

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of February 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



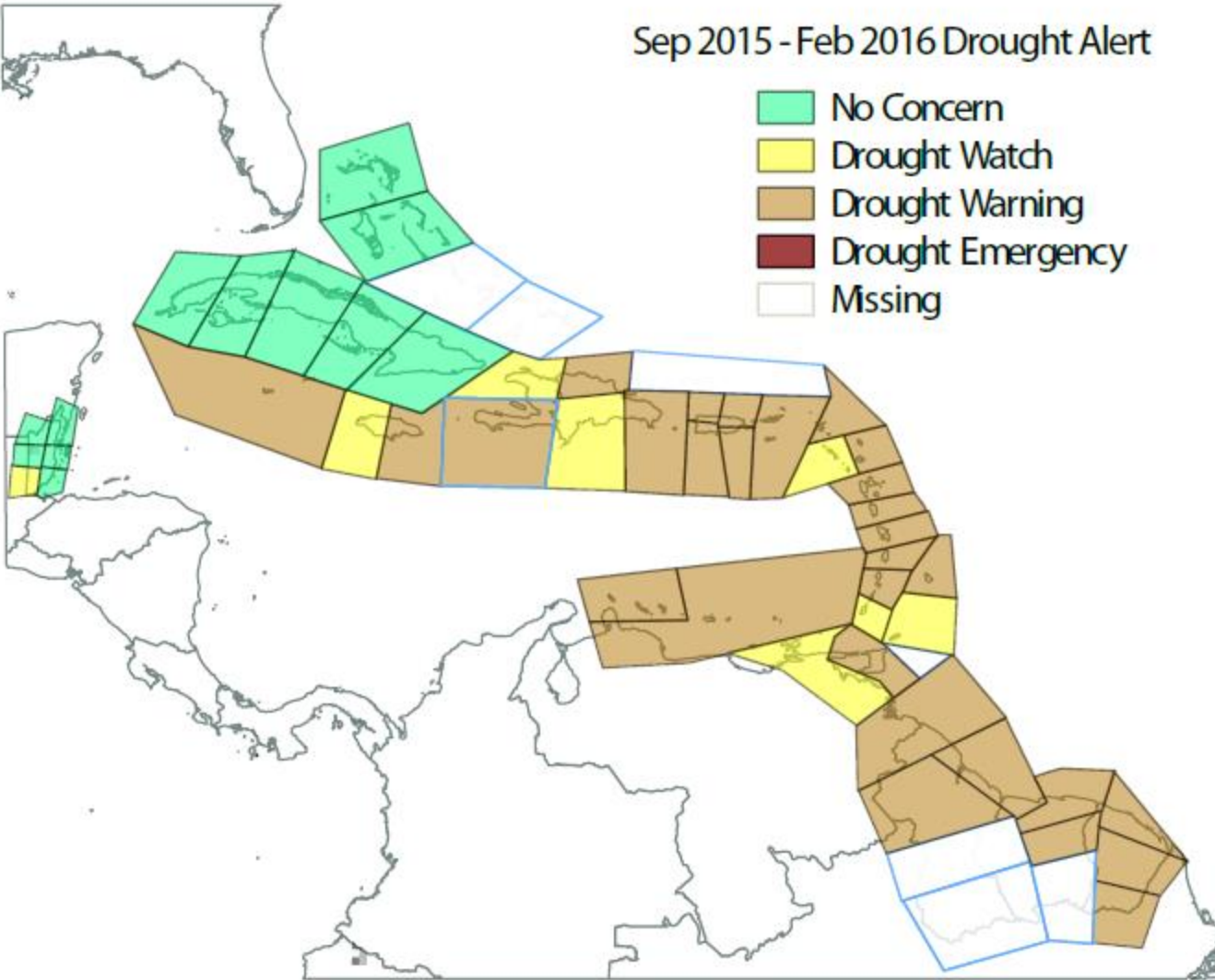
Drought Outlook Aug to Jan

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

Sep 2015 - Feb 2016 Drought Alert

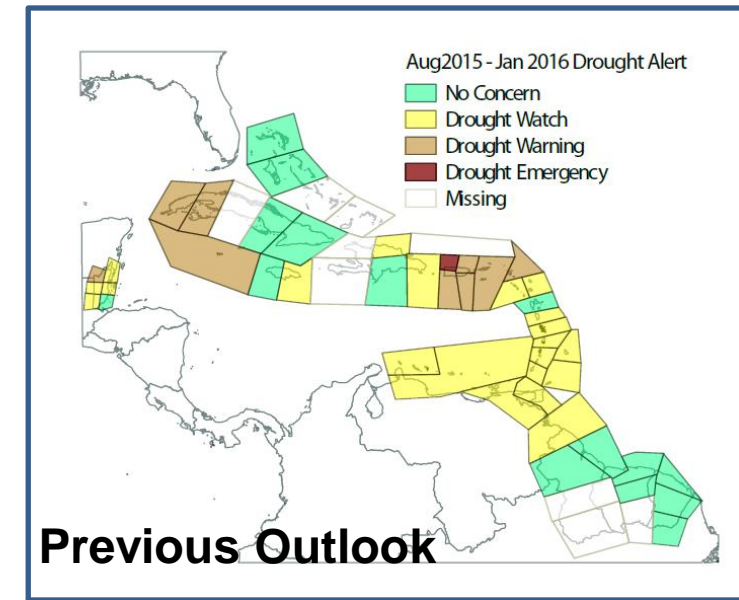
- No Concern
- Drought Watch
- Drought Warning
- Drought Emergency
- Missing



Current update (October 2015):

Drought concern is noted across the region, except the Bahamas, most parts of Belize, Cuba and Turks & Caicos.

We issue a drought warning in the remaining locations except south-western Belize, Grenada, western Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Tobago where we issue a drought watch.



Previous Outlook

Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

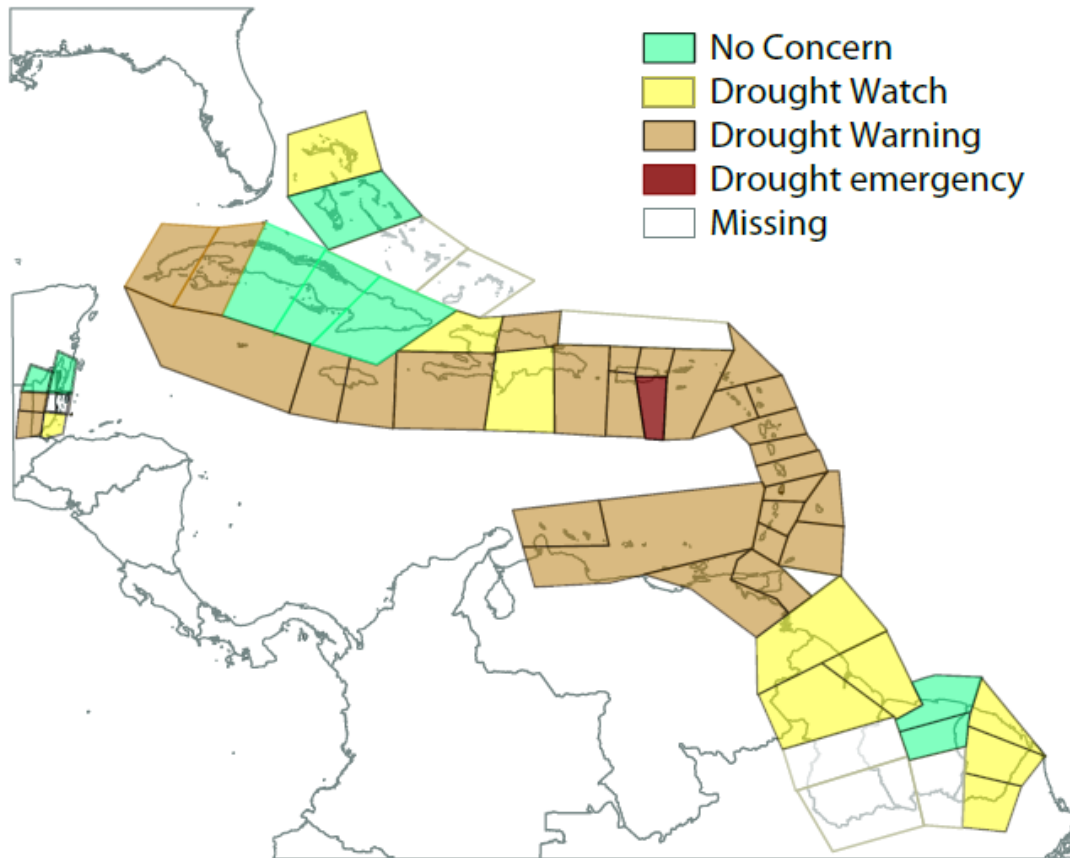
- **Current drought situation (up to the end of October 2015):** *(more information [here](#))*
 - Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous dry and current wet seasons, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles.
 - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Cuba), as well as W Belize. After a record dry August to October period in 10 territories, many Antilles islands are currently facing severe shorter-term drought.
- **Shorter-term (till February 2016):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles and in Belize, especially in ABC Islands, Barbados, Cayman, Hispaniola, Leewards, US C'bean Terr. And N Windwards.
- **Longer-term (beyond February 2016):**
 - Strong El Niño in place. El Niño often results in a drier wet season and an early end to it (except for the NW C'bean), and particularly so in the SE C'bean. This may lead to drought concerns towards the end of the next dry season.
 - Areas with existing water shortages may not see full recovery until the next wet season, in particular Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.

RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!

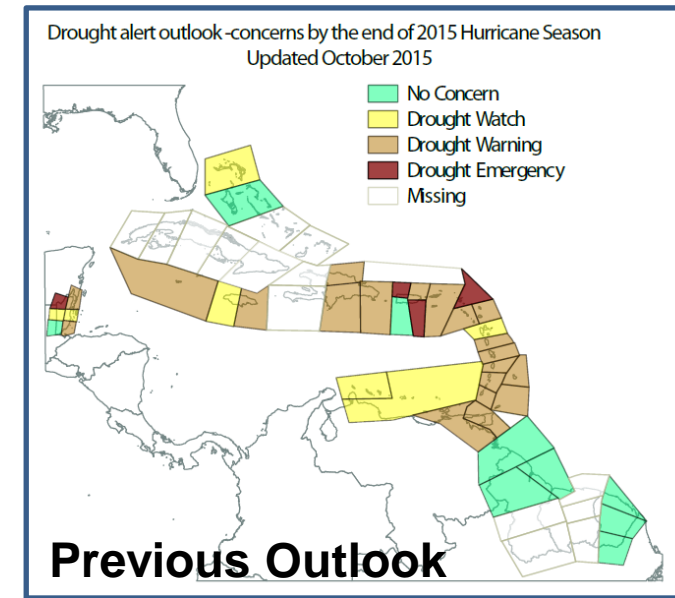
Long-term drought outlook

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

Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until October 2015, 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 all the Antilles except eastern Cuba (no data available for Haïti), in Belize and the Guianas.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for the remainder of the Antilles except eastern Cuba, and western Belize.



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 caricof@cimh.edu.bb	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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