

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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## Announcement

Rainfall is expected to increase during May and into June in much of the Caribbean, and is likely to bring relief from the drought conditions that persisted in those parts. In fact, there are already signs of that starting over some territories, particularly in the Greater Antilles, Guyana and some of the eastern Caribbean. Impacts indicative of long term drought are expected to continue at least into June, while short term drought impacts that can relate to cropping and water levels in streams and small rivers, are expected to be greatly reduced, if not totally relieved by the end June. It would however, be recommended to continue monitoring the situation, particularly in the southern portion of the eastern chain, at least until July.

## Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean islands. Trinidad was normal to slightly wet; Tobago and St. Lucia slightly wet; Grenada, Dominica, Antigua, Anguilla and St. Maarten normal; Barbados slight to moderately dry; St. Vincent moderate to severely dry; and St. Kitts slightly dry. Guyana was slight to moderately wet. [Read more...](#)

## Headline Impacts

Farmers in Barbados coping with drought. ([Nation News](#))

The Barbados fire service has been responding to an upsurge in grass fires. ([Nation News](#))

Drought affecting cocoa production in Grenada. ([Grenada Broadcasting Network](#))

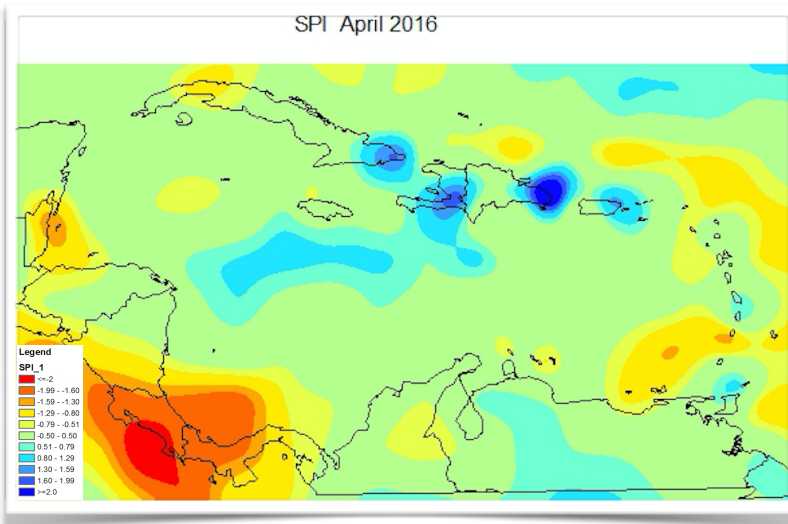
Haiti's 3-year drought is worsening living conditions. ([Latin America Post](#))

The National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) in Grenada hosted drought awareness month in April. ([Grenada Broadcasting](#))

Taiwan helps bring drought relief to water consumers in St. Kitts and Nevis. ([Caribbean News Now](#))

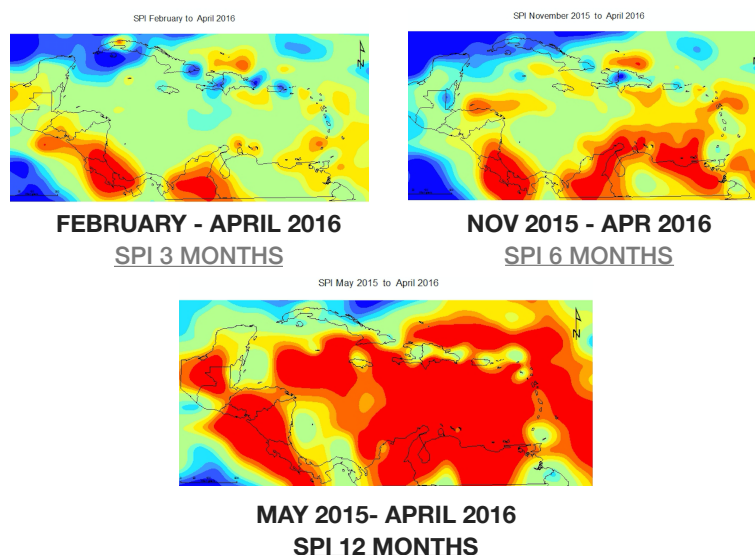
## Latest News

Wet/Hurricane Season CariCOF assembly to held in Dominica from May 30th-31st, 2016.



## February-March-April Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean islands. Trinidad was normal to slightly dry; Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Kitts and Anguilla normal; Grenada severely dry; Barbados and St. Vincent moderately dry; St. Lucia, Antigua and St. Kitts normal; Dominica slight to moderately wet; and St. Croix moderately wet. Northern Guyana was predominantly normal. Aruba was extremely dry while Curacao was moderately to severely dry. Puerto Rico was normal in the west but varied to very wet in the east, but in the Dominican Republic central areas were normal but the west was slight to very wet and the east slight to exceptionally wet. Jamaica was slightly wet in the west and normal in the east, while Grand Cayman was slightly dry. Very mixed conditions in Cuba ranged from extremely wet to extremely dry, with a large area of east central Cuba being normal. Belize was predominantly normal apart from the extreme west that was slightly dry.



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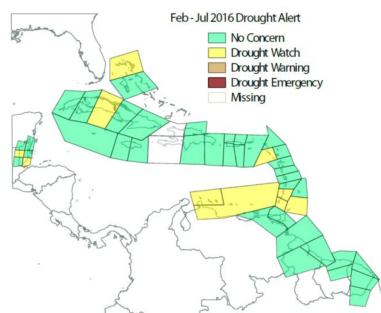
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:  
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

### Drought Outlook February to July Areas under immediate drought concern?

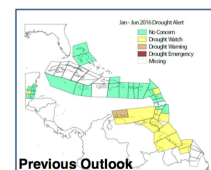
#### Current Outlook



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#### Current update (April 2016):

Drought concern is noted in ABC Islands, Grenada, N Bahamas, west-central and south-east Belize, central Cuba, St. Kitts, St. Vincent and Tobago.

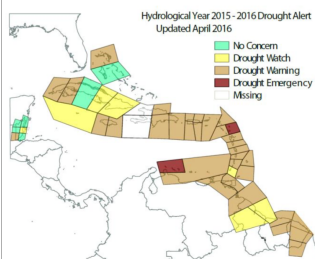


Previous Outlook



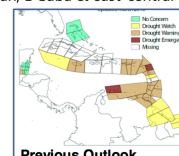
### Long-term drought outlook Concerns by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016)?

#### Current Outlook



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- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations through March 2016, 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).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the dry season (May 31<sup>st</sup>) is a concern across the Caribbean (insufficient data available for Haiti).
- A **drought emergency** is issued for the ABC Islands and Antigua. A **drought warning** is issued for the remainder of the Antilles (except Cayman, central and E Cuba), as well as in N Bahamas, SW Belize and the Guianas. A **drought watch** is also issued for Cayman, E Cuba & east-central Belize.



Previous Outlook



## Current Drought Situation

– After below-normal rainfall during 2015, resulting in long-term drought, water shortages persist and intensify in many portions of the Antilles, notably Barbados, Haiti, St. Lucia and many of the Leewards.

– Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought

– In addition, a failure of the secondary wet season in the Guianas has led to short-term drought.

#### • Shorter-term (till July 2016):

– We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the ABC islands, Grenada, St. Kitts and Saint Vincent.

#### • Longer-term (beyond May 2016):

– El Niño has peaked in strength last November and is rapidly weakening. The El Niño resulted in a drier early part of the year in the Lesser Antilles and a failure of the secondary wet season in the northern Guianas. This has led to drought concerns carrying through to the end of the Caribbean dry season (i.e. May 31).

– In the islands, the wet season is expected to start up to one month earlier than usual, when longer-term drought recovery is expected for Barbados, Cayman, central Hispaniola, Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US Caribbean Terr. and Windwards.

– El Niño will likely be followed by a La Niña by the end of the year. This evolution should finally bring drought relief to the region, but may tilt the odds towards increased flash flood potential. **[Available for download]**