

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of February 2017

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

Participating territories

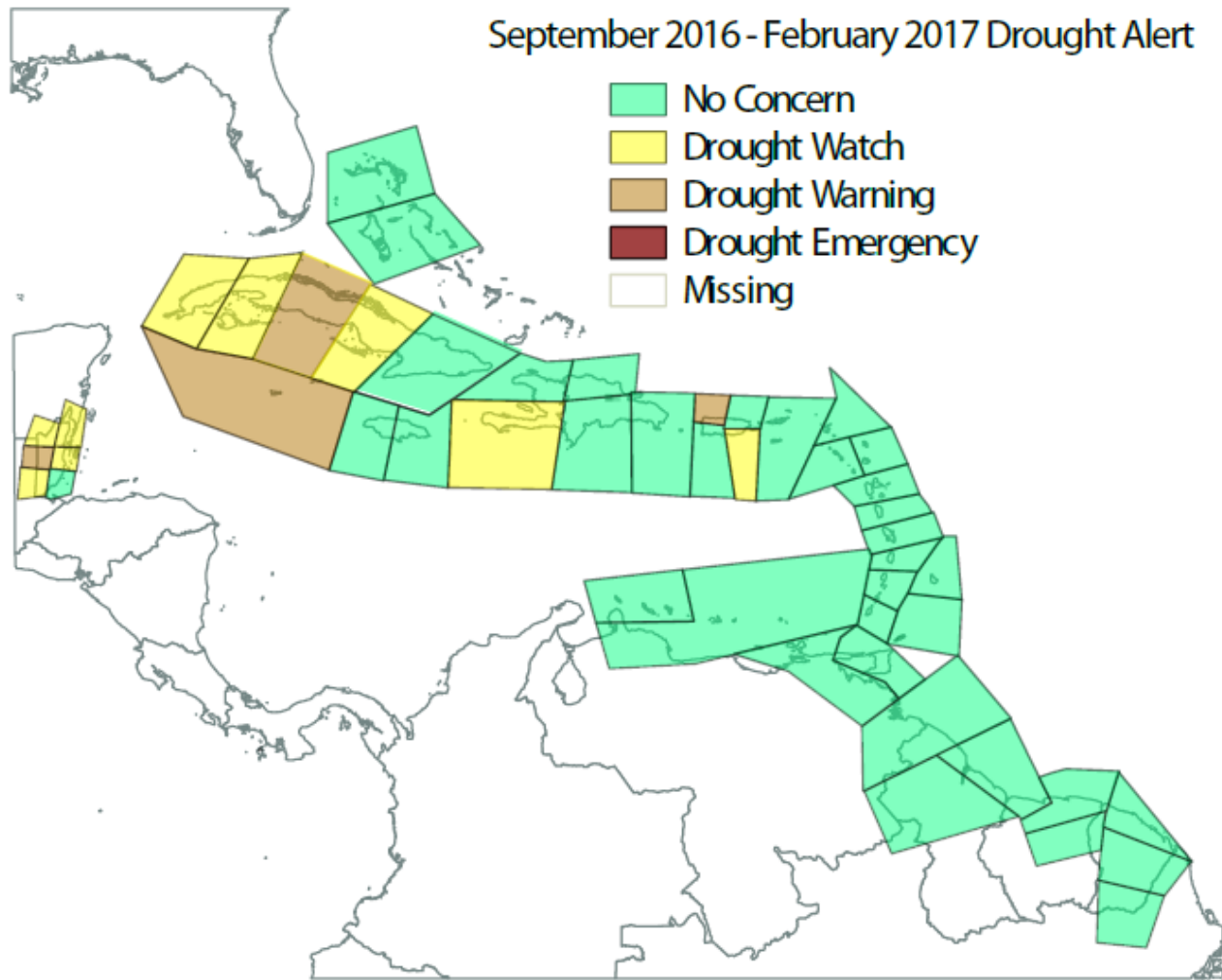
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname,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



Drought Outlook September 2016 to February 2017

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

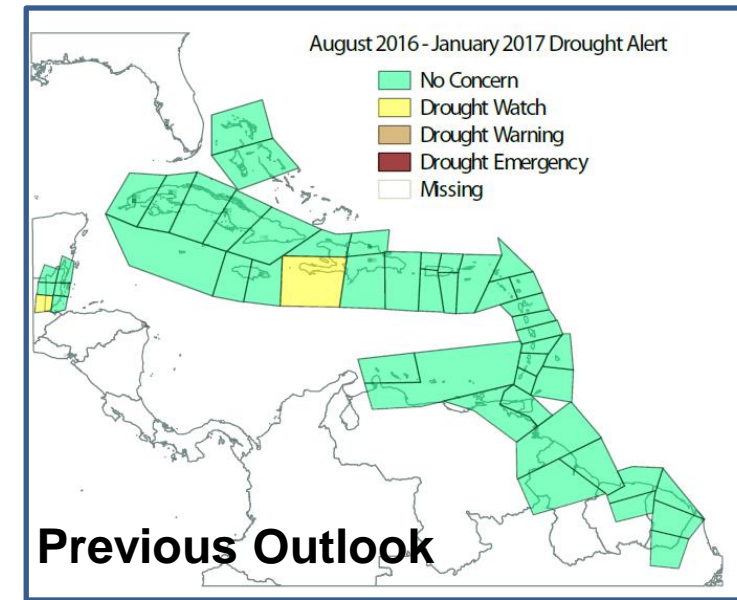


Current update (November 2016):

We continue to see no drought concern developing throughout the region.

A **drought warning** is issued for west-central Belize, central Cuba, Cayman and north-west Puerto Rico.

A **drought watch** is issued for most other portions of Belize, western Cuba, southern Haiti and south-east Puerto Rico.

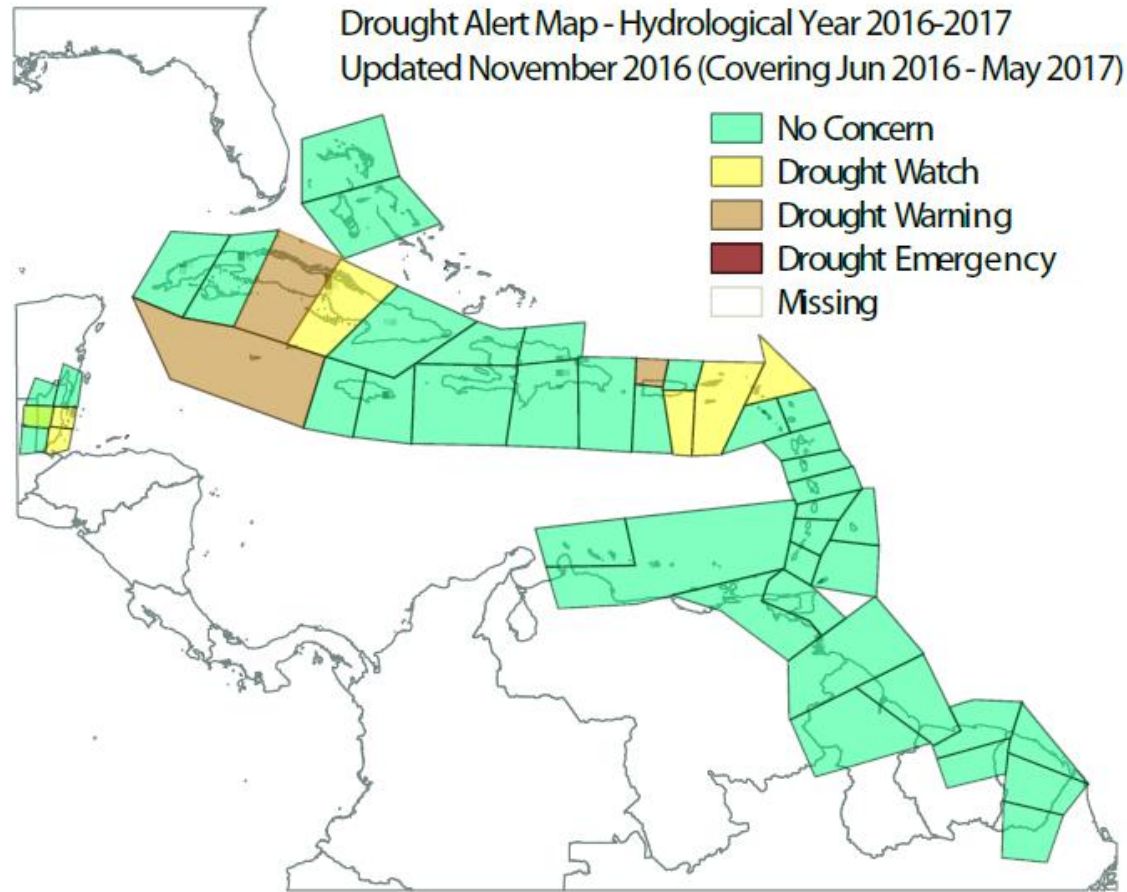


Previous Outlook

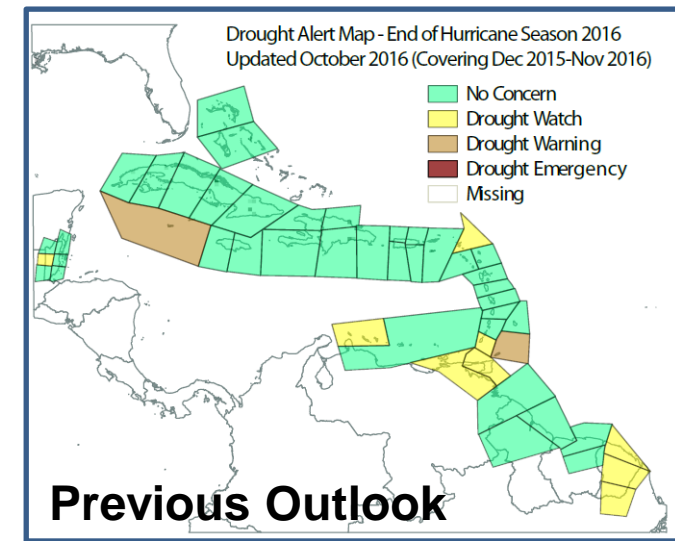
Long-term drought outlook

Concerns by the end of the Hydrological year (May 30th, 2017)?

Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through October 2016, 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 warning** is in effect for Cayman Is., Central Cuba and NW Puerto Rico.
- A **drought watch** is in effect for NW & SE Belize, northern Leewards, SE Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.



Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of October 2016):** (*more information [here](#)*)
 - Grand Cayman is likely to experience its driest year on record. As a result, the island is in both short- and long-term drought. Western and central Cuba, the northern Leewards and Tobago remain in long-term drought.
 - September and October rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016 in most other areas
 - Hurricane Matthew prevented September from ending up drier than normal in the Windwards.
- **Shorter-term drought situation (until February 2017):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in Belize and S Haïti, parts of Puerto Rico and continue in Cayman and central Cuba.
- **Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):**
 - Longer-term drought is evolving in Cayman, central Cuba and NW Puerto Rico, and is possible in NW & SE Belize, western Cuba, northern Leewards, SE Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
 - However, elevated rainfall totals for November in portions of the Caribbean imply that drought will not likely become a concern by the end of the upcoming dry season.
 - A weak La Niña appeared since September. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought during the dry season. However, this evolution may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood and long-term flooding potential until the end of 2016. The exception is the Bahamas and Cuba, where drought chances tend to increase towards February with La Niña.

CONTINUE TO MONITOR WATER USAGE!!

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