

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

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 to above normal rainfall in October 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 and west) into April 2016, concerns continue for low water availability later in 2015 and into the dry season of 2016.

Month at a Glance

Apart from Tobago that was moderately wet, rainfall in islands of the eastern Caribbean was normal to below normal. Trinidad and St. Lucia were moderate to slightly dry; Grenada, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Kitts, Anguilla and St. Croix normal; Barbados and St. Maarten moderately dry; Dominica exceptionally dry. Guyana was moderately wet in the northern extreme and below normal in the east with the remainder being normal. Aruba was severely dry while conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from slightly wet in the southwest to moderately dry in the east. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

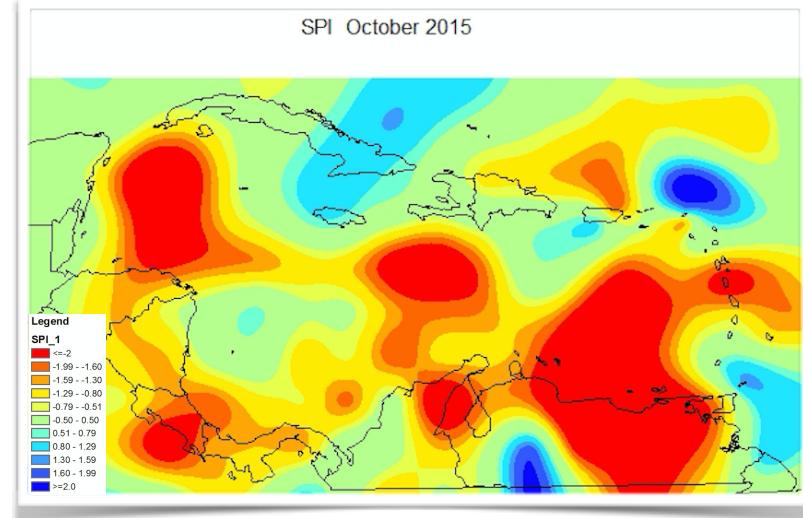
Possible ease in drought conditions for Jamaica. ([Jamaica Gleaner](#))

Observed rainfall records in September: 1 station in Anguilla, 3 in Dominican Republic, 3 in Jamaica and 2 in St. Martin/Maarten. ([CariCOF Climate Outlook Newsletter](#))

Dry spell in Saint Lucia broken temporarily. ([Radio Caribbean International](#))

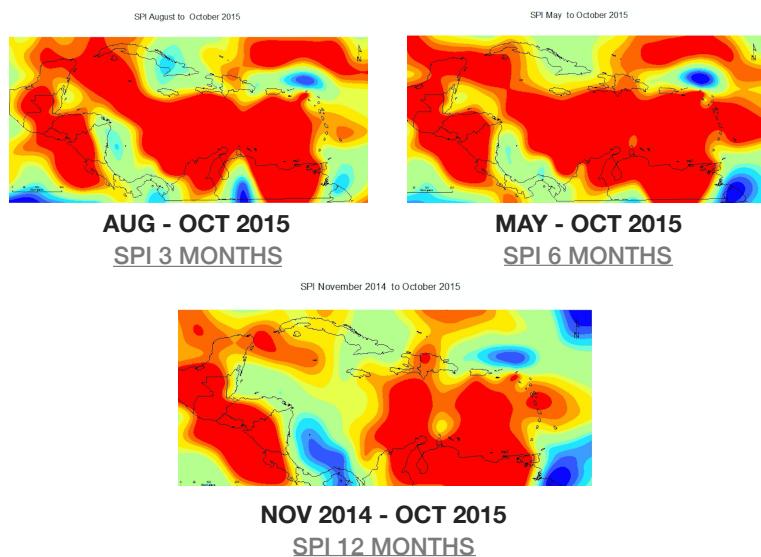
Upcoming Event

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



August-September-October Rainfall Summary

For the three-month period, the islands of the eastern Caribbean were normal to below normal. Trinidad was severe to moderately dry; Tobago normal; Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Croix moderately dry; Barbados, St. Lucia and Dominica severely dry; Antigua, St. Kitts and Anguilla slightly dry; and St. Maarten exceptionally dry. Conditions in Guyana ranged from moderately wet in the north to moderately dry in the east. Aruba was exceptionally dry, while Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the south to slightly dry in the north. Normal to extremely dry conditions were experienced in the Dominican Republic, but Jamaica was predominantly normal with the eastern being normal to moderately dry. Grand Cayman was exceptionally dry. Conditions in Cuba ranged from moderately dry in the west to normal in the east, while for Belize it was exceptionally dry in the west to moderately dry in the east.



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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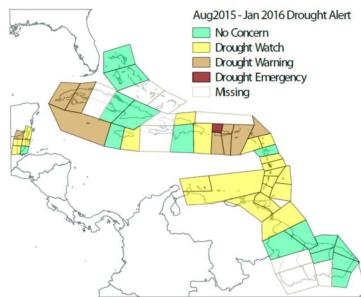
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

Drought Outlook Aug to Jan Areas under immediate drought concern?

Current Outlook

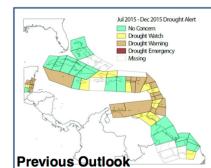


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Current update (October 2015):

Drought concern is noted in NW Belize, Cayman, W Cuba, N Leewards & US C'bean Terr. where we issue a drought warning, and especially in NW Puerto Rico where we issue a drought emergency.

Some drought concern is further noted in other areas of the Caribbean Islands (except Bahamas, E Cuba, Guadeloupe & S Hispaniola).

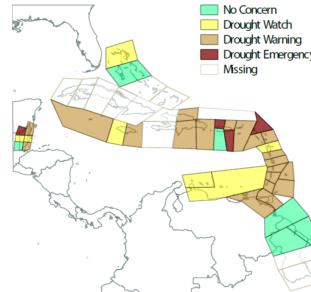


Long-term drought outlook

Concerns until end of the Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30th, 2015)?

Current Outlook

Drought alert outlook -concerns by the end of 2015 Hurricane Season
Updated October 2015

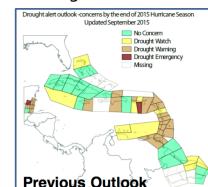


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- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until September 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is ≤ -1.3 (very dry or worse – ref: CDPMN).

• Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the wet season (November 30) is a concern across all the Antilles (no data available for Cuba and Haiti) and in Belize.

• A **drought emergency** is issued for N Leewards, NW Belize and NW & SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for Barbados, Belize, Dom. Republic, E Jamaica, S Leewards, NE Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and Windwards.



Current Drought Situation

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

–Nearly all island nations are in longer-term drought (except Bahamas and Eastern Cuba) as well as W Belize. After a record dry July to September period in 33 out of 180 odd stations (notably in Barbados, Belize, Cayman, Dom. Republic, Jamaica, Leewards, Martinique and US Caribbean Territories.), many Antilles islands are currently facing severe shorter-term drought.

•Shorter-term (till January):

-We expect that a shorter-term drought situation may persist in the Antilles and in Belize, especially in Cayman, W Cuba, N Leewards and US Caribbean Territories.

•Longer-term (November and beyond):

- 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 next dry season.

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

[\[Available for download\]](#)