico, and Windwards (except Grenada).
- **Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):**
  - Longer-term drought is likely to persist in Cayman and potentially become more impactful until the dry season comes to an end. It is evolving in SE Puerto Rico and Tobago, and is possible in N Bahamas, N Belize, W 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 during the next 3 months. 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   |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| NO CONCERN        | 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>   |
| DROUGHT WATCH     | 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>  |
| DROUGHT WARNING   | 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>           |
| DROUGHT EMERGENCY | 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> |



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