

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of May 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



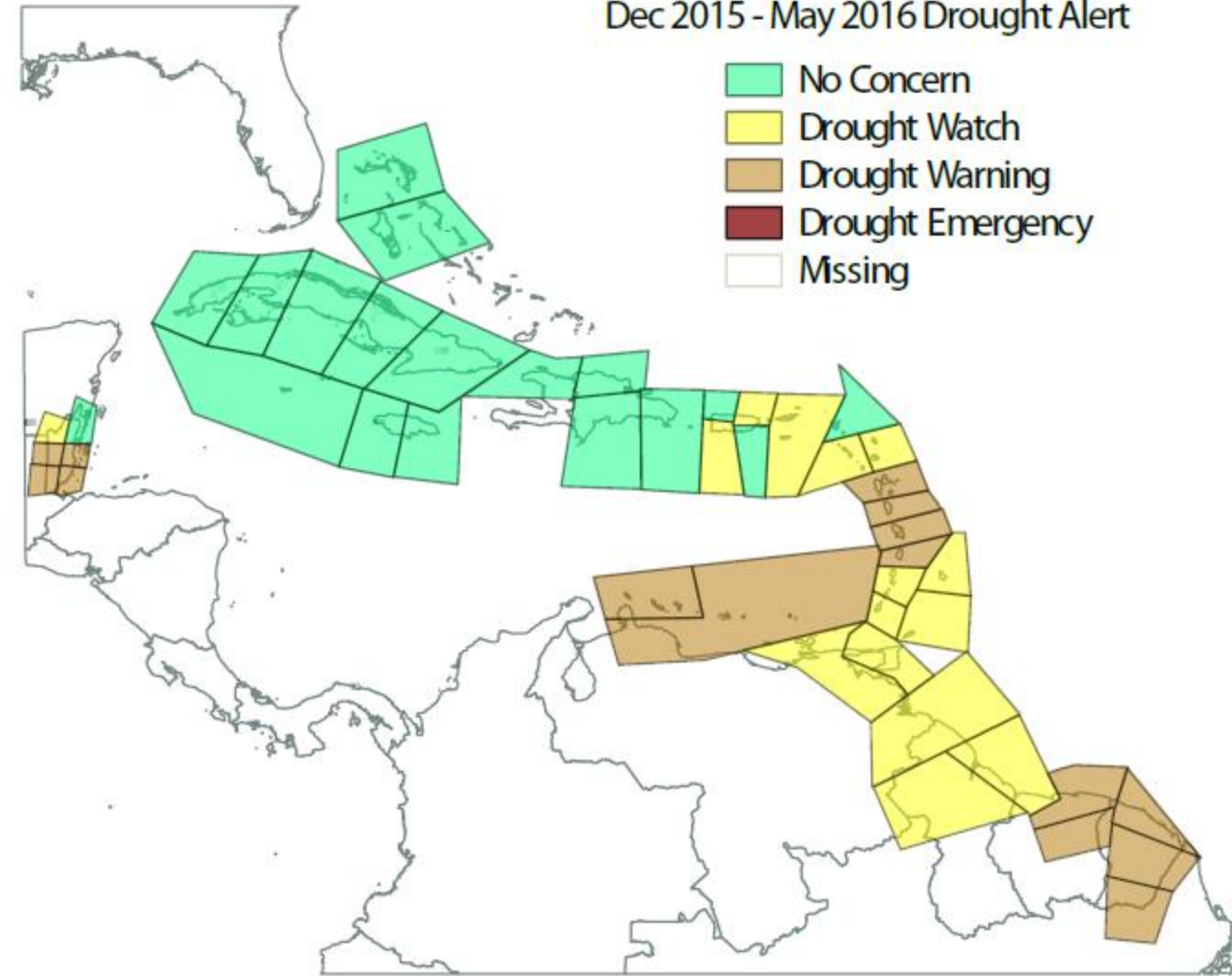
# Drought Outlook Dec to May

## Areas under immediate drought concern?

### Current Outlook

Dec 2015 - May 2016 Drought Alert

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



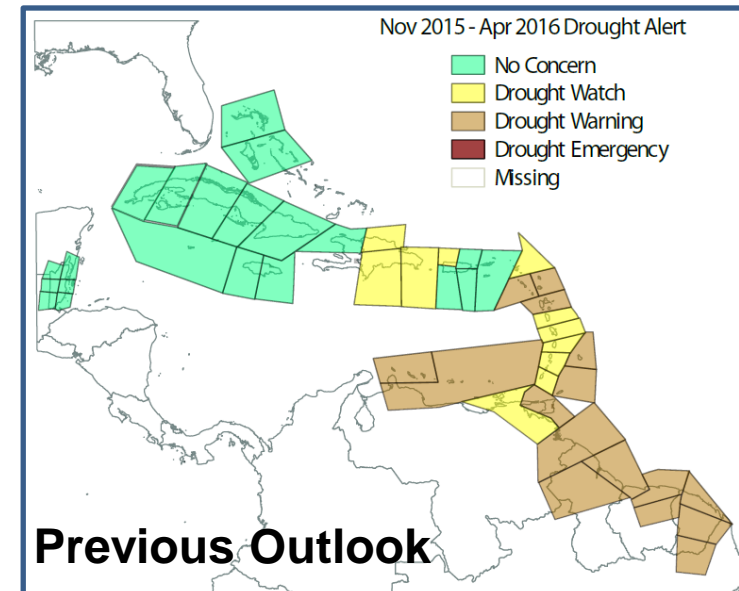
### Current update (February 2016):

Drought concern is noted in Belize and from the US C'bean Terr. east- and southward.

A **drought warning** is issued for ABC Islands, south and central Belize, Dominica, E Guianas, Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Lucia.

Nov 2015 - Apr 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 January 2016): *(more information [here](#))*
  - Because of below-normal rainfall during 2015, water shortages occur in many portions of the Antilles, notably Barbados, Haïti, St. Lucia and many of the Leewards.
  - Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Cuba).
  - However, a failure of the secondary wet season in the Guianas has led to short-term drought.
- **Shorter-term** (till May 2016):
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist from Puerto Rico east- & southward, notably in ABC Islands, Dominica, Guadeloupe, E Guianas, Martinique, St. Lucia.
- **Longer-term** (beyond May 2016):
  - Very strong El Niño has peaked in strength last November and is slowly weakening.
  - The El Niño results 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 leads to drought concerns towards the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31).
  - In the islands, the wet season may start up to one month earlier than usual, when recovery is expected for Barbados, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US C'bean Terr. and Windwards.
  - El Niño will possibly be replaced by a La Niña by the end of the year. This evolution should finally bring drought relief to the region, but may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood potential.

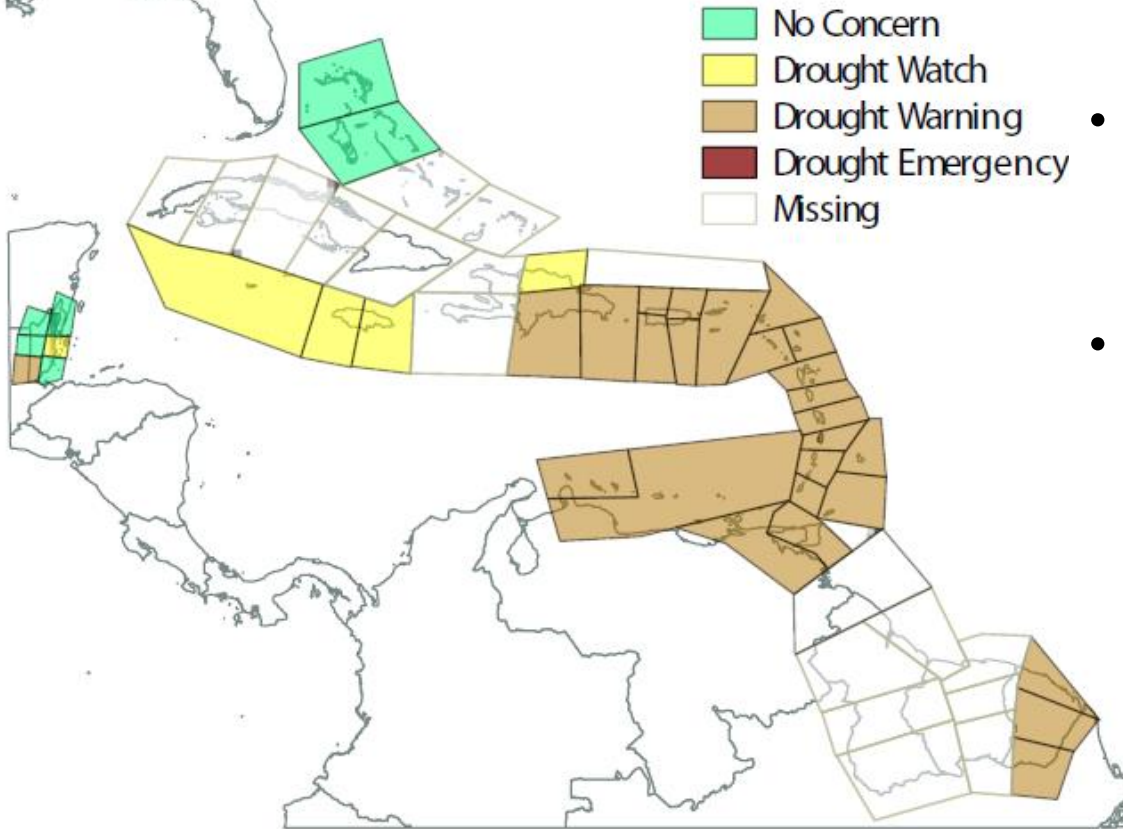
**RAISE AWARENESS & CONSERVE WATER!!**

# Long-term drought outlook

## Concerns by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016)?

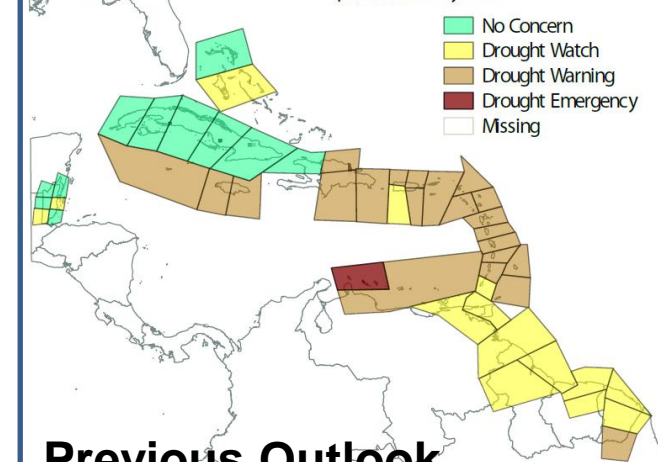
### Current Outlook

Hydrological Year 2015 - 2016 Drought Alert  
Updated February 2016



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until January 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -0.8$  (*moderately dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the dry season (May 31<sup>st</sup>) is a concern across all the Antilles (no data available for Cuba and Haïti), and the eastern Guianas.
- A **drought warning** is issued for the ABC Islands, French Guiana and the Antilles from S Hispaniola east- and south-ward, as well as for SW Belize. A **drought watch** is also issued for Cayman, central Belize, N Hispaniola and Jamaica.

Hydrological Year 2015 - 2016 Drought Alert  
Updated January 2016



Previous Outlook



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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