

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

August 2016 | Volume III | ISSUE 3

Announcement

Apart from a few areas where rainfall was below normal in July, rainfall was close to normal in the Caribbean. Also, apart from around southern Haiti where conditions should be monitored, the Caribbean has little concern over drought in the short term (up until October). However, there is some likelihood that by the end of the year some parts of the Caribbean, including parts of the Guianas, Windward and Leeward Islands and the ABC Islands, may have fresh concerns about longer term drought. This situation will be monitored.

Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced for the month in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad, Barbados, Dominica, Antigua and Anguilla were normal; Tobago moderately dry; Grenada and St. Lucia moderately wet; St. Vincent, St. Kitts, St. Maarten and St. Croix slightly wet; and northern Guyana ranging from very wet in the north to normal in the east. Aruba was moderately wet, while Curacao was normal. Puerto Rico was normal, extremely wet conditions in western Dominican Republic transformed to normal to the east and extremely dry to the south. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from very wet in central areas to normal to the east and west. Grand Cayman was slightly dry. Apart from some west central areas that were slight to moderately dry, Cuba was normal, but conditions in Belize ranged from moderately dry in the west to normal in the north and slightly wet in the south. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

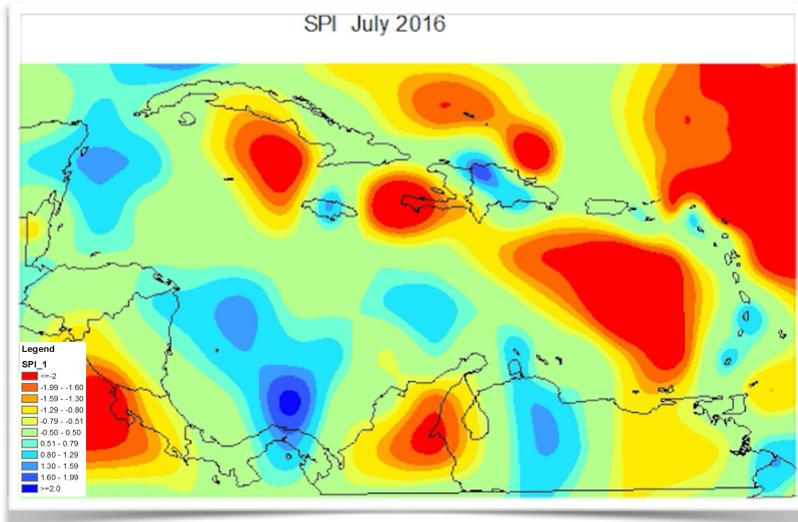
Barbados Water Authority extends water ban until the end of October. ([Barbados Today](#))

St. Kitts and Nevis still hampered by drought conditions. ([Antigua Observer](#))

Record dry rainfall totals at 1 station in Dominican Republic (6% of average) and 1 station in St. Barths (16% of average). ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

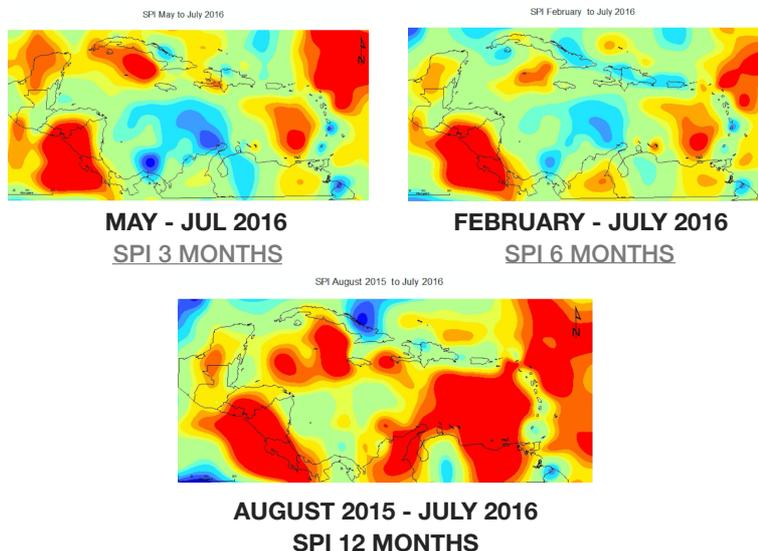
Latest News

Download the new FAO report entitled "Drought characteristics and management in the Caribbean." ([Click here to download](#))



May-June-July Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Croix were normal; Grenada moderately wet; St. Lucia very wet; Anguilla and St. Maarten slightly dry; and northern Guyana ranging from extremely wet in the north to moderately dry in the east. Aruba was normal, while Curacao was moderately dry. Puerto Rico was normal, but the Dominican Republic mixed with extremely dry conditions in the south to normal to slightly wet in the north. Apart from being slightly dry in north central areas, Jamaica was normal, but Grand Cayman was severely dry. Conditions in western Cuba ranged from severely to extremely dry and in the east normal to moderately dry, while Belize was predominantly normal.



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)

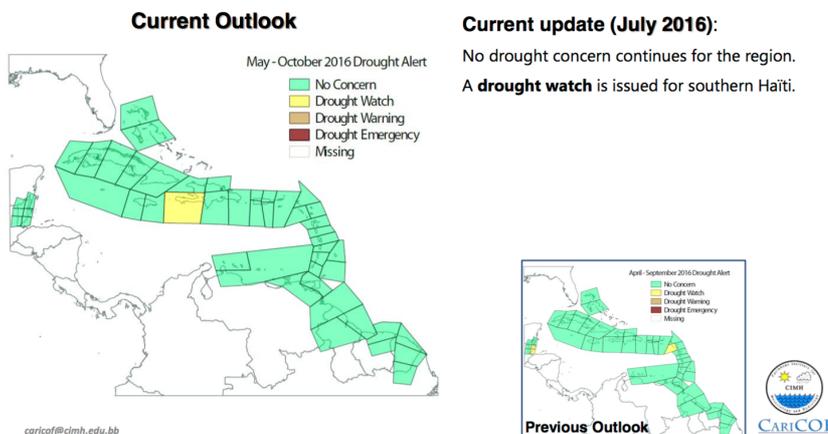
Mr. Anthony Moore:
[amooore\(at\)cimh.edu.bb](mailto:amooore(at)cimh.edu.bb)

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

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

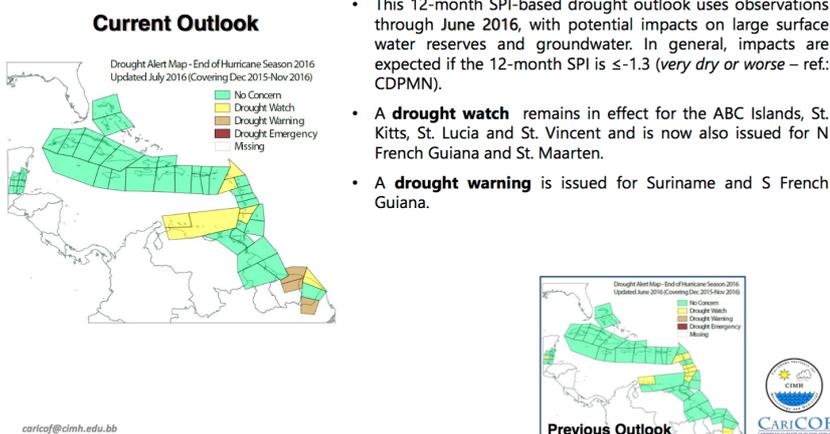
Drought Outlook for the End of October CariCOF's Drought Alert Map

Drought Outlook May to October Areas under immediate drought concern?



Long-term drought outlook

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



Current Drought Situation

– Normal to above average rainfall in many of the island territories during June has continued to alleviate adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016.

• Shorter-term drought situation (till October 2016):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in Haiti.

• Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):

– Longer-term drought is evolving in the E Guianas, and is possible in parts of the Leeward and Windward Is. due to the probability of below normal rainfall in those locations.

– A weak La Niña will probably appear in August or September. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought towards the end of the year in much of the Caribbean – thus bringing drought relief for those areas where drought persists – as well as longer-term drought during the upcoming 2016-7 dry season. However, this evolution may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood and long-term flooding potential. The exception is the northwestern most part of the Caribbean (Bahamas and Cuba), where drought chances tend to increase with La Niña

[Available for download]