

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of January 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



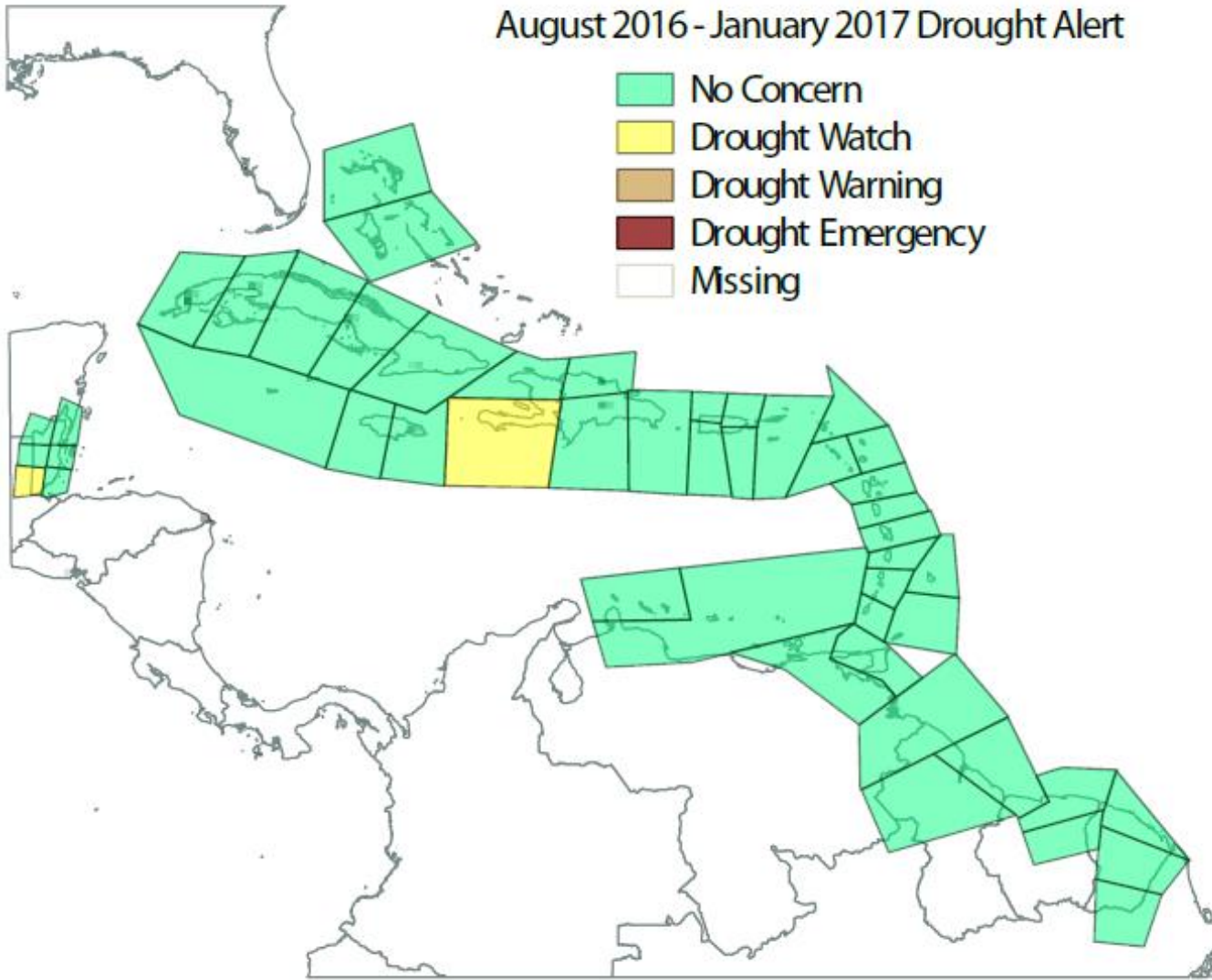
Drought Outlook June to November

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

August 2016 - January 2017 Drought Alert

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



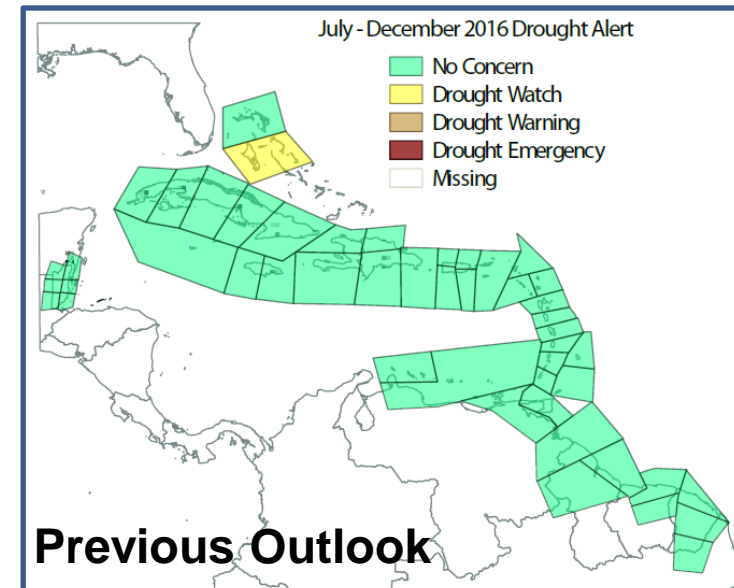
Current update (October 2016):

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

A **drought watch** is issued for south-western Belize and southern Haiti.

July - December 2016 Drought Alert

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



Previous Outlook

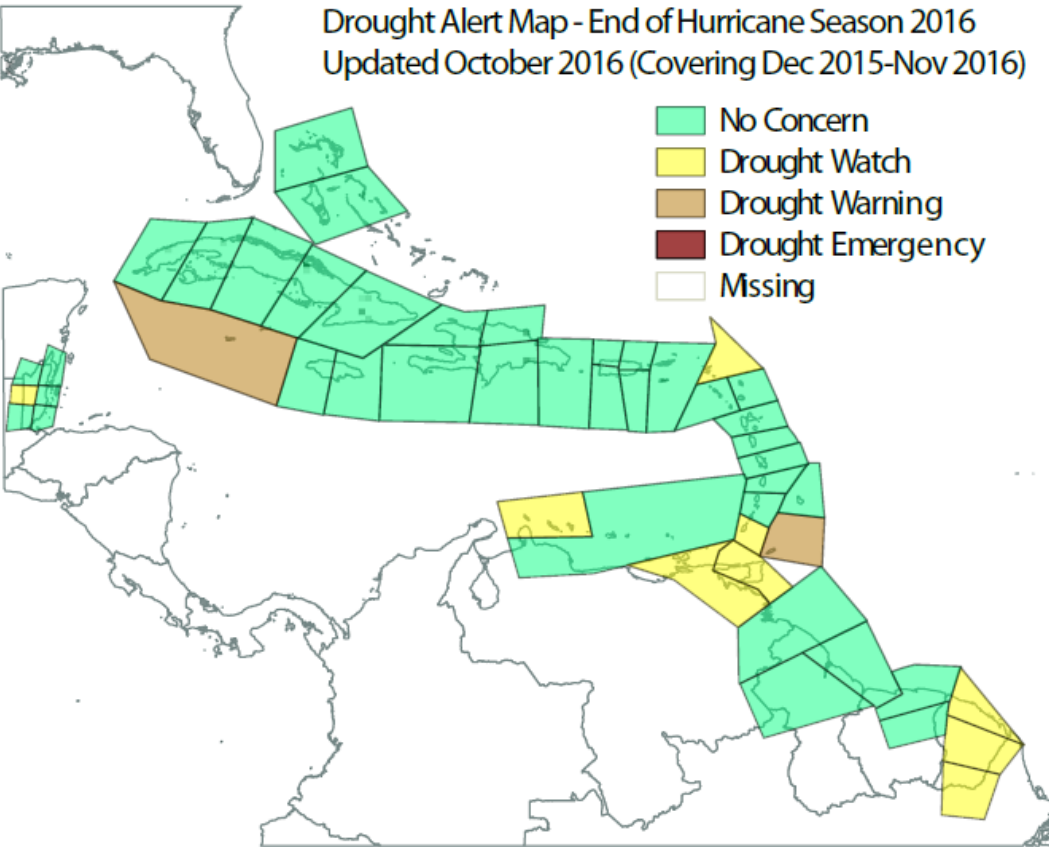
Long-term drought outlook

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

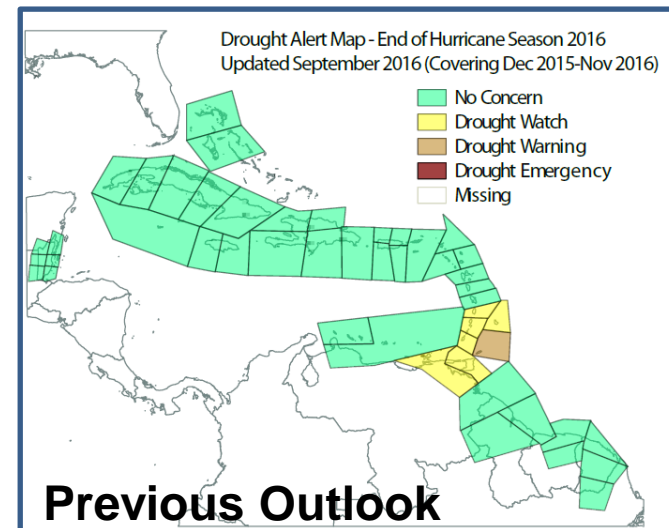
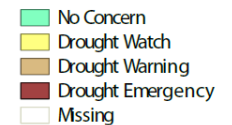
Current Outlook

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through September 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -1.3 (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- A **drought warning** is in effect for Cayman Is. and Tobago.
- A **drought watch** is in effect for ABC Is., west central Belize, Grenada, French Guiana, northern Leewards and Trinidad.

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



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



Previous Outlook

Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- **Current drought situation (up to the end of September 2016):** (*more information [here](#)*)
 - With the exception of Cayman and the extreme west of Dom. Republic, September rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016, but noting the in some areas it was hurricane Matthew's excessive rainfall that prevented September from being drier than normal.
 - In Tobago, extremely dry conditions during June-July-August have led to the re-establishment of water restrictions, while in Cayman, every month since February saw below-average rainfall.
- **Shorter-term drought situation (until January 2017):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in SW Belize and S Haiti.
- **Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):**
 - Longer-term drought is evolving in Cayman and Tobago, and is possible in ABC Islands, west-central Belize, French Guiana, Grenada, northern Leewards, and Trinidad. However, October and November usually are the wettest months in these areas. Thus, rainfall during this period might easily offset the deficits occurring earlier this year in the areas under a drought watch.
 - It is likely that either a weak La Niña appeared since September. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought towards the end of the year and during the upcoming 2016-7 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 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