

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

As expected during the rainy season, rainfall quantities continue to increase across the Caribbean. However, below normal rainfall was still experienced over much of the eastern Caribbean, parts of the Greater Antilles and Belize, maintaining drought impacts in those areas. With below normal rainfall being forecasted for much of the Caribbean into February 2016, concerns continue for low water availability for later in 2015 and into the dry season of 2016, with a high possibility of an early end to the current wet season.

Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana for August. Trinidad, St. Kitts, Anguilla and St. Croix were normal; Tobago slightly dry; Grenada and Barbados severely dry; St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Maarten moderately dry; St. Lucia extremely dry; Dominica moderately wet; and Guyana ranging from extremely wet in the north to moderately dry in the east. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

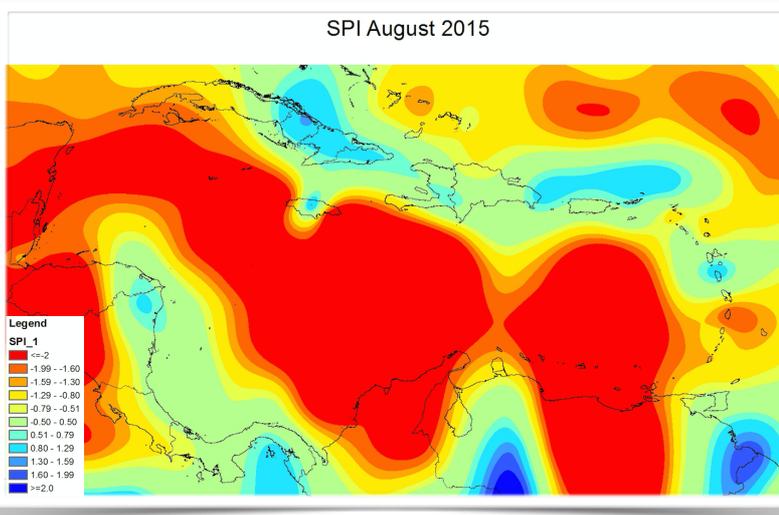
Millions of dollars in losses reported in Belize's agriculture sector due to drought conditions. Areas impacted include Cayo District, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo. (Belize Drought Assessment)

Drought severely impacting farmers in St. Maarten. ([Today SXM](#))

Cayman Islands reporting rainfall deficits which may have an impact on farmers. ([Cayman Compass](#))

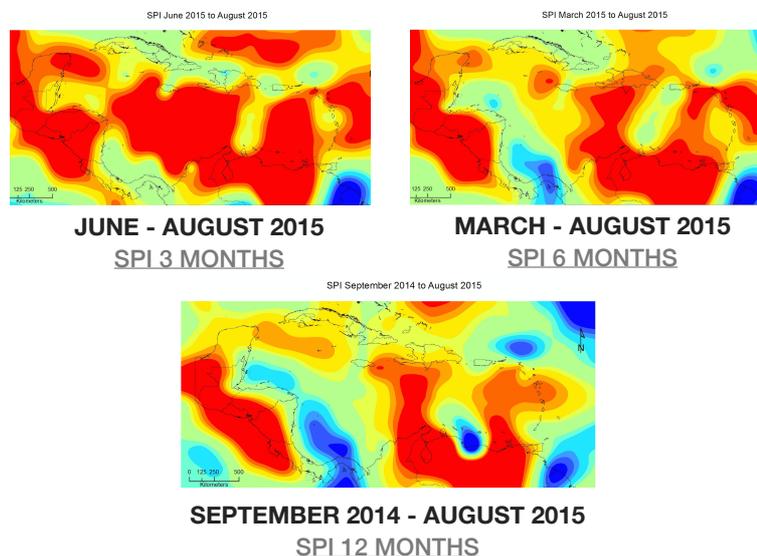
Drought stricken Antigua is out of surface water. ([Antigua Met](#))

Drought takes a toll on St. Kitts and Nevis resulting in increased water rationing. ([Jamaican Observer](#))



June-July-August Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, predominantly below normal conditions existed in the islands of the eastern Caribbean. Trinidad was normal to slightly dry; Tobago slightly dry; Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Croix severely dry; Barbados, Antigua and St. Maarten exceptionally dry; Dominica, St. Kitts and Anguilla moderately dry. Conditions in Guyana ranged from exceptionally wet in the north and west to very wet in the east. Aruba was slightly dry, but Puerto Rico normal to moderately dry. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from slightly wet in the northwest to extremely dry in the south east; while those in Jamaica ranged from slightly wet in central areas to extremely dry to the east and west. Grand Cayman was normal, while Cuba was slightly dry to the west and extreme south and normal elsewhere. Belize was moderately 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...](#)

For more information contact:

Mr. Adrian Trotman:
atrotman@cimh.edu.bb

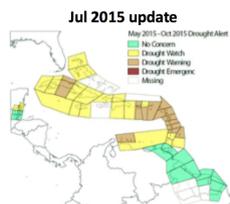
Mr. Anthony Moore:
amoore@cimh.edu.bb

Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
scox@cimh.edu.bb

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

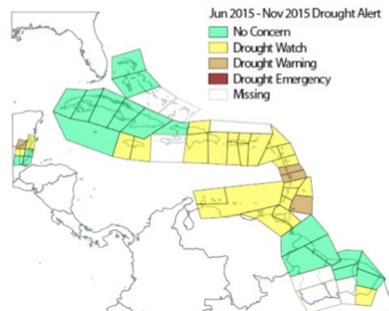
Drought Outlook for the End of November CariCOF's Drought Alert Map

SPI outlook June to Nov – areas under immediate drought



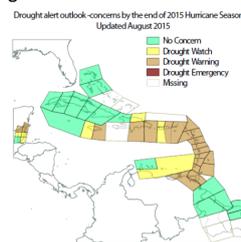
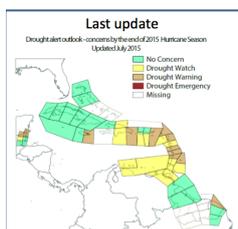
August 2015's update:
 Drought concern is noted in NW Belize, Martinique and Tobago where we issue a drought warning.

Some drought concern is further noted in all other areas of the Caribbean Islands and S. French Guiana (except Bahamas, S Belize, Cayman, Cuba, rest of the Guianas and N Haiti).



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 June 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 by the end of the wet season is a concern across all the Antilles, from E Jamaica and Dom. Rep. going east- and southward and northern portions of Belize.
- A drought warning is issued for Barbados, N Belize, E Hispaniola, E. Jamaica, Leewards, E Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and Windwards.



Current Drought Situation

–Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous wet season and the dry season which ended, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles.

–South-eastern Jamaica, Haiti, many of the Leeward and some of the Windward Islands are in longer-term drought and have suffered water shortages. After a very dry MJJ period (except in Cayman, Cuba, N. Dom. Rep. and Trinidad and Tobago), many of the Antilles islands, are currently facing shorter-term drought.

•Shorter-term (till November):

- We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles (except Cayman and Cuba) and N Belize.

•Longer-term (November and beyond):

- El Niño is intensifying. El Niño often results in a late start and early end of the 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 full recovery in the wet season, in particular E. Jamaica, Leewards, Martinique and St. Lucia.

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