

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

October 2015 | Volume II | ISSUE 5

## 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 Caribbean, with those countries experiencing normal rainfall in September still not making up for the deficits of previous months. With below normal rainfall being forecasted for much of the Caribbean (except in the north) into March 2016, concerns continue for low water availability 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

Normal to below normal rainfall was experienced over the eastern Caribbean and Guyana for the month. Trinidad and St. Maarten were exceptionally dry; Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia normal; Grenada and St. Kitts moderately dry; Dominica and St. Croix severely dry; Antigua slightly dry and Anguilla extremely dry. [Read more...](#)

## Headline Impacts

Drought impacts farmers in northern Belize. ([Love FM](#))

Drought affected farmers in St. Mary, Jamaica benefit from a \$3 million mitigation programme. ([New Jamaica Online](#))

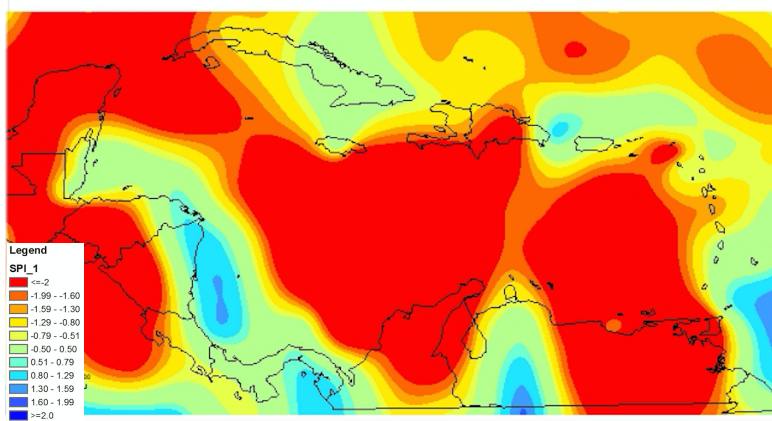
Farmer in St. Kitts reports drop in crop production due to drought. ([InSKN.com](#)) This situation is expected to continue as water reservoirs drop to critical levels. ([Winn fm](#))

Drought conditions affecting water supply in Barbados. ([Barbados Water Authority](#))

## Upcoming Event

The 2015 Dry Season CariCOF is scheduled for November 26-27th in St. Kitts.

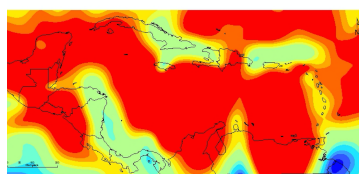
SPI September 2015



## July-August-September Rainfall Summary

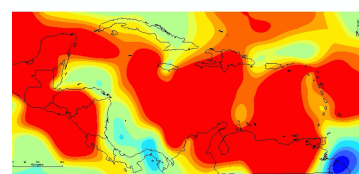
Normal to below normal conditions dominated the islands of the eastern Caribbean for the three month period. Trinidad was extreme to moderately dry from west to east; Tobago normal; Grenada and St. Croix severely dry; Barbados and St. Maarten exceptionally dry; St. Vincent, St. Lucia and St. Kitts moderately dry; Dominica moderate to severely dry; and Antigua and Anguilla extremely dry. Conditions in Guyana ranged from exceptionally wet in the north to moderately wet in the south and east. Aruba was moderately dry, but Puerto Rico ranged from normal in the northwest to moderately dry in the east. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from exceptionally dry in central areas to normal in the east and northwest and moderately dry in the southwest. Central areas of Jamaica were normal, and ranged to exceptionally dry in the east and south and extremely dry in the west. Grand Cayman was exceptionally dry, but the eastern portion of Cuba was normal while the western was exceptionally to slightly dry from west to east. Conditions in Belize ranged from moderately dry in the south to exceptionally dry in the north.

SPI July to September 2015



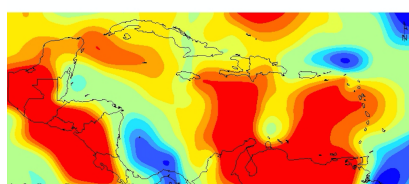
**JULY - SEPT 2015**  
SPI 3 MONTHS

SPI April to September 2015



**APRIL - SEPT 2015**  
SPI 6 MONTHS

SPI October 2014 to September 2015



**OCT 2014 - SEPT 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...](#)

### For more information contact:

Mr. Adrian Trotman:  
[atrotman@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:atrotman@cimh.edu.bb)

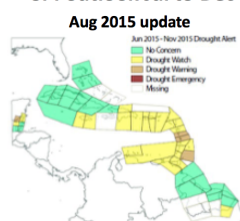
Mr. Anthony Moore:  
[amoore@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:amoore@cimh.edu.bb)

Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:  
[scox@cimh.edu.bb](mailto:scox@cimh.edu.bb)

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

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

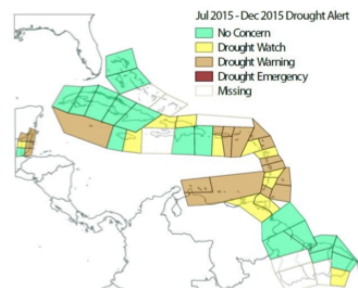
### SPI outlook Jul to Dec – areas under immediate drought concern?



### September 2015's update:

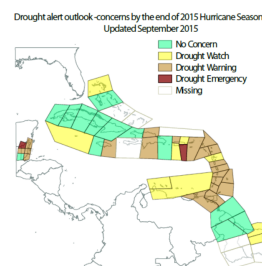
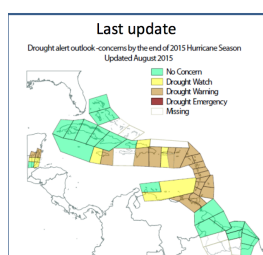
Drought concern is noted in ABC Islands, Barbados, Belize, Cayman, Grenada, N Leewards, Martinique, St. Lucia, Tobago & US C'bean Terr. where we issue a drought warning.

Some drought concern is further noted in other areas of the Caribbean Islands and S. French Guiana (except Bahamas, Cuba & SE Hispaniola).



### 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 August 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 by the end of the wet season is a concern across all the Antilles (except Cuba) and in Belize.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for NW Belize and SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E Jamaica, Leewards, NW Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and Windwards.



## Current Drought Situation

—Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous wet and dry seasons, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles.

—Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas, Cuba, W Jamaica and W Puerto Rico). After a record dry JJA period in 30 out of 180 odd stations (notably in Barbados, Jamaica, Leewards, Martinique and US Caribbean Territories), many Antilles islands are currently facing severe shorter-term drought.

### •Shorter-term (till December):

- We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles east- and southward of Hispaniola and in Belize and Cayman.

### •Longer-term (November and beyond):

- Strong El Niño in place. 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 Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E. Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US Caribbean Territories and Windwards.

**[Available for download]**