

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

July 2016 | Volume III | ISSUE 2

## Announcement

Rainfall increased during June, continuing to end or relieve drought conditions in parts of the Caribbean, with exceptions in the northern Leeward Islands. Rainfall will continue to increase during July, though it may not reach normal rainfall in some places. Rainfall during the next three months would maintain 'no-concern' conditions over the entire Caribbean until September, except in the vicinity of St. Kitts and east central and south central Belize.

## Month at a Glance

In the eastern Caribbean, the southern islands including the Windward Islands were normal to above, while the conditions in Leeward Islands were mixed. Trinidad predominantly normal; Tobago, Grenada, Barbados and St. Vincent were normal; St. Lucia and Dominica slightly wet; Antigua moderately wet; St. Kitts moderately dry; Anguilla and St. Croix slightly dry; and St. Maarten severely dry. Northern Guyana was slightly wet in the north and normal in the south. Aruba was severely dry, but Curacao normal. Puerto Rico was normal, but conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from extremely wet in the west to normal in the east. Apart from central areas that were severely dry, Jamaica was moderately dry; but Grand Cayman was slightly dry. Central Cuba was normal to moderately wet, while the west was normal to extremely dry and the east normal to severely dry. Conditions in Belize varied from normal to exceptionally wet. [Read more...](#)

## Headline Impacts

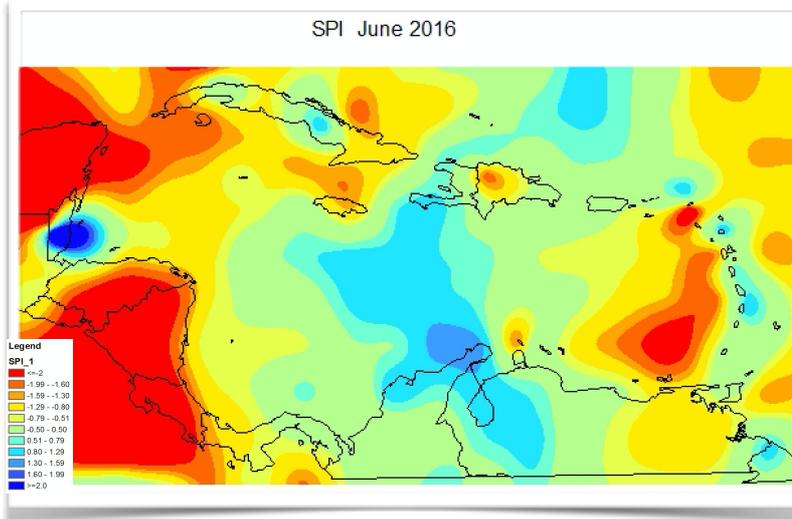
More islands are seeing long-term drought relief, but many islands are still in drought. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

Record dry rainfall totals at 1 station in Aruba (7% of average) and 1 station in Belize (17% of average). ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

## Latest News

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) released a new report entitled "Drought characteristics and management in the Caribbean." ([FAO News](#))

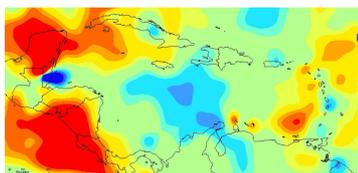
SPI June 2016



## April-May-June Rainfall Summary

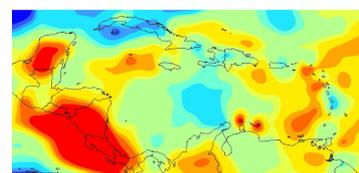
For the three month period, in the eastern Caribbean, the southern islands including the Windward Islands were normal to above, while the conditions in Leeward Islands were mixed. Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, Anguilla and St. Croix were normal; Grenada slightly wet; St. Lucia moderately wet; and St. Kitts and St. Maarten moderately dry. Conditions in northern Guyana ranged from very wet in the north to normal in the east. Aruba was extremely dry while Curacao was severely dry. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the northeast, but the Dominican Republic was normal. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the south to moderately dry in the north; but Grand Cayman was severely dry. Central Cuba was normal to moderately wet, while the west was normal to extremely dry and the east normal to slightly dry. In Belize, apart from below normal conditions in the northern areas, normal to above normal rainfall was experienced.

SPI April to June 2016



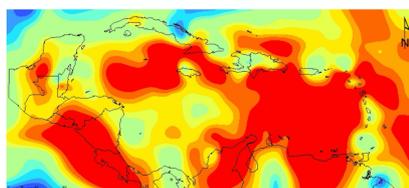
APRIL - JUNE 2016  
SPI 3 MONTHS

SPI January to June 2016



JANUARY - JUNE 2016  
SPI 6 MONTHS

SPI July 2015 to June 2016



JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016  
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...](#)

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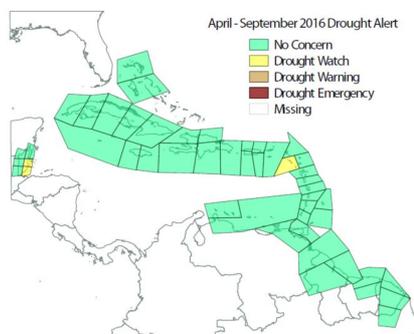
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:  
[scox@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:scox@cimh.edu.bb)

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

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

### Drought Outlook March to August Areas under immediate drought concern?

#### Current Outlook

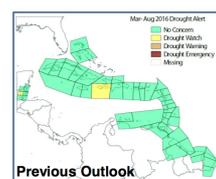


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#### Current update (June 2016):

Drought concern has lifted for the region.

A **drought watch** is issued for east-central & south Belize, as well as for St. Kitts.



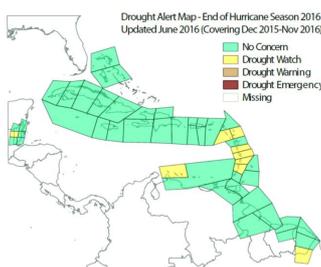
Previous Outlook



### Long-term drought outlook

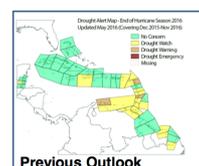
#### Concerns by the end of the Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016)?

#### Current Outlook



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- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through May 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (*very dry or worse* – ref: CDPMN).
- A **drought watch** is issued for the ABC Islands, Antigua, west-central Belize, Dominica, S French Guiana, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.



Previous Outlook



## Current Drought Situation

– Average to above average rainfall during May has helped to improve adverse drought conditions in many of the island territories.

- Shorter-term drought situation (till September 2016):
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop for St. Kitts and portions of Belize.
- Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):
  - Long-term drought is expected to persist in parts of the Leewards and Windwards due to the probability of below normal rainfall at that location.
  - A weak to moderate La Niña is expected in the later part of the year which tends to suppress chances of drought towards the end of the year – 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 flood potential.

**[Available for download]**