

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

November 2016 | Volume III | ISSUE 6

Announcement

Cayman Islands has joined Tobago as a drought hotspot, at least until the end of November, for drought that can impact underground storage. Water resources should be closely monitored in French Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada, Antigua, The ABC Islands, Southwest Haiti and Belize, as well as St. Maarten. Otherwise there is little concern over drought, particularly short term drought until January 2017.

Month at a Glance

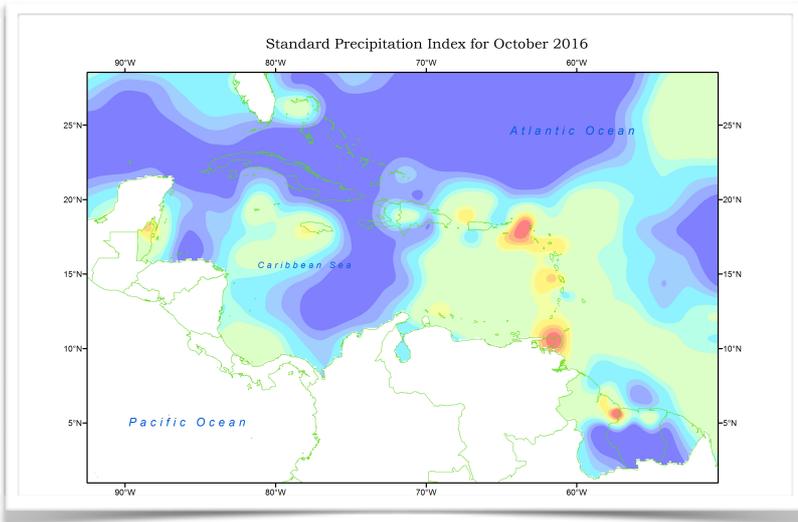
Rainfall was mixed over the eastern Caribbean and the Guianas for the month. Trinidad and St. Maarten were exceptionally dry; Tobago, Antigua, St. Kitts, and St. Croix moderately dry; Grenada slightly dry; Barbados and St. Vincent normal; St. Lucia normal to moderately wet; Dominica normal to slightly dry; St. Thomas moderately wet; and the Guianas mainly very to exceptionally wet in the south, and in the north ranging from moderately wet to exceptionally dry. Aruba was normal, but Curacao slightly dry. Puerto Rico was predominantly normal. In the Dominican Republic conditions ranged from normal in more western and eastern areas to very wet in the north and extremely wet in the south. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

1 location in French Guiana and 1 in Trinidad recorded their lowest rainfall (40-50% of avg.) in July-September. 3 territories had record dry locations in September. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

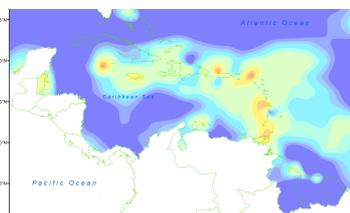
Water woes hit the South of Barbados. ([Nation News](#))

Barbados Water Authority (BWA) exploring barging surface water from Suriname as an option to mitigate against water shortage in the future. ([Barbados Today](#))

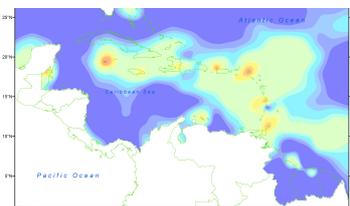


August-September-October Rainfall Summary

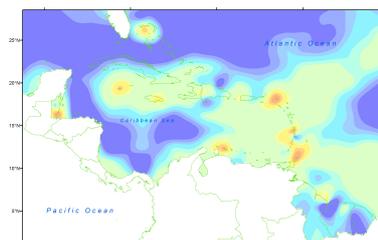
For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean and the Guianas. Trinidad was moderate to severely dry; Tobago and Grenada moderately dry; Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Kitts normal; St. Maarten extremely dry; St. Thomas slightly wet; St. Croix slightly dry; and the Guianas largely exceptionally wet with the exception of northern Guyana and parts of northern Suriname. Aruba was normal, but Curacao slightly dry. Puerto Rico was predominantly normal. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from slightly dry in the east and west to exceptionally wet in the north. Western Jamaica was slightly dry and eastern areas moderately dry, but Grand Cayman extremely dry. Areas in south and northwest Belize were normal, but other areas ranged to moderately dry.



**AUGUST - OCTOBER 2016
SPI 3 MONTHS**



**MAY - OCTOBER 2016
SPI 6 MONTHS**



**NOVEMBER 2015 - OCTOBER 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...](#)

For more information contact:

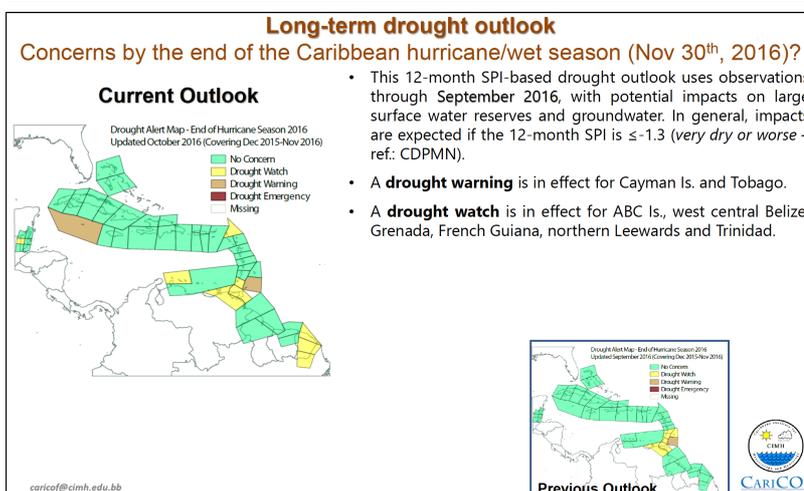
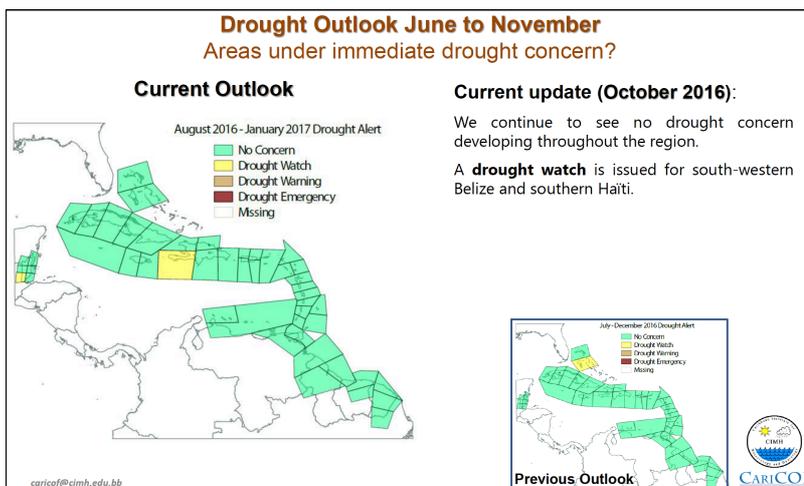
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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



Current Drought Situation

– With the exception of Cayman and the extreme west of Dom. Republic, September rainfall was sufficient to continue alleviating adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016, but noting the in some areas it was hurricane Matthew's excessive rainfall that prevented September from being drier than normal.

– In Tobago, extremely dry conditions during June-July-August have led to the re-establishment of water restrictions, while in Cayman, every month since February saw below-average rainfall.

Shorter-term drought situation (until January 2017):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in SW Belize and S Haiti.

Longer-term drought situation (until November 2016):

– Longer-term drought is evolving in Cayman and Tobago, and is possible in ABC Islands, west-central Belize, French Guiana, Grenada, northern Leewards, and Trinidad. However, October and November usually are the wettest months in these areas. Thus, rainfall during this period might easily offset the deficits occurring earlier this year in the areas under a drought watch.

– It is likely that either a weak La Niña appeared since September. La Niña tends to suppress chances of drought towards the end of the year and during the upcoming 2016-7 dry season. However, this evolution may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood and long-term flooding potential until the end of 2016. The exception is the Bahamas and Cuba, where drought chances tend to increase towards February with La Niña.

[Available for download]