

# CariCOF Drought Outlook

## By the end of December 2016

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### Participating territories

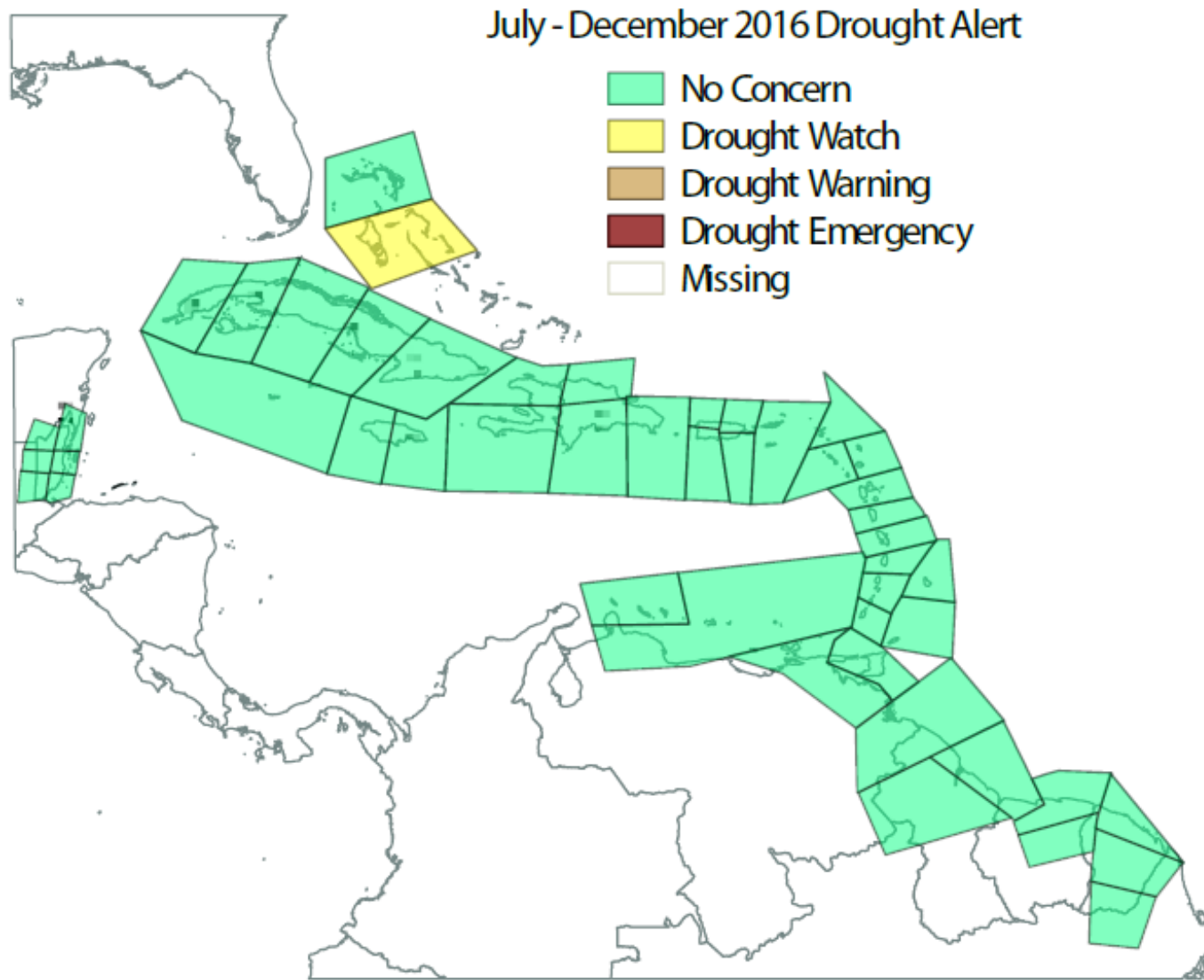
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname,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



# Drought Outlook June to November

## Areas under immediate drought concern?

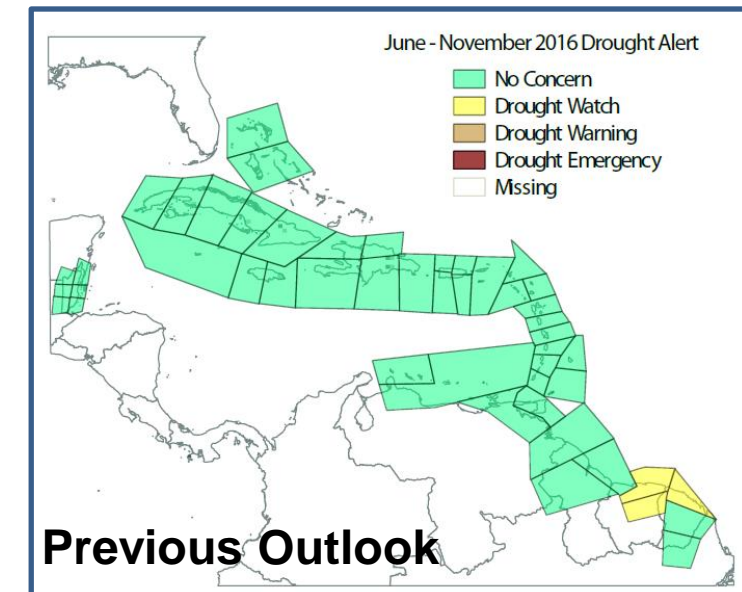
### Current Outlook



### Current update (September 2016):

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

A **drought watch** is issued for portions of Bahamas.



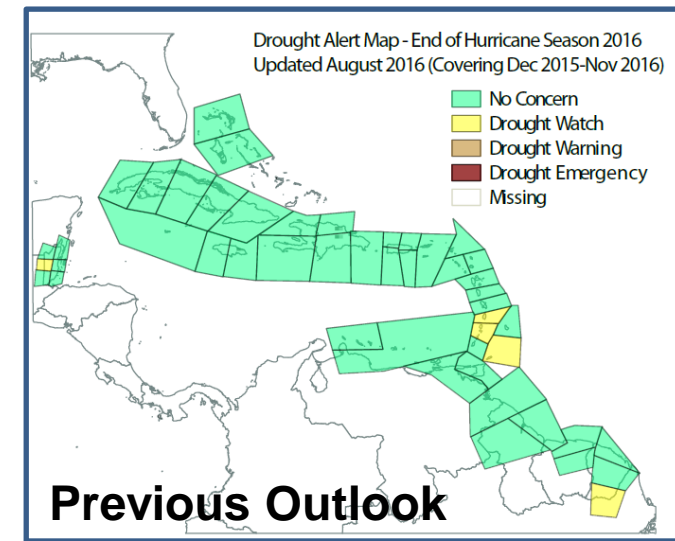
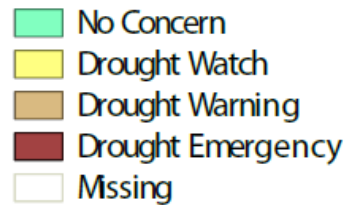
# Long-term drought outlook

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

## Current Outlook

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through August 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- A **drought warning** is in effect for Tobago.
- A **drought watch** is in effect for Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad.

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



# Drought outlook – shorter-/longer-term concern?

- Current drought situation (up to the end of August 2016): *(more information [here](#))*
  - With the exception of Barbados, S Belize, S St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago, August rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016.
  - In Tobago, extremely dry conditions during June-July-August have led to the re-establishment of water restrictions.
- Shorter-term drought situation (until December 2016):
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in portions of the Bahamas.
- Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):
  - Longer-term drought is evolving in Tobago and is possible in Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad. However, September through to November usually is the wettest part of the year in these areas. Thus, rainfall during this period might easily offset the deficits occurring earlier this year.
  - It is likely that either a weak La Niña appears in 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"> <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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