

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

After near-average or better rainfall across most of the Caribbean during the first two rainy-season months alleviating drought conditions, alarms were again raised after rainfall deficits in August in some countries and territories. However, concerns over short and long term drought is limited to drought watches over some southern islands of the eastern chain, parts of the Guianas, and western Belize. Rainfall is expected to continue to increase approaching the end of the year into the 2017 dry season, though below-average values may be at times experienced in some areas in some months.

Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced across the eastern Caribbean and Guyana for the month. Trinidad, Antigua, and St. Croix were normal; Tobago severely dry; Grenada and Anguilla slightly dry; St. Vincent and Barbados exceptionally dry; St. Lucia slightly wet; Dominica and St. Maarten moderately dry; and northern Guyana from moderately wet in the north to normal further south. Curacao was moderately dry, while Puerto Rico was normal. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from moderately dry in the southern tip to very wet in the east. Jamaica the west was exceptionally wet and ranging to slightly dry in the east, while Grand Cayman was slightly dry. Conditions in Belize ranged from exceptionally dry in the south to moderately wet in the north. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

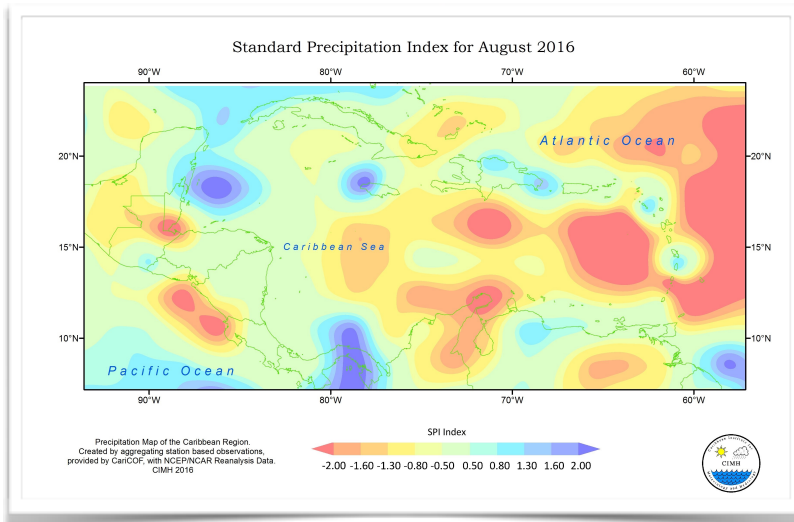
Water restrictions re-introduced in Tobago ([WASATI](#))

Water woes persist in the north of Barbados. ([Barbados Today](#))

Record dry rainfall totals in July at 1 station in Saint Lucia, 15% of average. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

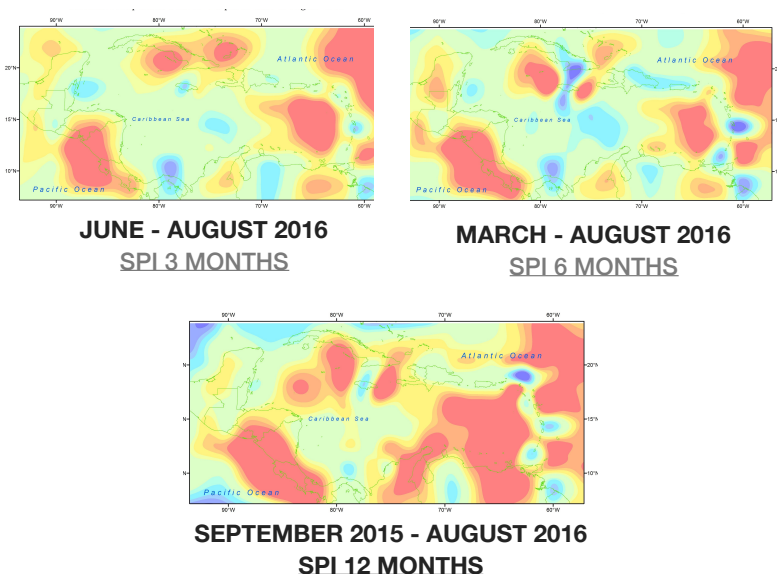
Latest News

FAO highlights increased drought in the Caribbean. ([Read more...](#))



June-July-August Rainfall Summary

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



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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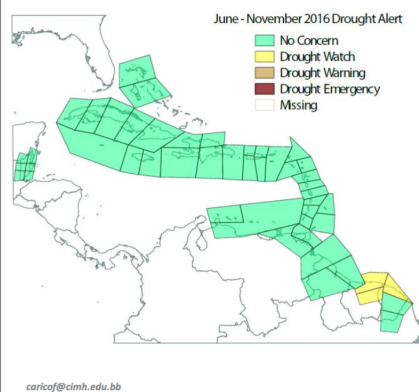
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

Drought Outlook June to November Areas under immediate drought concern?

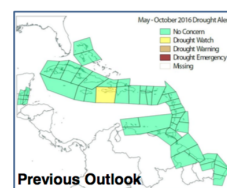
Current Outlook



Current update (August 2016):

We continue to see no drought concern developing throughout the region.

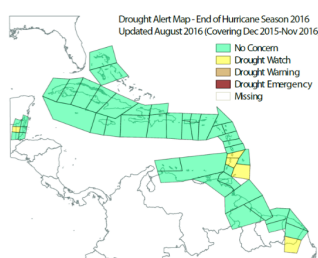
A **drought watch** is issued for northern portions of French Guiana and Suriname.



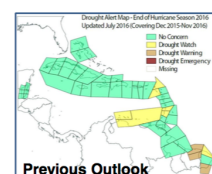
Long-term drought outlook

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

Current Outlook



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through July 2016, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -1.3 (*very dry or worse* – ref: CDPMN).
- A **drought watch** remains in effect for St. Lucia and St. Vincent and is also issued for southern French Guiana and Tobago.



Current Drought Situation

– With the exception of Haïti, Martinique, N St. Lucia and parts of Trinidad and Tobago, July rainfall was normal to above-normal, which has continued to alleviate adverse drought conditions from earlier in 2016.

- Shorter-term drought situation (until November 2016):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may develop in northern portions of French Guiana and Suriname.

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

– Longer-term drought remains possible in St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and is evolving in the S French Guiana and Tobago.

– The majority of models suggest ENSO neutral conditions, or at best a weak La Niña, during the September to November period. However, rainfall amounts are still expected to increase approaching the latter part of the wet season into the 2017 dry season. This would continue to alleviate drought conditions across the Caribbean. Further, this evolution may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood and long-term flooding potential until the end of 2016. The exception is the northwestern most part of the Caribbean (Bahamas and Cuba), where drought chances tend to increase between towards February with La Niña.

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