

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

December 2015 | Volume II | ISSUE 7

Announcement

The Caribbean recorded one of its wettest months of the year in November, which is very welcomed, but still the annual deficit in rainfall remains large in many countries. As some countries enter their dry season and others approach theirs, concern now heightens as the large rainfall deficit is likely to result in low water availability in parts of the Caribbean by February 2016 (the middle of the dry season). This is particularly so in the south and eastern parts of the region.

Month at a Glance

Apart from Trinidad that was slightly dry, normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the islands of the eastern Caribbean for November. Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Anguilla, and St. Maarten were normal; Grenada moderately wet; and St. Lucia and St. Croix slightly wet. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

Antigua experiencing severe drought conditions, desalination has increased from 60 to 90 per cent. ([IPS News](#))

About 1 million people in Haiti have been affected by drought in 2015. ([Relief Web](#))

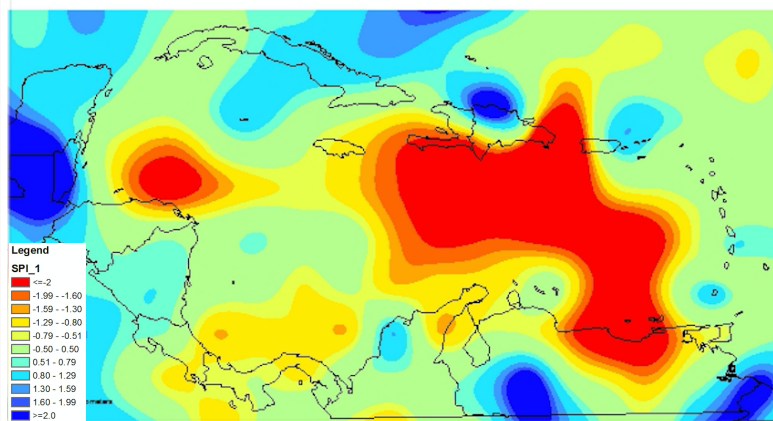
Jamaica's aging water systems falter under intense heat and drought. ([Caribbean 360](#))

For the ASO period, 10 territories had locations that experienced record low rainfall (with mostly 30-50% of avg). Observed rainfall records in October: parts of French Guiana, Guyana, Martinique, Dom. Rep and Jamaica. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

Latest News

CIMH hosts 2015 Dry Season Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum in St. Kitts ([SKN Observer](#)).

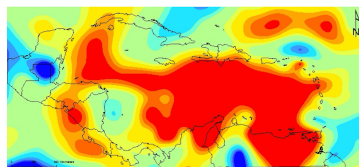
SPI November 2015



September-October-November Rainfall Summary

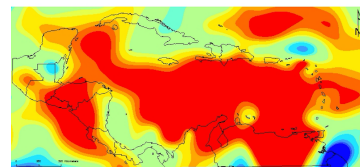
Apart from Grenada that was slightly wet, normal to below normal conditions were experienced for the three month period. Trinidad was exceptional to moderately dry, Tobago, Barbados and St. Croix normal; Dominica moderate to severely dry; Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Croix slightly dry. Northern Guyana ranged from moderately wet in the north to slightly dry in the east. Aruba was extremely dry and Curacao slightly dry. Puerto Rico was slight to moderately dry, while the Dominican Republic ranged from exceptionally dry in the south to normal in the north. Jamaica was normal in the west and normal to moderately dry in the east, while Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Cuba ranged from severely dry in the west to moderately wet in eastern areas, while for Belize they ranged from exceptionally wet in the west to normal in the north.

SPI September to November 2015



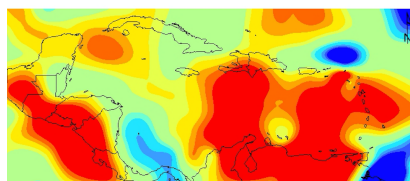
SEP - NOV 2015
SPI 3 MONTHS

SPI June to November 2015



JUN - NOV 2015
SPI 6 MONTHS

SPI December 2014 to November 2015



DEC 2014 - NOV 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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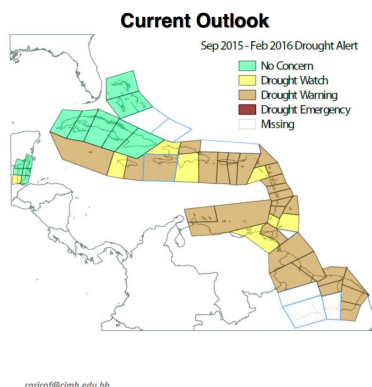
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

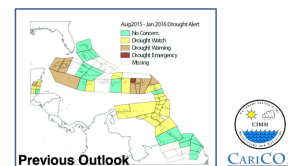
Drought Outlook Aug to Jan Areas under immediate drought concern?



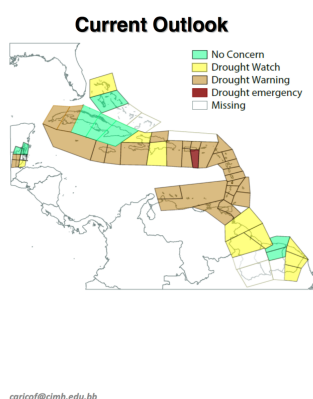
Current update (October 2015):

Drought concern is noted across the region, except the Bahamas, most parts of Belize, Cuba and Turks & Caicos.

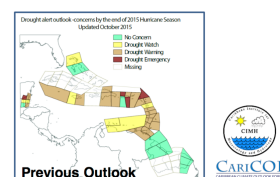
We issue a drought warning in the remaining locations except south-western Belize, Grenada, western Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Tobago where we issue a drought watch.



Long-term drought outlook Concerns by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 31st, 2016)?



- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until October 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -0.8 (moderately dry or worse – ref: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the dry season (May 31st) is a concern across all the Antilles except eastern Cuba (no data available for Haiti), in Belize and the Guianas.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for the remainder of the Antilles except eastern Cuba, and western Belize.



Current Drought Situation

—Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous dry and current wet seasons, water shortages occurred in many portions of the Antilles.
—Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Cuba) as well as W Belize. After a record dry August to October period in 10 territories, many Antilles islands are currently facing severe shorter-term drought.

•Shorter-term (till February 2016):

—We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles and in Belize, especially in ABC Islands, Barbados, Cayman, Hispaniola, Leewards, US Caribbean Territories and Northern Windwards.

—•Longer-term (beyond February 2016):

– Strong El Niño in place. El Niño often results in a drier wet season and an early end to it (except for the NW Caribbean), and particularly so in the SE C'bean. This may lead to drought concerns towards the end of the next dry season.

—Areas with existing water shortages may not see full recovery until the next wet season, in particular Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E Jamaica, Leewards, Trinidad & Tobago, US Caribbean Territories and Windwards.

[Available for download]