

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Concerns currently exist over Cayman Islands, eastern Jamaica, Haïti and some parts of the Windward Islands particularly Dominica. Some improvements will take place as May approaches. By the end of May, concerns are still expected over the Windward Islands, particularly in the vicinity of St. Lucia and Dominica in the east and Cayman Islands and eastern Jamaica in the west.

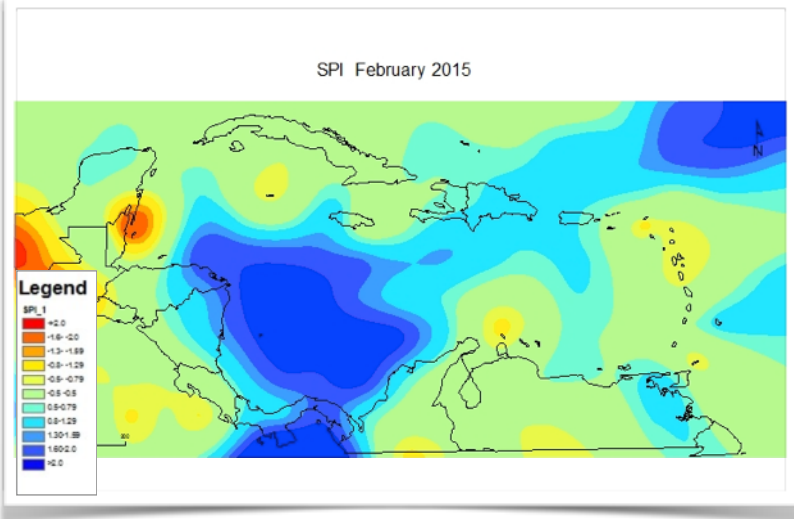
Month at a Glance

Apart from Barbados that was moderately wet and St. Maarten that was moderately dry, normal to slightly dry conditions predominated in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad and Guyana were normal to slightly wet; Tobago, Dominica and Antigua slightly dry; Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Anguilla, St. Maarten and St. Croix normal. Aruba was moderately dry, but Puerto Rico slight to moderately wet. [Read more...](#)

Headline Impacts

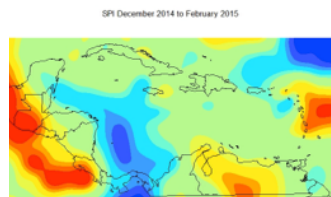
According to the latest CariCOF climate outlook newsletter, last year was the driest year on record at the Kingston, Jamaica's airport. In addition, the rainfall stations at Navet, Trinidad; Enmore Guyana and 1 station in Dominican Republic also were record dry in 2014. In December 2014, four stations in St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Belize and Guadeloupe were record dry.

The ongoing drought in Antigua, which started in 2013 but abated to some degree by the end of 2014, has reintensified to moderate levels. However, given the projections, it is unlikely that the drought will get any worse and a moderate chance of it ending within three months. ([Antigua CliSec, March 10](#))

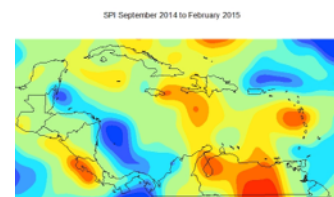


December-January-February Rainfall Summary

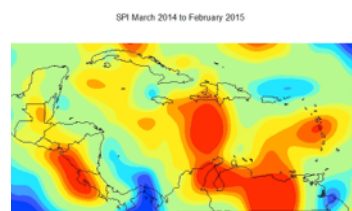
For the three month period, mixed conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada and Antigua were normal; Barbados and St. Vincent slightly dry; St. Lucia and St. Maarten severely dry; Dominica, St. Kitts and Anguilla moderately dry; St. Croix slightly wet; and Guyana predominantly normal, but slightly wet in the northwest. Aruba was normal but Puerto Rico slightly wet. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the west to slightly dry in the east, but Grand Cayman was normal. Cuba was predominantly normal, while Belize ranged from moderately dry in the south to moderately wet in the north.



DEC 2014 - FEB 2015
SPI 3 MONTHS



SEP 2014 - FEB 2015
SPI 6 MONTHS



MAR 2014 - FEB 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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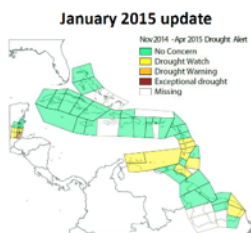
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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

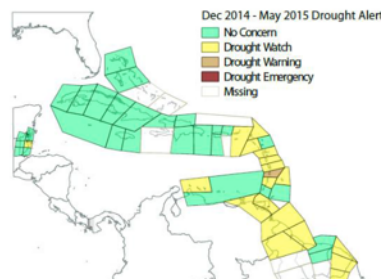
SPI outlook Dec to May – areas under immediate drought concern?



February 2015's update:

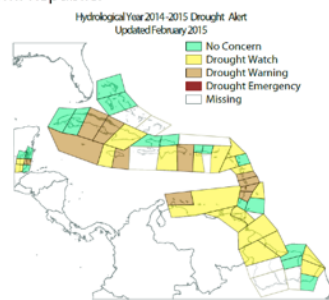
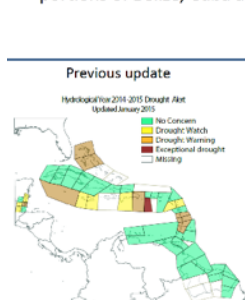
No drought concerns are noted in the Caribbean from Puerto Rico westwards as the concerns subsided in Belize. However, concern has grown further east and south, with St. Lucia now under a drought warning.

Some concern exists in the ABC Islands, and in much of eastern and southern Caribbean (drought watch.)



SPI outlook Hydrological Year 2014-2015 – drought concern by the end of the Caribbean dry season (May 30th, 2015)?

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until January 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater.
- Impactful hydrological drought is a concern across the region (except Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Grenada, Suriname and Tobago). A drought warning is issued for ABC Islands, Cayman, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent as well as portions of Belize, Cuba and Dom. Republic.



Current Drought Situation

—Cayman, Eastern Jamaica, Haiti and some of the Windward Islands are in long-term drought and in some cases have suffered water shortages. Few areas are currently facing shorter-term drought.

•Shorter-term:

—It is likely that a short-term drought will arise in St. Lucia and other islands and improve over others.

•Longer-term:

—Because of below normal rainfall during the previous wet season, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles toward the end of the dry season, which is our tourist season.

—A weak El Niño has evolved which often results in a drier dry season (except for the NW C'ibbean), and particularly in the SE C'ibbean later in the dry season. However, above-average temperatures in the Atlantic suggest a wetter dry season. Regardless, areas with existing water shortages may not see any improvement until late in the dry season.

Available for download: http://www.cimh.edu.bb/pdf/caricof_drought_end_May2015.pdf