

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

July 2015 | Volume II | ISSUE 2

Announcement

Below normal rainfall conditions continued in June over most of the eastern Caribbean and across to Jamaica, extending the drought conditions and impacts, particularly over the northern Windward and Leeward islands. Though rainfall quantities will increase, below normal rainfall will most likely continue during the wet season, causing much concern for water availability later in the year and into the early months of 2016. This situation should be closely monitored.

Month at a Glance

Apart from Trinidad that was moderate to very wet, the islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to below normal (and particularly below normal). Tobago, Grenada and Anguilla were slightly dry; Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Maarten and St. Croix were moderately dry. [Read more...](#)

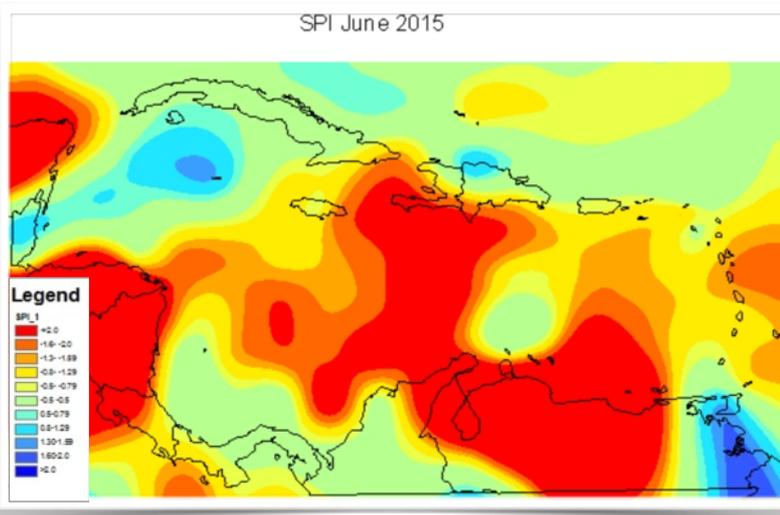
Headline Impacts

Government imposed water restrictions take effect in Jamaica as low levels at water catchments are reported in St. Thomas. ([Jamaica Gleaner](#))

Drought continues at severe levels in Antigua. April-June is now the fourth driest period on record and also the driest since 2001. It continues to be the worst drought since 2002/2003. ([Antigua Clisec](#))

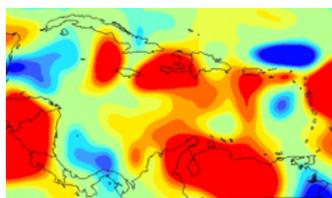
The Dominica Meteorological Service has issued an advisory, asking the public and relevant sectors to practice conservation measures and to develop Drought Plans for the island. ([Kariri FM](#))

St Lucia implements additional water restrictions as drought worsens. The water restrictions imposed, prohibit the use of potable water for non-potable uses and also a strict schedule of water rationing. ([Jamaica Gleaner](#))

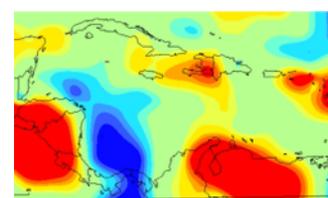


April-May-June Rainfall Summary

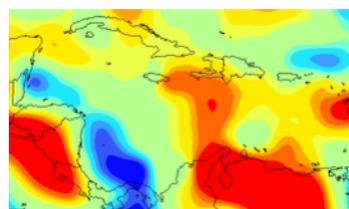
For the three month period, normal to below normal (and particularly below normal) conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean islands. Trinidad was normal; Tobago, St. Kitts and Anguilla moderately dry; Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia slightly dry; Barbados severely dry; Dominica exceptionally dry; and Antigua, St. Maarten and St. Croix extremely dry. Conditions in Guyana ranged from exceptionally wet in the west to moderately wet in the east. Aruba was severely dry and Puerto Rico moderate to severely dry. As one moves outward from the normal east central areas of the Dominican Republic, conditions became relatively drier to become exceptionally dry in the southwest. Western and eastern portions of Jamaica were dry, up to being extremely so, but Grand Cayman was normal to slightly dry.



APRIL - JUNE 2015
SPI 3 MONTHS



JAN - JUN 2015
SPI 6 MONTHS



JULY 2014 - JUNE 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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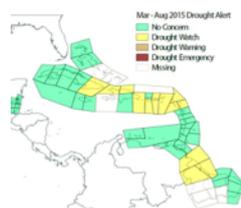
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
scox@cimh.edu.bb

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

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

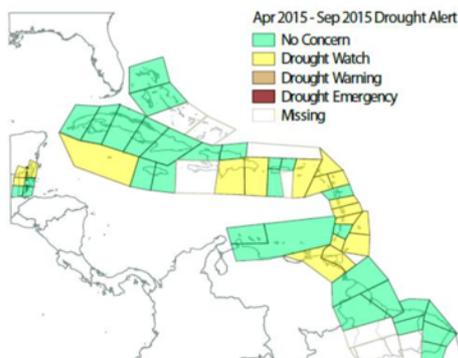
SPI outlook Apr to Sep – areas under immediate drought concern?

May 2015 update



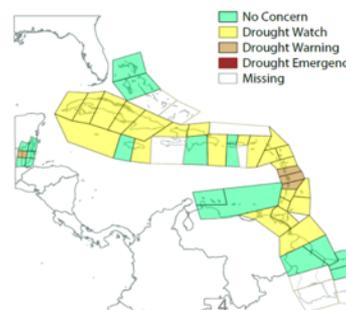
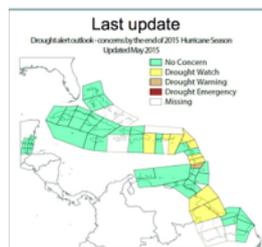
June 2015's update:

Some drought concern is noted in Barbados, NW Belize, Cayman, S Dom. Republic, Leewards and Windwards (except Guadeloupe and St. Vincent) and Trinidad & Tobago.



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 May 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 most of the Antilles, western inland portions of Belize and northern Guyana.
- A drought warning is issued for western Belize, Dominica, Martinique and St. Lucia.



Current Drought Situation

–Because of below-normal rainfall during the previous wet season and the dry season which ended, water shortages 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. After a very dry month of May, many of the Antilles islands, are currently facing shorter-term drought.

•Shorter-term:

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

•Longer-term:

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

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