

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

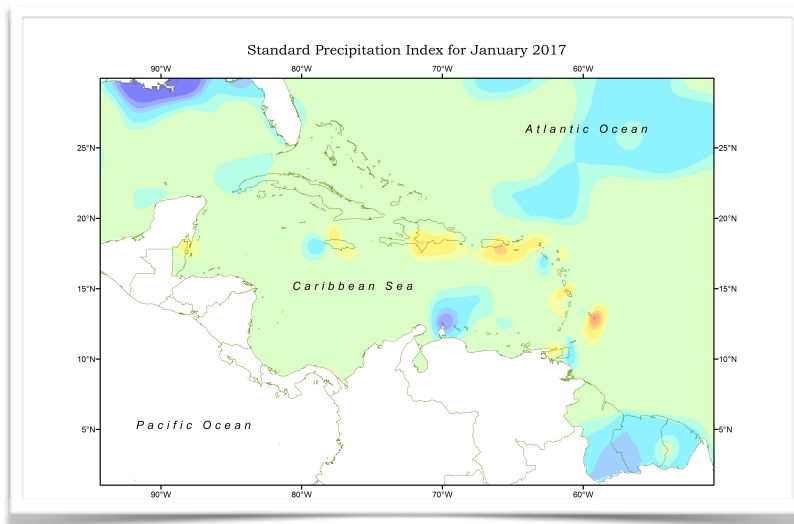
Many parts of the Caribbean experienced a relatively dry January 2017. There is, however, little concern over drought in the eastern Caribbean apart from in the south (particularly over Tobago), where there could eventually be impacts by the end of the dry season in May. There is some likelihood for incipient drought concerns in some places by the end of February if it becomes as dry as January. There is much greater concern for western countries over both short and long term drought. This is particularly so over the Cayman Islands and Cuba. Other countries like Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico and French Guiana should monitor conditions closely as the region goes through its dry season.

Month at a Glance

Rainfall quantities were varied across the islands of the eastern Caribbean during January. Conditions in Trinidad ranged from slightly dry in the northwest to moderately wet in the southeast; Tobago slightly wet; Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica and Antigua, and Anguilla normal; Barbados from normal in the north to severely dry the southeast; St. Vincent and St. Thomas slightly dry; Martinique from normal in the south to severely dry in the north; St. Maarten and St. Croix moderately dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in the north of Guyana and the central Suriname and French Guiana border to very wet in the south of Guyana and south west Suriname. [Read more...](#)

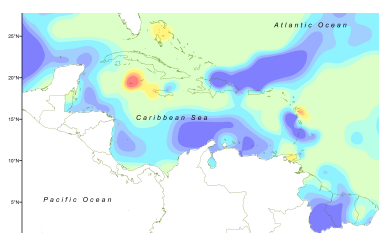
Headline Impacts

1 location in Cuba experienced a record low for any 3-month period during October-December 2016. Jamaica recorded their lowest rainfall in the month of December at Savanna-la-mar. (CariCOF Outlook Newsletter)

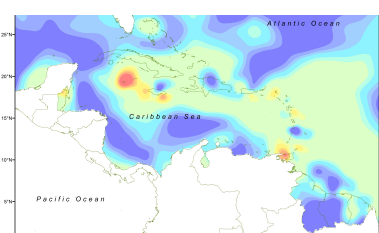


November-December-January Rainfall Summary

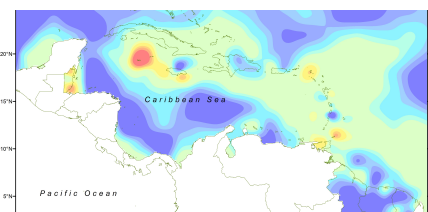
Predominantly normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the three month period. Trinidad was normal to moderately wet; Tobago slight to moderately wet; Barbados moderately wet in the north to extremely wet in the south; St. Vincent exceptionally wet; St. Lucia moderate to exceptionally wet from north to south; Martinique from normal in the north to moderately wet in the south; Dominica from normal in the north to exceptionally wet in the south; Antigua and St. Croix slightly wet; and St. Kitts, St. Maarten and St. Thomas normal. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in the vicinity of Georgetown Guyana and the central borders areas of Suriname and French Guiana to exceptionally wet in the south of Guyana and southwest Suriname. [Read more...](#)



NOV 2016 - JAN 2017
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2016 - JAN 2017
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2016 - JAN 2017
SPI 12 MONTHS

The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation and Monitoring Network (CDPMN)

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative (CARIWIN). The goal of CARIWIN was to increase the capacity of Caribbean countries to deliver equitable and sustainable Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM).

The concept was born out of the need to mitigate and respond to the creeping phenomenon, drought. Drought and the general precipitation status is monitored at the regional scale. Efforts are being made to enhance drought monitoring at the national level.

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

The CariCOF brings together climate experts and meteorological services in the Caribbean region on an operational basis to produce a monthly climate outlook. CariCOF interacts with sectoral users to assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre in demonstration phase, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more...](#)

For more information contact:

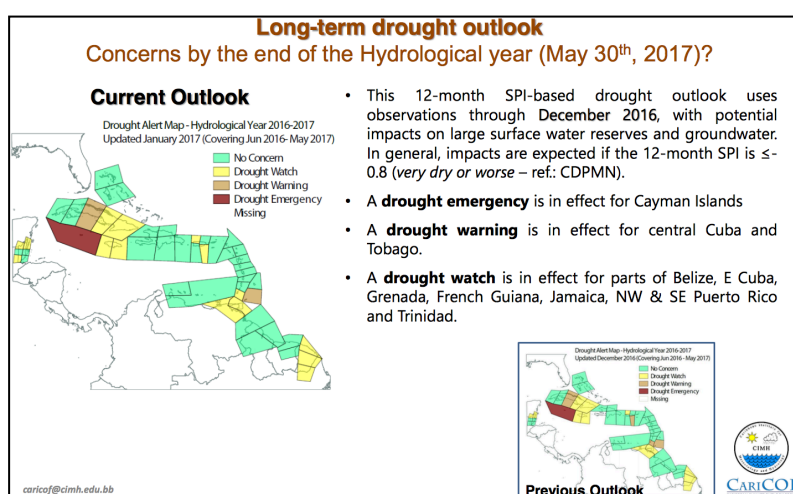
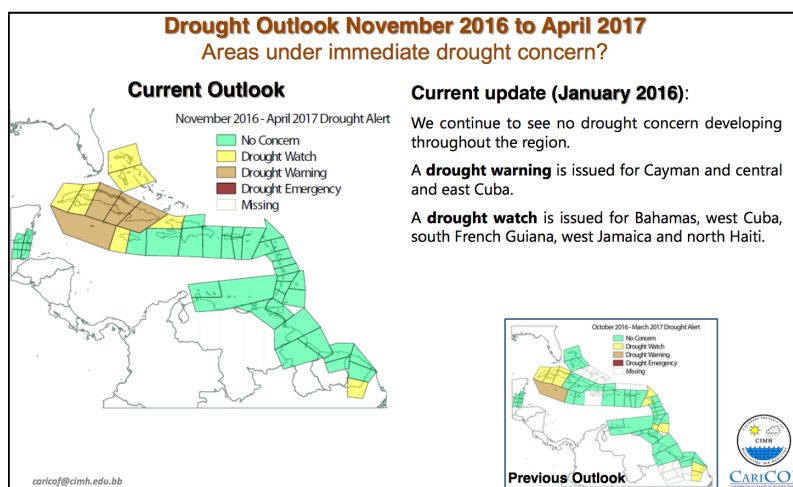
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

Drought Outlook for the End of April CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



Current Drought Situation

Grand Cayman has experienced its driest year on record with an observed wet season rainfall sum of only 50% of average. As a result, the island is in both short- and long-term drought. N Belize, central Cuba and Tobago are also in long-term drought.

• Shorter-term drought situation (until April 2017):

– We expect a shorter-term drought situation to continue in Cayman, Cuba and south French Guiana and, to possibly develop in Bahamas, Jamaica and north Haiti.

• Longer-term drought situation (until May 2017):

– Longer-term drought is likely to persist in Cayman and potentially become more impactful as the dry (tourism) season progresses. It is evolving in central Cuba and Tobago, and is possible in portions of Belize, east Cuba, Grenada, French Guiana, Jamaica, NW & SE Puerto Rico and Trinidad.

– Though dry season impacts may be quite similar to the usual, longer-term drought will not likely be a major concern by the end of the dry season in other areas.

– ENSO neutral conditions expected beyond February. ENSO neutral conditions are not expecting to worsen or improve drought during the dry season.

[Available for download]