

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Several countries, particularly in the eastern Caribbean, experienced a drier than normal February, and in some cases both February and January were relatively dry. Though there is some uncertainty over rainfall during the March to May period in some parts of the Caribbean, concerns remain for the western Caribbean/Greater Antilles for both short and long term drought, and in the southern portion of the eastern Caribbean for long term drought. Some models also suggest the possibility for the return of El Niño, and drier than normal conditions late in 2017. The CDPMN will monitor this situation and keep you posted.

Month at a Glance

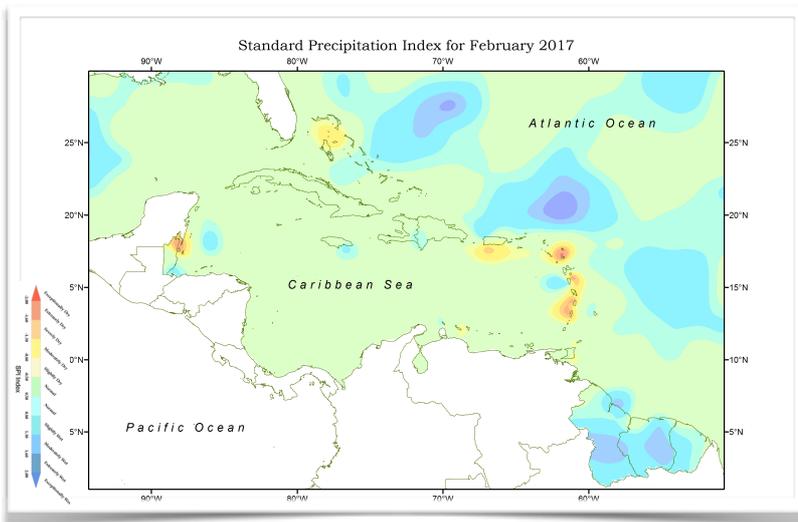
Apart from portions of Barbados and Dominica that were slightly wet, the islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to below normal regarding rainfall for the month. Trinidad and Tobago were normal to slightly dry; Grenada, Guadeloupe, Anguilla, St. Maarten, St. Thomas normal; Barbados normal to slightly wet; St. Vincent extremely dry; St. Lucia moderate to extremely dry; Martinique moderate to severely dry; Dominica from slightly wet in the southwest to severely dry in the northeast; Antigua exceptionally dry; St. Kitts moderately dry; St. Croix slightly dry. The Guianas ranged from normal to very wet, with greatest relative wetness in interior areas. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

Farmers beginning to suffer in Cayman due to ongoing drought. ([Cayman 27 News](#))

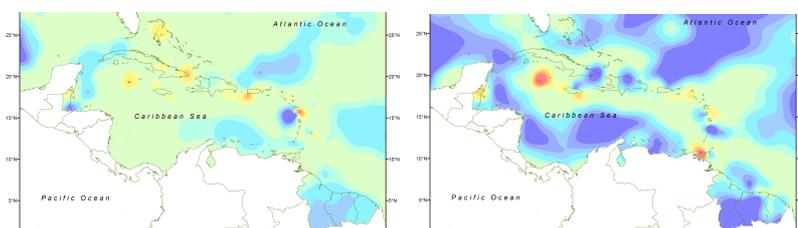
Notably dry record for the period Nov-Jan at one location in Cayman (12% of avg.). 2 locations in Jamaica (35% of avg.) experienced a record low for the same period. ([CariCOF Outlook Newsletter](#))

Weather experts say new El Niño possible later this year. ([BBC](#))



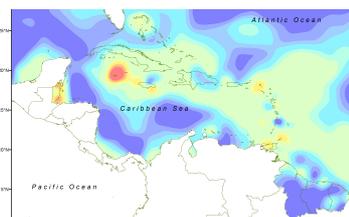
December-January-February Rainfall Summary

Mixed conditions were experienced over the three month period in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Antigua, St. Maarten, St. Croix, and St. Thomas were normal; Tobago slightly wet; Grenada moderately wet; Dominica exceptionally wet in the southwest and moderately dry in the northeast; and St. Kitts slightly dry. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in northern Guyana to very wet in the interior of Guyana and Suriname. Aruba was moderately wet and Curacao slightly wet. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the southwest to normal in more central areas; while in the Dominican Republic they ranged from slightly wet in the northwest to slightly dry in the southeast. [Read more...](#)



DEC 2016 - FEB 2017
SPI 3 MONTHS

SEPT 2016 - FEB 2017
SPI 6 MONTHS



MAR 2016 - FEB 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:

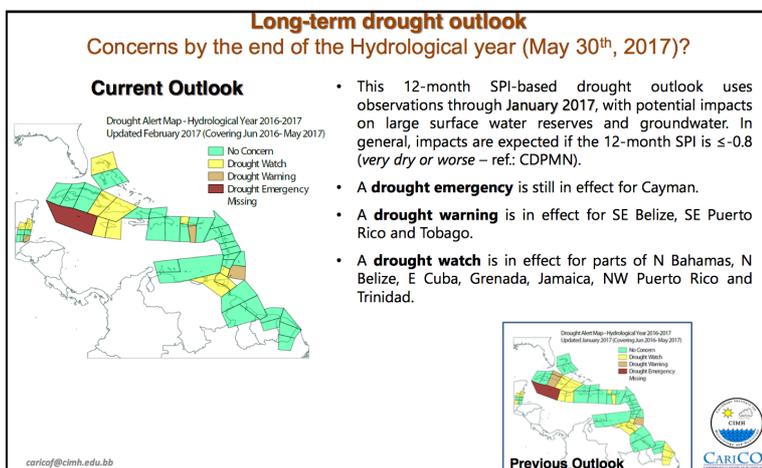
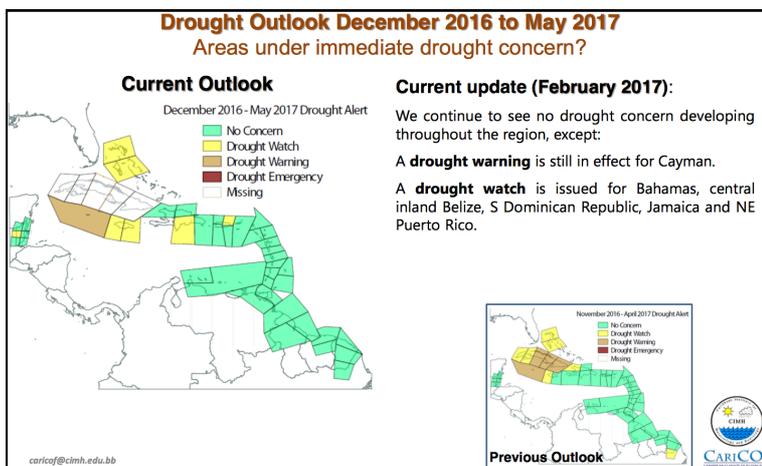
Mr. Adrian Trotman:
[atrotman\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:atrotman(at)cimh.edu.bb)

Mr. Anthony Moore:
[amoore\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:amoore(at)cimh.edu.bb)

Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
[scox\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:scox(at)cimh.edu.bb)

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

Drought Outlook for the End of May 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.

– Some other areas in the northern Caribbean are also facing potential drought concern, including N Belize, central Cuba and Tobago, which are also in long-term drought.

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

– We expect a shorter-term drought situation to continue in Cayman and, to possibly develop in Bahamas, central inland Belize, SE Dominican Republic, Jamaica and NE Puerto Rico.

• 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 SE Belize, SE Puerto Rico and Tobago, and is possible in N Bahamas, N Belize, E Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, NW 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 most other areas.

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

[Available for download]