

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of March 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, 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



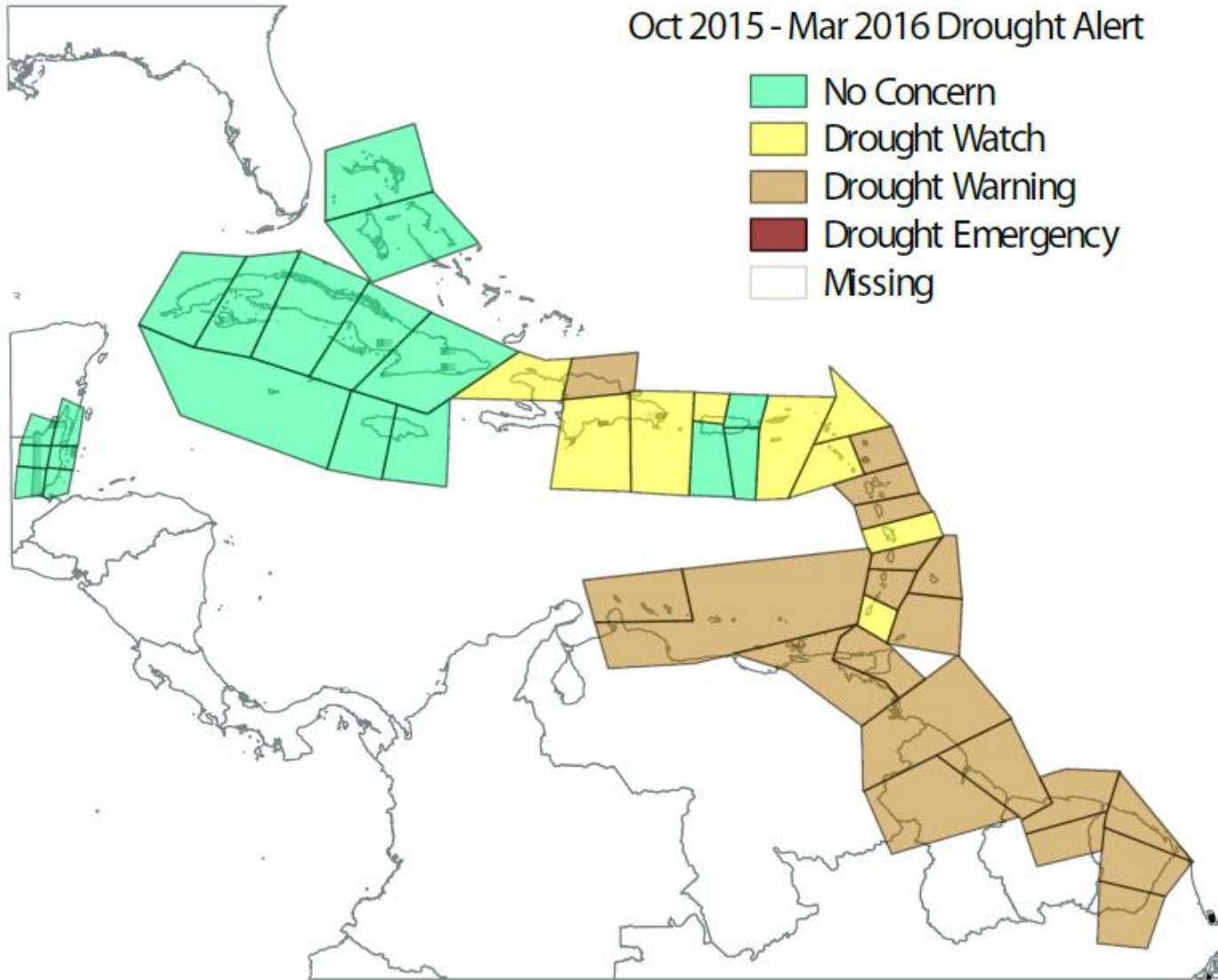
Drought Outlook Oct to Mar

Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

Oct 2015 - Mar 2016 Drought Alert

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



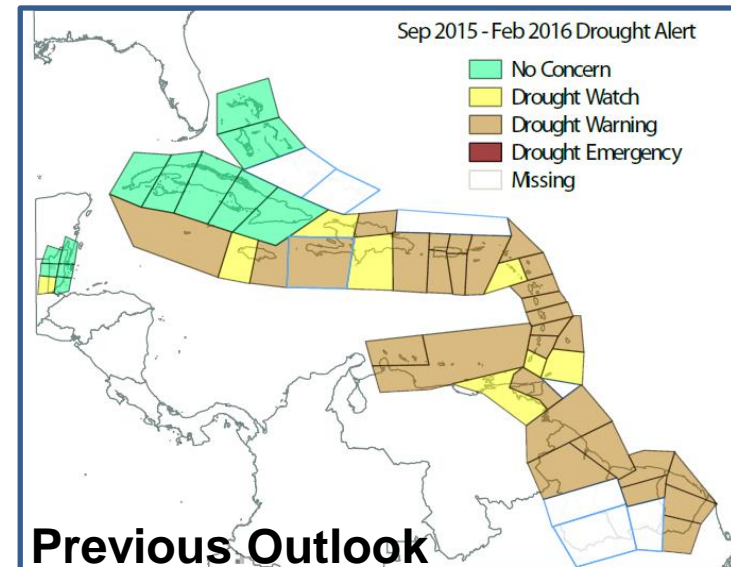
Current update (December 2015):

Drought concern is noted from Hispaniola east- and southward, except for most parts of Puerto Rico.

We issue a drought warning in northern Dom. Republic as well as from Antigua southwards, except Grenada and Martinique where we issue a drought watch.

Sep 2015 - Feb 2016 Drought Alert

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



Previous Outlook

Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

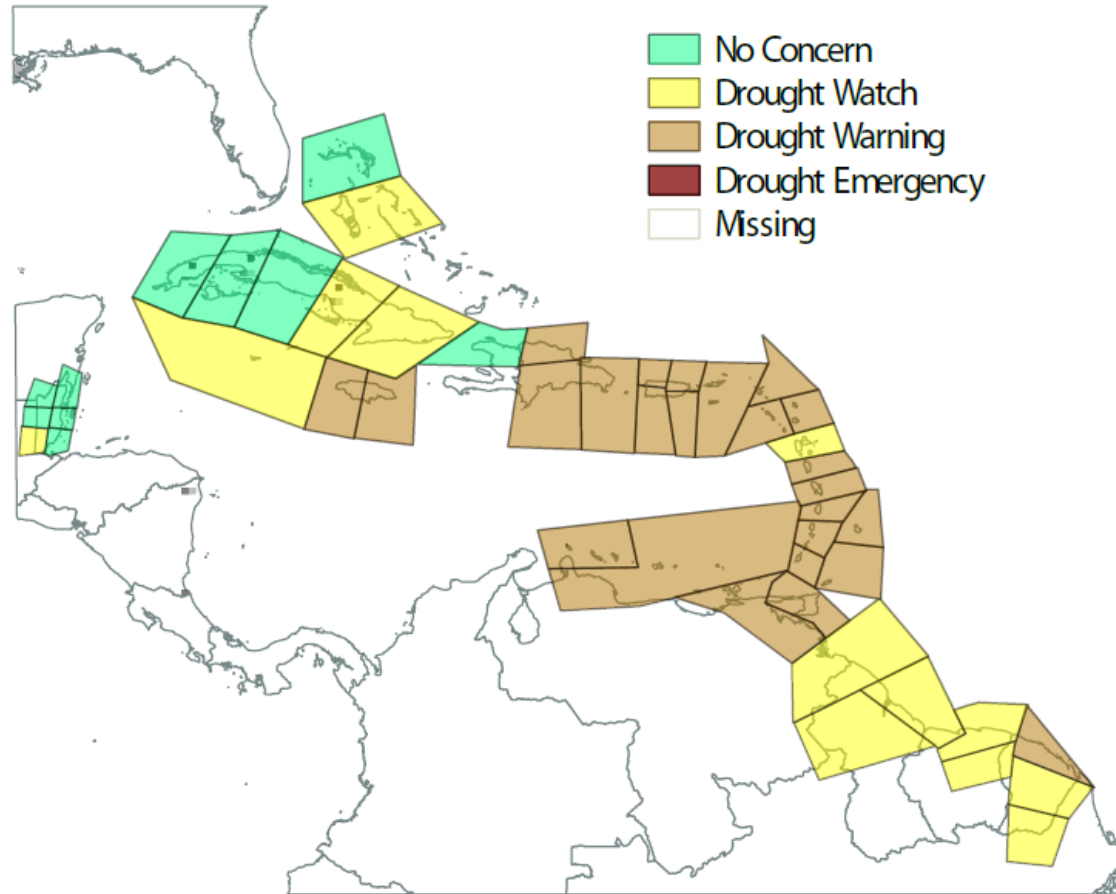
- **Current drought situation (up to the end of November 2015):** (*more information [here](#)*)
 - Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous dry and wet seasons, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles.
 - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Cuba).
 - Thanks to the return of more seasonable rainfall in parts of the region during October and November, some Antilles islands are currently no longer facing severe shorter-term drought.
- **Shorter-term (till March 2016):**
 - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may arise (or persist) from Hispaniola east- and southward, especially in ABC Islands, Antigua, Barbados, Guianas, Leewards.
- **Longer-term (beyond March 2016):**
 - Very strong El Niño seems to have peaked in strength. El Niño often results in a drier early part of the year in the Lesser Antilles and drier secondary wet season in the northern Guianas. This may lead to drought concerns towards the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31, 2016).
 - After El Niño peaks, it tends to dissipate towards the middle – and possibly replaced by a La Niña by the end – of the following year. This evolution could finally bring drought relief to the region.
 - Areas with existing water shortages may not see recovery until the next wet season, in particular Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C’bean Terr. and Windwards.

RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!

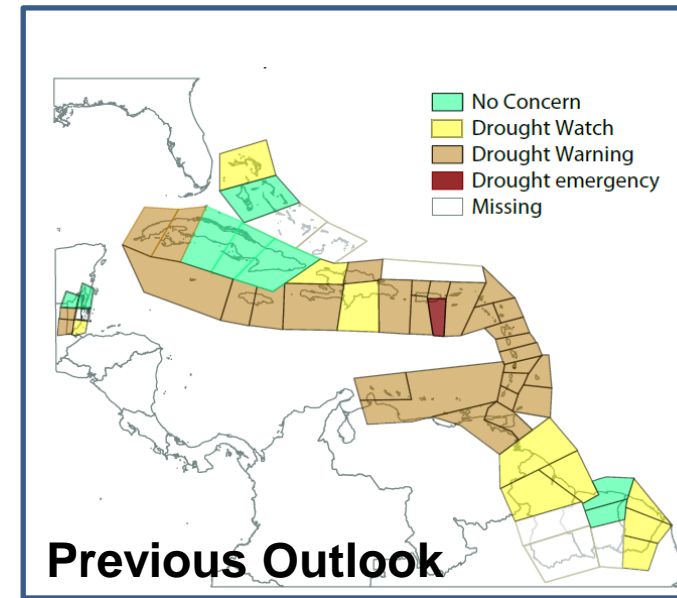
Long-term drought outlook

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

Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until November 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 western Cuba (no data available for Haiti), and the Guianas.
- A **drought warning** is issued for northern French Guiana and the Antilles, except Cayman, eastern Cuba, and Guadeloupe, for which we issue a drought watch. A **drought watch** is also issued for the Bahamas, southwest Belize and the rest of the Guianas.



ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
<p>NO CONCERN</p>	<p>No drought concern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
<p>DROUGHT WATCH</p>	<p>Drought possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
<p>DROUGHT WARNING</p>	<p>Drought evolving</p>	<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
<p>DROUGHT EMERGENCY</p>	<p>Drought of immediate concern</p>	<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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