

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

April 2017 | Volume III | ISSUE 11

Announcement

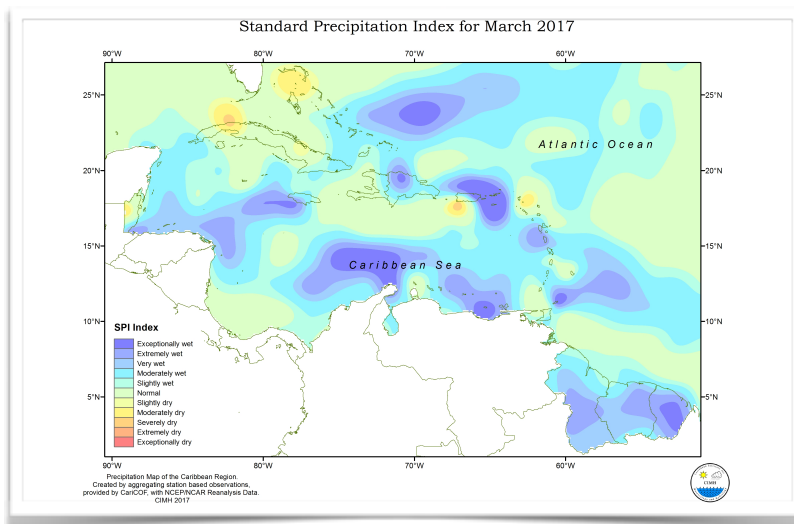
Varied rainfall amounts across the Caribbean resulted in drought concerns over some Caribbean States and not in others. Concerns over shorter duration drought that can affect streams, small rivers and agriculture by the end of June, exist over much of the eastern Caribbean (north of St. Vincent), western Cuba, northern Guyana and eastern Belize. Longer duration drought concerns could be evident by the end of May over the southern Caribbean, including Trinidad, Tobago and Grenada; over parts of the Greater Antilles, including Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cayman Islands and western Cuba; and northern Belize. The CDPMN continues to monitor developments in the equatorial Pacific that may lead to the development of El Nino conditions in late 2017.

Month at a Glance

Normal to above normal conditions dominated the islands of the eastern Caribbean during March. Trinidad was normal to moderately wet; Tobago moderate to exceptionally wet; Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Maarten and Anguilla normal; St. Vincent and Martinique moderately wet; Dominica extremely wet; St. Thomas and St. Croix exceptionally wet. Conditions ranged from slight to extremely wet in Guyana and Suriname. Aruba was normal, but Curacao was slight to moderately wet. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from moderately dry in the south west to exceptionally wet in the northeast, while the Dominican Republic ranged from slightly wet in the south to exceptionally wet in the north. [Read more...](#)

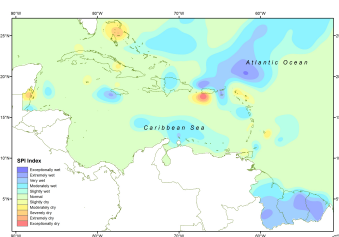
Headline Impacts

Notable dry record for the period December-February (DJF) at one location in Jamaica (6% of average). 1 location in Jamaica recorded its record highest max. temperature for DJF, including a record for February. 2 locations in Bahamas recorded either a highest mean or max. temperature. [\(CariCOF Outlook](#)

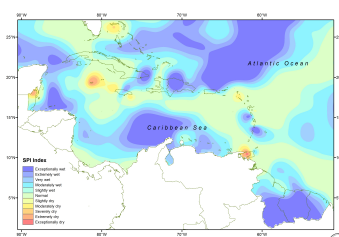


January-February-March Rainfall Summary

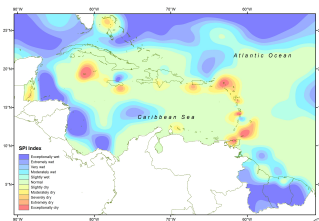
Mixed conditions were experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the three month period. Trinidad and Martinique were predominantly normal; Tobago and Dominica moderately wet; Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Anguilla normal; Barbados normal in the north and west to moderately dry in the southeast; St. Lucia slightly dry in the north to normal in the south; Antigua slightly dry; St. Croix and St. Thomas extremely wet. Conditions in the Guianas ranged from normal in northern Guyana to exceptionally wet in the interior areas. Aruba was very wet, but Curacao slight to moderately wet. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the southwest to moderately wet on the northeast; but the Dominican Republic was from moderately wet in the northwest to normal in the east. [Read more...](#)



JAN - MAR 2017
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2016 - MAR 2017
SPI 6 MONTHS



APR 2016 - MAR 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:

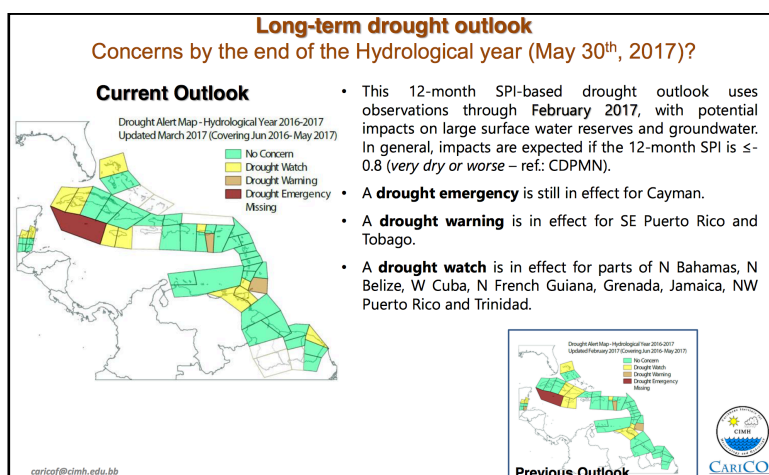
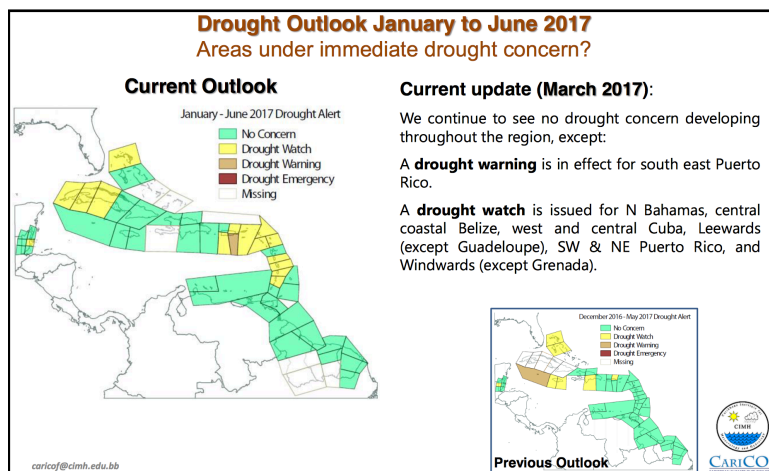
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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



Current Drought Situation

– Grand Cayman has experienced its driest year on record (50% of avg. rainfall) and 13 consecutive months of below-average rainfall. 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, incl. N Belize, St. Maarten and Tobago, which are also in long-term drought.

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

– We expect a shorter-term drought situation to likely improve in Cayman, but to evolve in SE Puerto Rico, and possibly develop in N Bahamas, west and central Cuba, Leewards (except Guadeloupe), SW & NE Puerto Rico, and Windwards (except Grenada).

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

– Longer-term drought is likely to persist in Cayman and potentially become more impactful until the dry season comes to an end. It is evolving in SE Puerto Rico and Tobago, and is possible in N Bahamas, N Belize, W 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 during the next 3 months. These ENSO neutral conditions are not expected to worsen or improve drought during the dry season.

[Available for download]