

NOAA Caribbean Strategy: 2016 Accomplishments Report

Goal 2: Strengthened Understanding of, and Adaptation to, a Changing Climate

The **NOAA Caribbean Strategy** is the strategic approach of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate and integrate the capabilities of all NOAA staff and line offices to address regional issues and improve the effectiveness of its mission and international cooperation in the Caribbean region.

The Strategy is structured around three primary goals:

- **Goal 1:** Improved conservation and management of ocean and coastal ecosystems
- **Goal 2:** Strengthened understanding of, and adaptation to, a changing climate
- **Goal 3:** Enhanced multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting, and risk management

Within **Goal 2**, four primary objectives guide implementation of NOAA's climate science and services activities:

- **Objective 1:** Improve scientific understanding and prediction of changing climate in the Caribbean
- **Objective 2:** Improve scientific understanding of how Caribbean resources and ecosystems are impacted by a changing climate
- **Objective 3:** Support adaptation and mitigation options through sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- **Objective 4:** Foster a climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate, and is able to make informed decisions

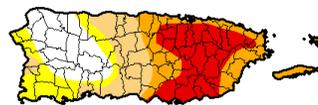
Goal 2: Key 2016 Accomplishments

- **Objective 1:** NOAA's National Weather Service co-convened a forum in 2016 to determine what is needed to expand the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor to include the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- **Objective 2:** NOAA's Climate Program Office, Habitat Blueprint Program, and National Estuarine Research Reserves Network contributed to a workshop in July 2016 on blue carbon ecosystems in a changing world, and their relevance to climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in Puerto Rico.
- **Objective 3:** NOAA's International Research Applications Program (IRAP) conducted a 2-week training on social sciences and climate services for Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) scientists, to improve ability of climate services to address user needs.
- **Objective 4:** NOAA's National Weather Service held a Drought Monitor Forum in 2016 to present the Puerto Rico Drought Plan to local and federal decision-makers from multiple sectors.

U.S. Drought Monitor Puerto Rico

September 1, 2015
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2015)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	21.22	78.78	83.82	44.96	24.89	0.00
Last Week 8/25/2015	21.22	78.78	83.82	44.96	24.89	0.00
3 Months Ago 6/2/2015	44.91	55.09	29.15	2.97	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/26/2014	96.84	3.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/26/2014	81.07	18.93	2.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 8/27/14	78.40	21.60	3.89	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Historic drought conditions plagued much of the Caribbean in 2015. The U.S. Drought Monitor is currently exploring an expansion to include the U.S. Virgin Islands, improving the public's and decision-maker access to real-time information about drought conditions and impacts.

Goal 2: Priority Activities for 2017

- **Objective 1:**
 - Expand CoCoRaHS to other Caribbean nations, in partnership with national meteorological services and CariCOF.
- **Objective 2:**
 - Establish Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) stations in 4 more areas in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean to enhance climate models and ecological forecasting in coral reef ecosystems.
- **Objective 3:**
 - Enhance climate services in the Caribbean and Central America through the development of a WMO Regional Climate Center based in the U.S.
- **Objective 4:**
 - Assist with improving communication of sectoral climate information to decision-makers through CIMH bulletins.

Implementation of the Strategy is supported in part by the **NOAA in the Caribbean Initiative (NOAACarib)**, a forum of NOAA programs and partners committed to strengthening communication and coordination in the region to more effectively deliver NOAA's science and services mission.

