

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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## Announcement

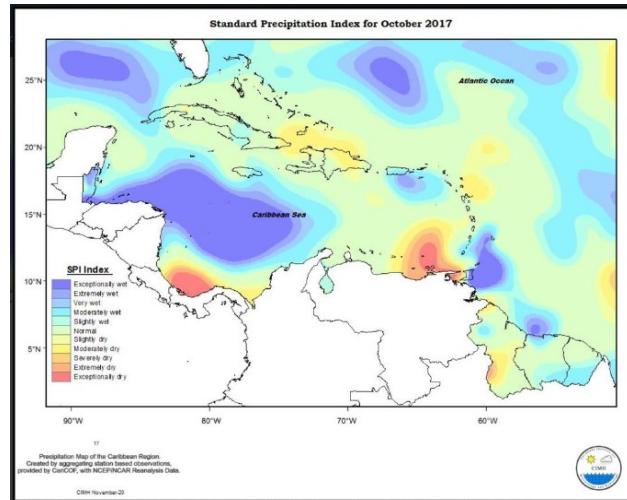
Most of the region's drought concerns exist over north-western Bahamas and Haiti, particularly for long-term drought, by the end of the 2018 dry season in May. Relevant authorities in western Belize, Cuba and Jamaica, as well as Antigua, should also monitor water resources due to some possibility for short term drought to evolve by the end of February 2018.

## Month at a Glance

For October, there was mixed rainfall in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Rainfall totals for Trinidad ranged from normal in the west to exceptionally wet in the east. Tobago was slightly wet in the west to exceptionally wet in the east; Grenada moderately wet; Barbados moderate to extremely wet; St. Vincent normal to slightly wet; St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts normal; Martinique normal to slightly dry; Guadeloupe normal in the west to moderately dry in the east; and Antigua slight to moderately dry. Apart from southwestern and northern extremes of Guyana, the Guianas generally experienced normal to moderately wet conditions. Aruba was slightly dry while Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the north to extremely wet in the south east. Conditions in Hispaniola ranged from normal in the southwest to moderately dry in the north and east. Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the east, while Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Conditions in Cuba ranged from moderately dry to moderately wet, but northern Bahamas was normal to moderately wet. Belize ranged from slightly dry in western areas to exceptionally wet to the north and south.

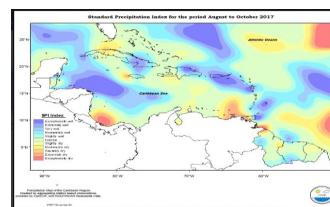
## Latest News

La Niña conditions are present and are predicted to continue (~65%-75% chance) at least through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2017-18. [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf). Such conditions usually result in drier conditions in the northwest Caribbean, which is evident in the current drought outlooks.

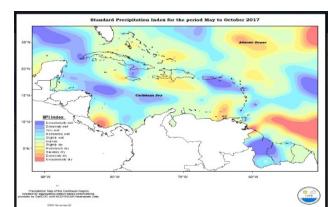


## August-September-October

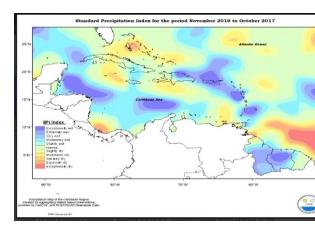
For the three month period, rainfall was normal to above normal in the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was normal to exceptionally wet; Tobago moderately wet; Tobago, Grenada and St. Vincent moderately wet; St. Lucia, Martinique and Antigua normal; Dominica and Guadeloupe extreme to exceptionally wet; and St. Kitts very wet. The Guianas ranged from very wet to severely dry. Aruba was moderately dry but Curacao normal. Puerto Rico was extreme to exceptionally wet. Hispaniola ranged from slightly dry in the southwest to exceptionally wet in the north, but from moderately dry in the west to moderately wet in central areas. Grand Cayman was moderately wet. Conditions in western Cuba ranged from moderately wet to moderately dry, but from normal to exceptionally wet in the east. Northern Bahamas was normal, but Belize experienced conditions from severely dry in the west to extremely wet in the north and moderately wet to the south.



Aug - Oct 2017  
SPI 3 MONTHS



May- Oct 2017  
SPI 6 MONTHS



Nov 2016 - Oct 2017  
SPI 12 MONTHS

## The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation Monitoring Network

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative (CARWIN). The goal of CARWIN 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, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more.....](#)

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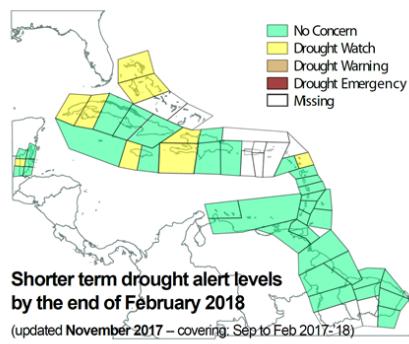
Mrs. Lisa Kirton-Reed  
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

## Drought Outlook for the End of November *CariCOF's Drought Alert Map*

### Shorter term Drought Outlook (September to February 2017-'18) Areas under immediate drought concern?

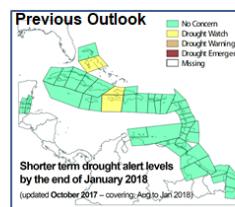
#### Current Outlook



#### Current update (November 2017):

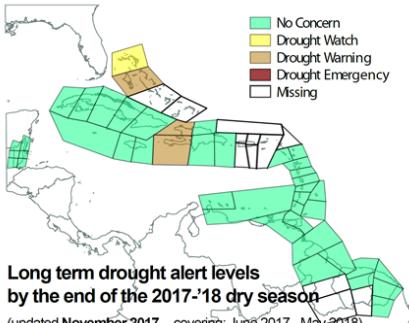
We continue to see no drought concern developing throughout most of the region. Exceptions are:

A **drought watch** is issued for Antigua, The Bahamas, central-west Belize, W Cuba, W Jamaica and Haiti.

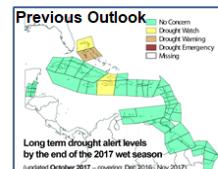


### Long-term drought outlook Concerns by the end of the dry season (May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018)?

#### Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through November 2017, 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).
- A **drought warning** remains in effect for central parts of The Bahamas and is now in effect for Haiti.
- A **drought watch** remains in effect for northern parts of The Bahamas.



**CARI**COF  
 Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum

## Current Drought Situation

- Current drought situation (up to the end of October 2017)**
  - The Bahamas, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos islands are under long term drought.
    - Short term drought is in northern-most portions of Cuba and western-most portions of Jamaica.
- Shorter term drought situation (by end of February 2018):**
  - We expect the shorter term drought situation in the southern portion of Haiti to evolve and in the western-most portion of Jamaica to possibly remain.
  - Shorter term drought is evolving in central parts of the Bahamas
  - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in Antigua and west-central Belize.
- Long term drought situation (by end of May 2018):**
  - Long term drought is evolving in central parts of The Bahamas and in Haiti and possibly develop in N Bahamas.
  - The long term drought situation in the Cayman is expected to improve.
  - The potential long term drought concerns are very few region-wide at this time thanks to the ample wet season rainfall in 2017. However we advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.