

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

June 2015 | Volume II | ISSUE 1

Announcement

Concerns currently exist for drought impacts over much of the eastern Caribbean, particularly the northern Windward and Leeward islands during June. Wet season rains will eventually eliminate impacts. However concerns also exist for drought-like impacts later in the wet season and into the 2016 dry season, as the 2015 wet season will most likely be dryer than normal.

Month at a Glance

Normal to below normal conditions persisted in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was normal to slightly dry; Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent severely dry; St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts extremely dry; Antigua and St. Maarten moderately dry; Anguilla normal and St. Croix slightly dry. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

St. Lucia declared a water emergency until July amidst continuing drought. ([Caribbean 360](#))

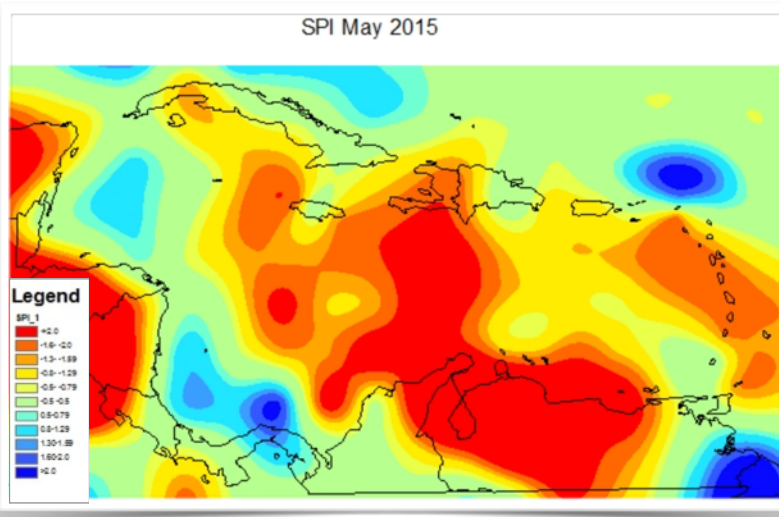
Continued low rainfall over the past year in Antigua led to Potswork Dam water levels at around 20% in Apr., more bushfires than usually and 65% of farmers running out of business. ([CariCOF climate outlook](#))

Office of disaster management in Dominica warns of dry conditions and the increase in bush fires. ([Dominica news online](#))

Dry conditions in Trinidad impacting on water resources. ([Caribbean News Media Group](#))

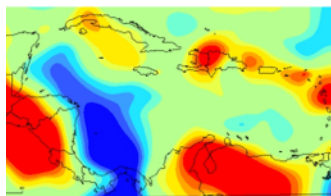
News

The Wet/Hurricane Season CariCOF assembly concluded on June 2nd, 2015 in Castries, St. Lucia. This forum saw the development of the new wet days and wet-spells outlooks and the launch of the Climate Impacts Database.

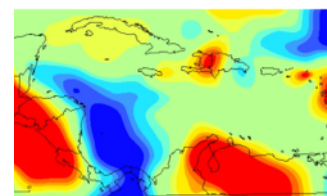


March-April-May Rainfall Summary

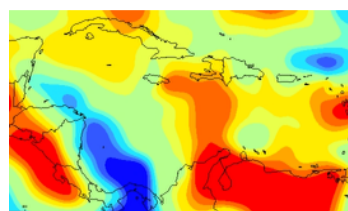
For the three month period, normal to below normal rainfall was experienced in the eastern Caribbean islands. Trinidad was slightly dry; Tobago, St. Kitts and Anguilla moderately dry; Grenada, Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia normal; Dominica exceptionally dry; Antigua severely; St. Maarten extremely dry; and St. Croix severely dry. Guyana ranged from extremely wet in the west to slightly wet in the east. Aruba was normal, but Puerto Rico was moderately dry. The western half of the Dominican Republic were exceptionally dry to normal, while the eastern half was normal to severely dry. Apart from western and eastern extremes that were slight dry, Jamaica was normal, but Grand Cayman slightly dry. Western Cuba was slightly to severely dry, while the east was normal.



MAR - MAY 2015
SPI 3 MONTHS



DEC 2014 - MAY 2015
SPI 6 MONTHS



JUNE 2014 - MAY 2015
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...](#)

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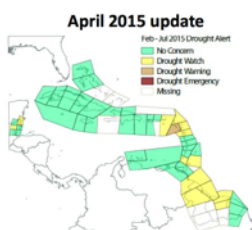
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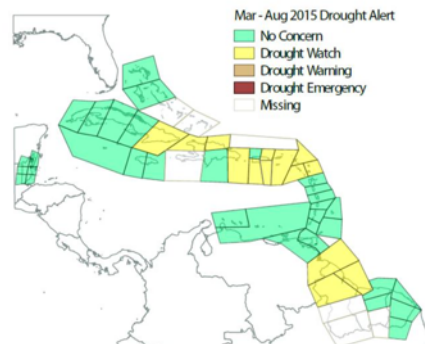
Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

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

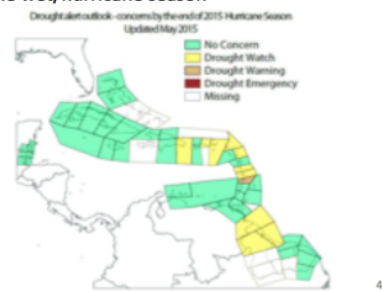
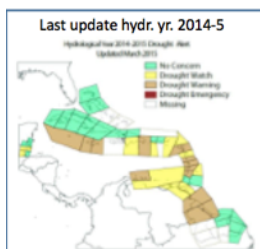


May 2015's update:
 Some drought concern is noted in eastern Cuba, Guyana, Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico and parts of Hispaniola.



Long-term drought outlook – drought concerns until end of the 2015 Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30th, 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 ≤ -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 may be necessary in parts of the eastern Caribbean in the vicinity of St. Lucia by the end of the wet/hurricane season



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, Haiti, 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 long term drought.

•Shorter-term:

–We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Windward and Leeward Islands and generally improve in other areas.

•Longer-term:

–An El Niño has emerged. El Niño often results in a delayed and shorter wet season (expect 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. [\[Available for download\]](#)