

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

## By the end of August 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



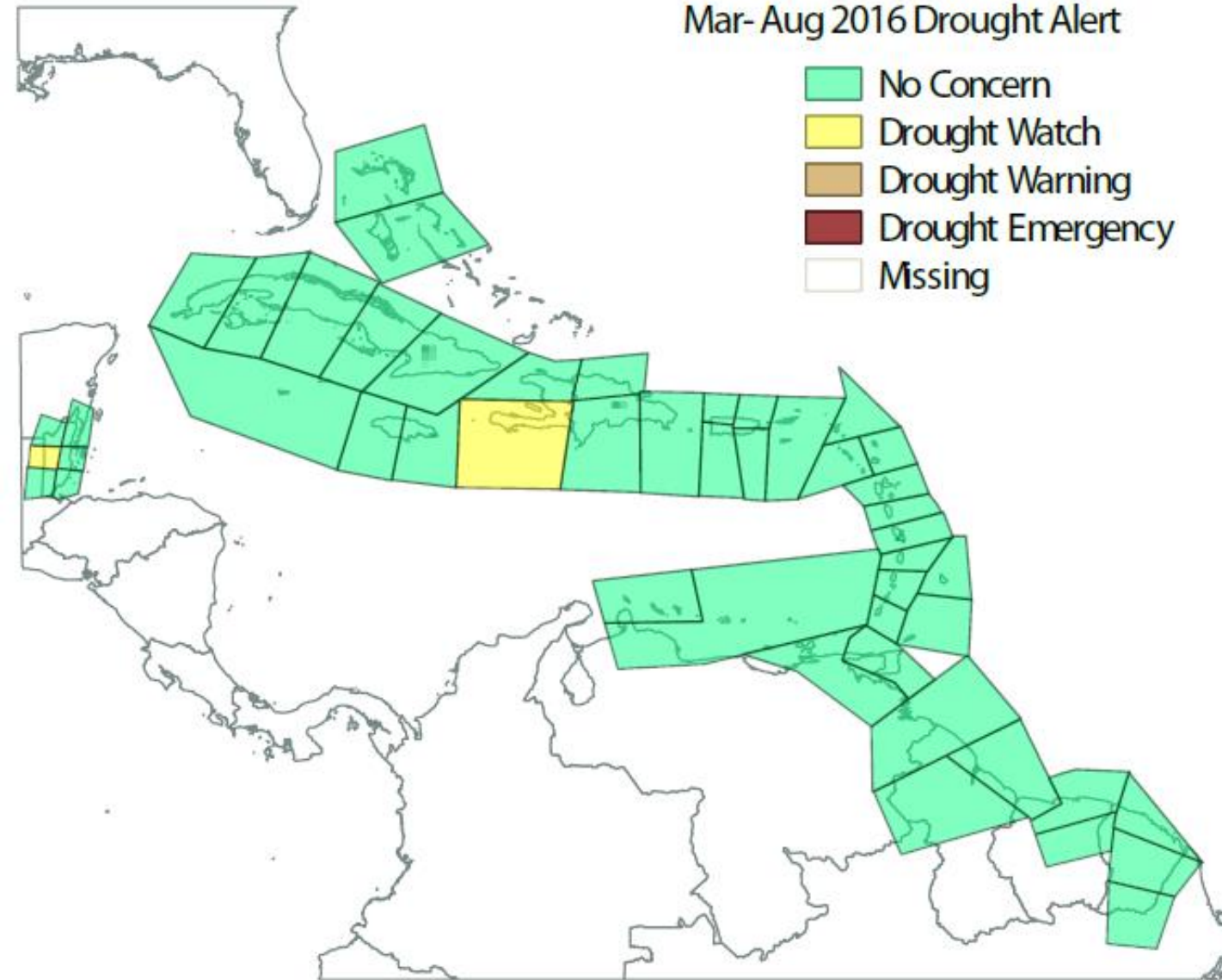
# Drought Outlook March to August

## Areas under immediate drought concern?

### Current Outlook

Mar-Aug 2016 Drought Alert

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

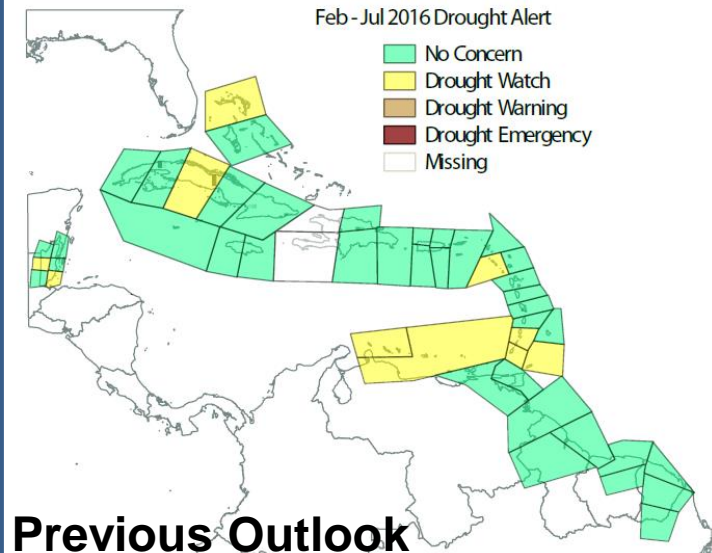


### Current update (May 2016):

Drought concern has lifted for the region but remains for southern Haiti and west-central Belize.

Feb-Jul 2016 Drought Alert

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



Previous Outlook

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

- **Current drought situation** (up to the end of April 2016): *(more information [here](#))*
  - After below-normal rainfall during 2015 resulting in long-term drought, water shortages persisted throughout the first 4 months of 2016 in many portions of the Antilles.
  - Nearly all island nations of the Lesser Antilles are in longer-term drought.
  - After a failure of the secondary wet season in the Guianas, short-term drought was alleviated in coastal areas by heavy rains in March, but persisted in the south-western areas of Guyana.
- **Shorter-term drought situation** (till August 2016):
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in west-central Belize and southern Haïti
- **Longer-term drought situation** (until November 2016):
  - El Niño peaked in strength last November and has rapidly weakened since then. 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), except in coastal areas of the Guianas.
  - In the islands, the wet season is expected to bring longer-term drought recovery for Barbados, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.
  - Fading El Niño will likely be followed by a La Niña later this year. This evolution should finally bring drought relief to the region, but may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood potential.

**MONITOR DROUGHT & CONSERVE WATER !!**

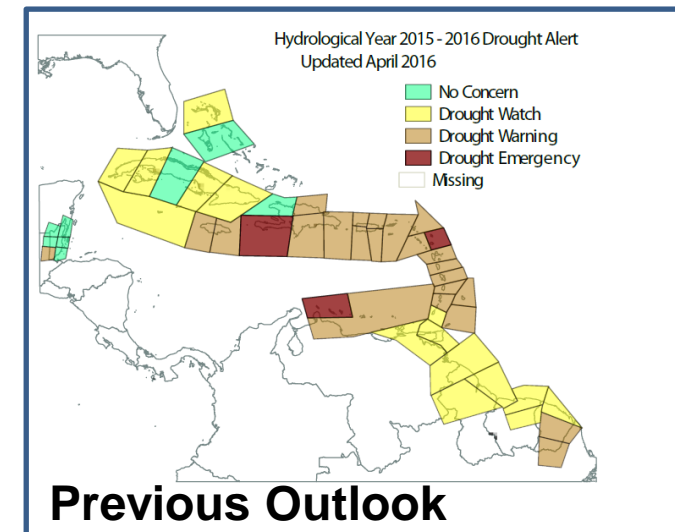
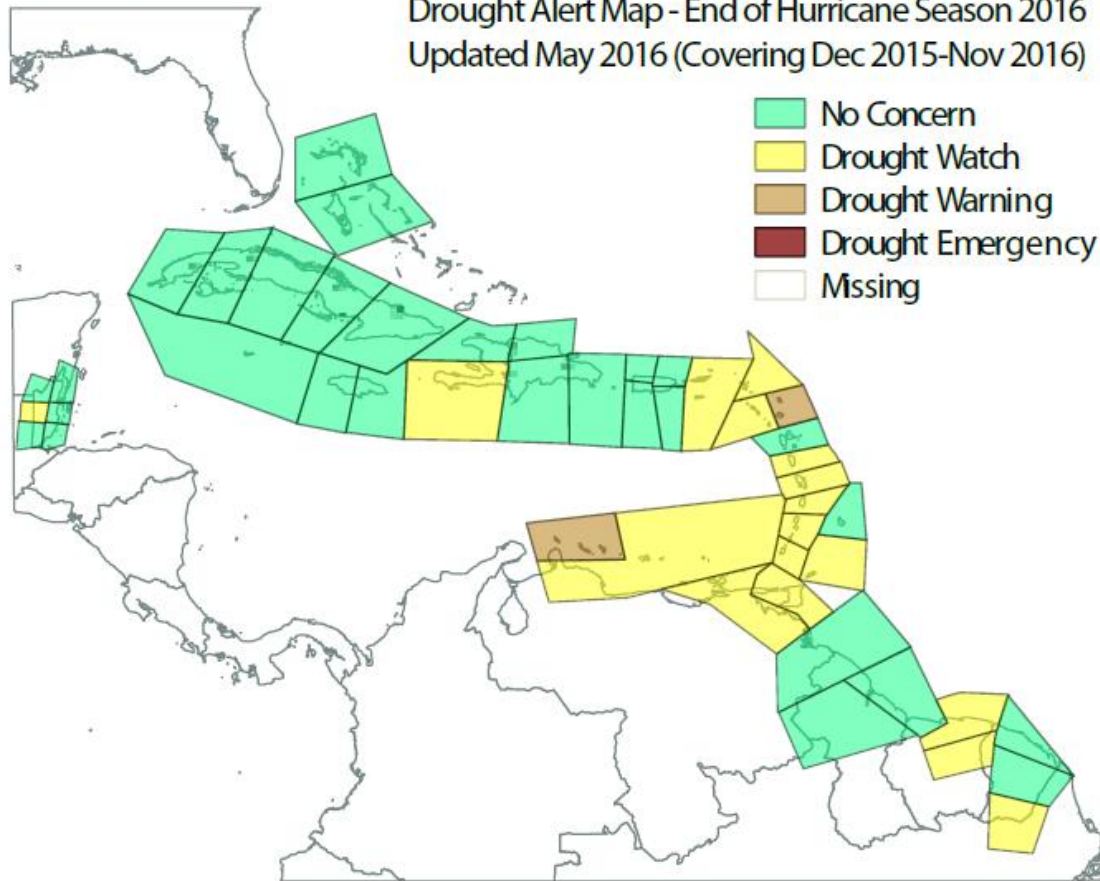
# Long-term drought outlook

## Concerns by the end of the Caribbean wet/hurricane season (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016)?

### Current Outlook

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through April 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the wet season (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>) is a concern across the Caribbean (insufficient data available for Haiti).
- A **drought warning** is issued for the ABC Islands, Antigua and Barbuda. A **drought watch** is issued for Barbados, central-west Belize, south Haiti, Leewards except Guadeloupe, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Windwards, and U.S. C'bean Territories.

Drought Alert Map - End of Hurricane Season 2016  
Updated May 2016 (Covering Dec 2015-Nov 2016)





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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