

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of July 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



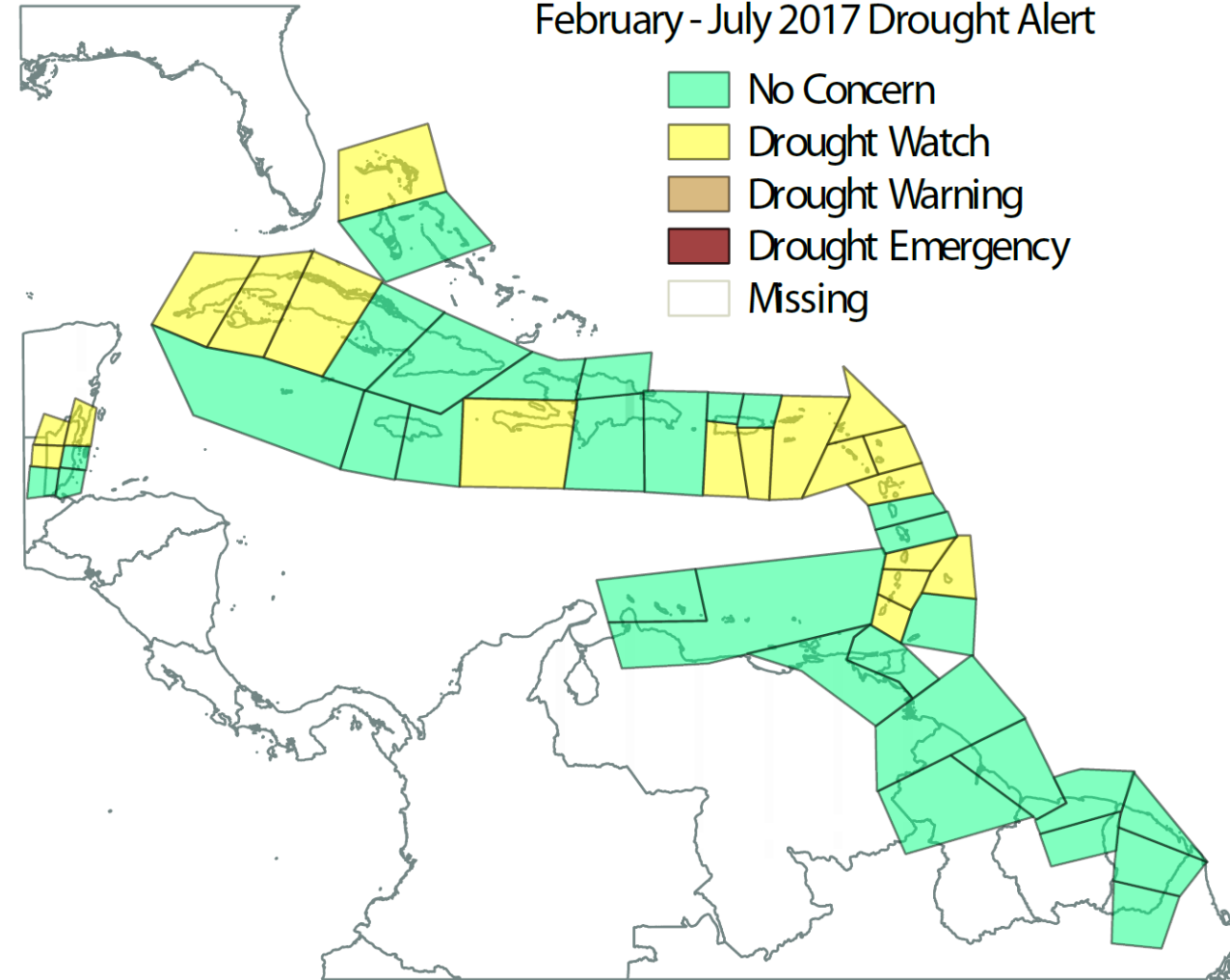
Drought Outlook February to July 2017

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

February - July 2017 Drought Alert

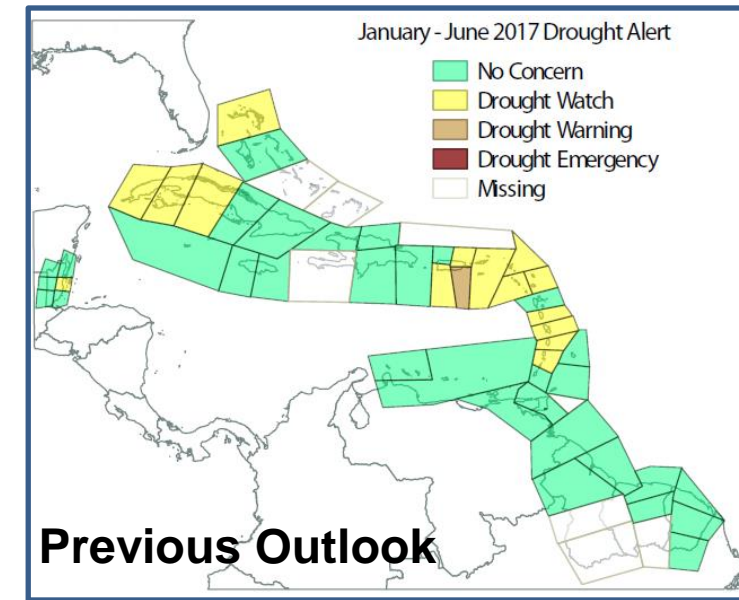
- No Concern
- Drought Watch
- Drought Warning
- Drought Emergency
- Missing



Current update (April 2017):

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

A **drought watch** is issued for N Bahamas, Barbados, the NW half of Belize, west and central Cuba, Leewards, S Puerto Rico, and Windwards (except Dominica and Martinique).



Long-term drought outlook

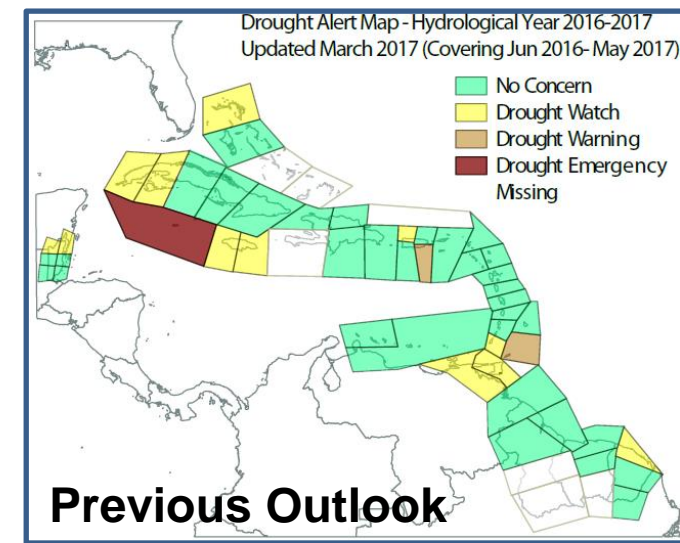
Concerns by the end of the Hydrological year (May 31st, 2017)?

Current Outlook

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

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

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



Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of February 2017):** *(more information [here](#))*
 - After its driest year on record in 2015 (50% of avg. rainfall) and little rainfall since October, Grand Cayman is in one of its worst long-term meteorological droughts on record. The island is also in short-term drought.
 - Some other areas in the northern Caribbean are also facing potential drought concern, incl. N Belize, St. Maarten, SE Puerto Rico 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 possibly develop in N Bahamas, Barbados, the NW half of Belize, west and central Cuba, Leewards, S Puerto Rico, and Windwards (except Dominica and Martinique).
- **Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):**
 - Longer-term drought is very likely to persist in Cayman. It is evolving in N Belize, SE Puerto Rico, St. Maarten and Tobago, and is likely in some places in N Bahamas, E Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, W 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 during the next 3 months. These ENSO neutral conditions are not expected to worsen or improve drought during the dry season and the early wet season.

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

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



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