

# CariCOF Drought Outlook by the end of August 2015

Coordination – CIMH – Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck

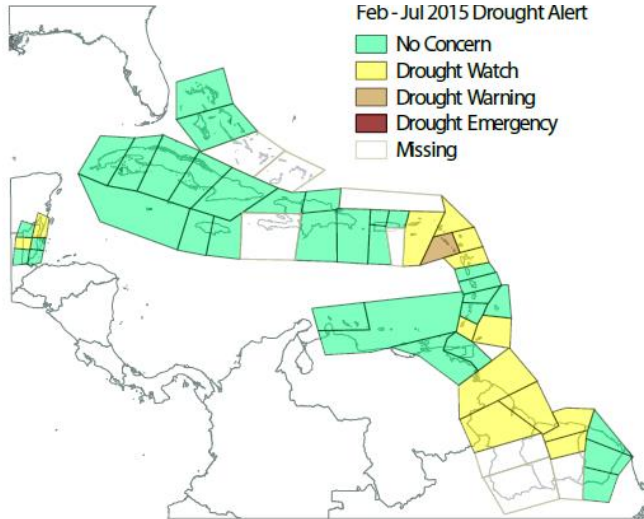
## Participating territories

Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barth's, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



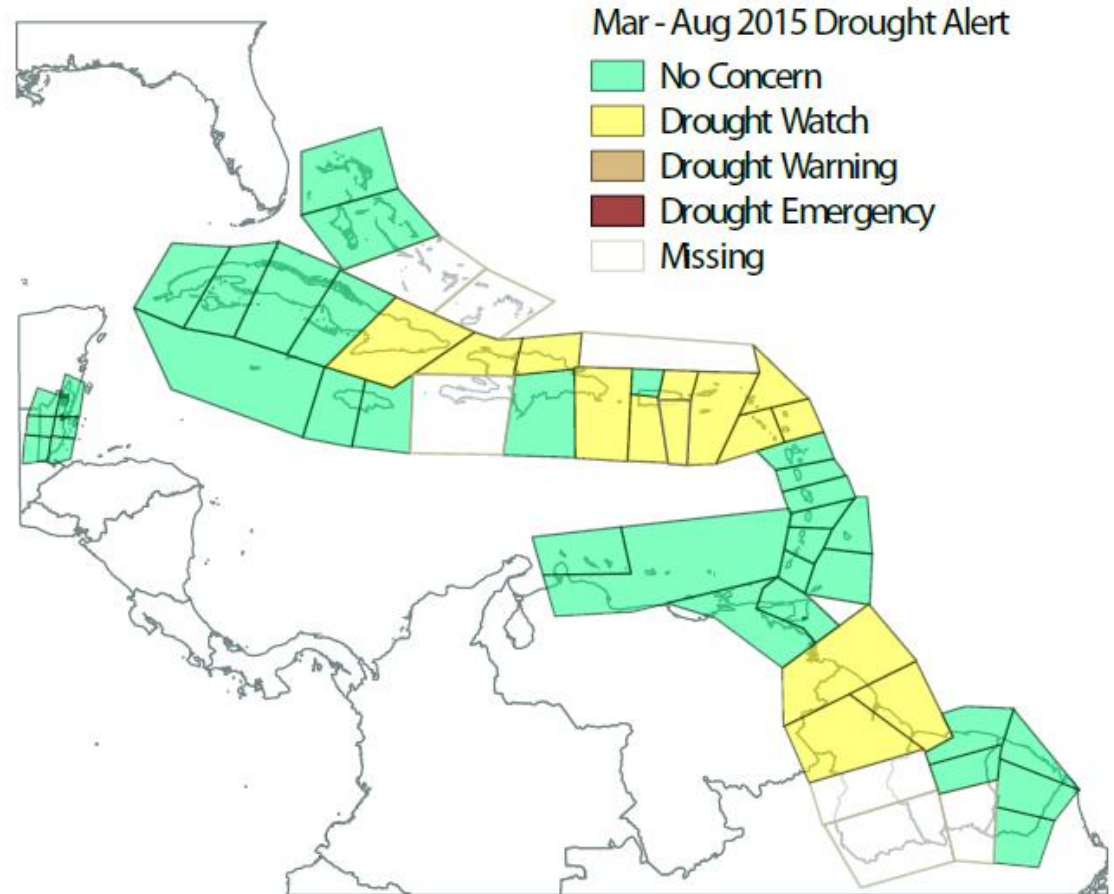
# SPI outlook Mar to Aug – areas under immediate drought concern?

## April 2015 update



## May 2015's update:

Some drought concern is noted in eastern Cuba, Guyana, Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico and parts of Hispaniola.



## Drought outlook till Nov 2015 – shorter- / longer-term concern?

- Current drought situation:
  - Because of below normal rainfall during the previous wet season, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles.
  - Eastern Cuba, South-eastern Jamaica, Haïti, many of the Leeward and some of the Windward Islands are in longer-term drought and have suffered water shortages. Few areas, including the Eastern Cuba, Windward and Leeward Islands, are currently facing shorter-term drought.
- Shorter-term (till August):
  - We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Windward and Leeward Islands and generally improve in other areas.
- Longer-term (till November):
  - An El Niño has emerged. El Niño often results in a delayed and shorter wet season (except for the NW Caribbean), and particularly so in the SE Caribbean. This may lead to drought concerns towards the next dry season
  - Areas with existing water shortages may not see any improvement until the wet season.

**CONSERVE WATER!!**

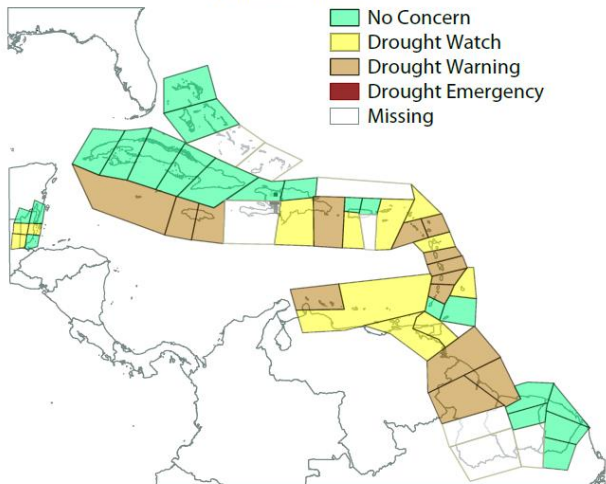
Especially in Haïti, Jamaica,  
Leeward and Windward Islands.

# Long-term drought outlook – drought concerns until end of the 2015 Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015)?

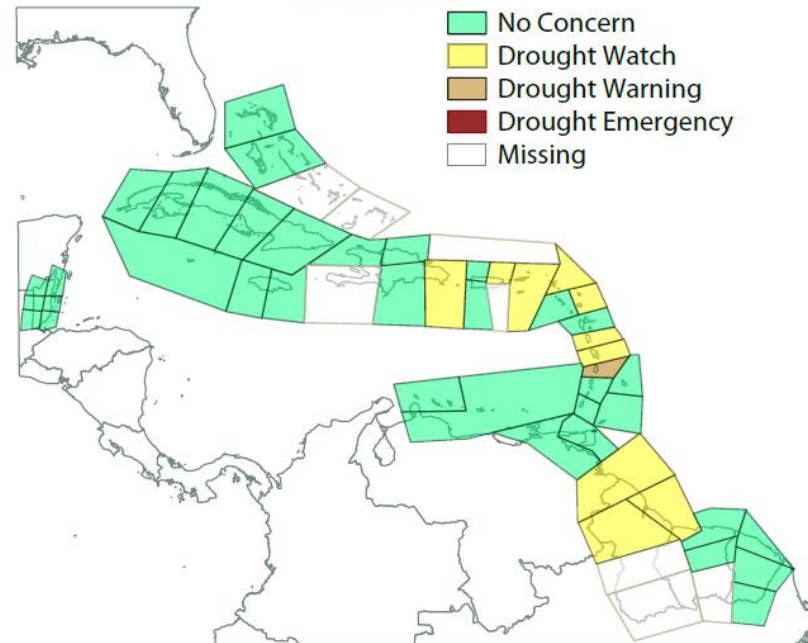
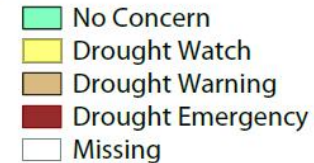
- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until April 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (*very dry or worse* – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought is a concern across many of the Leeward Islands, Dominica, northern Guyana, Martinique, St. Lucia.
- A drought warning is issued for St. Lucia.

## Last update hydr. yr. 2014-5

Hydrological Year 2014-2015 Drought Alert  
Updated March 2015



## Drought alert outlook - concerns by the end of 2015 Hurricane Season Updated May 2015



ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
<b>NO CONCERN</b>	No drought concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>monitor resources</b></li> <li>✓ update and ratify management plans</li> <li>✓ public awareness campaigns</li> <li>✓ upgrade infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>DROUGHT WATCH</b>	Drought possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>keep updated</b></li> <li>✓ protect resources and conserve water</li> <li>✓ implement management plans</li> <li>✓ response training</li> <li>✓ monitor and repair infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>DROUGHT WARNING</b>	Drought evolving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>protect resources</b></li> <li>✓ conserve and recycle water</li> <li>✓ implement management plans</li> <li>✓ release public service announcements</li> <li>✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades</li> <li>✓ report impacts</li> </ul>
<b>DROUGHT EMERGENCY</b>	Drought of immediate concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>release public service announcements</b></li> <li>✓ implement management and response plans</li> <li>✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling</li> <li>✓ enforce resource protection</li> <li>✓ repair infrastructure</li> <li>✓ report impacts</li> </ul>