

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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Announcement

Drought concerns have grown in the northern Windward and the Leeward Islands, with Antigua issuing a short-term drought warning, and with impacts being felt in some of the other islands. However, there are no concerns west of Puerto Rico, and St. Lucia is now under drought watch instead of drought warning. Some concerns also exist in the ABC Islands.

Month at a Glance

Mixed conditions existed in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana for the month. Trinidad, Tobago and St. Lucia were normal; Grenada and St. Vincent slightly wet; Barbados moderate to very wet; Dominica, Anguilla and St. Croix moderately dry; Antigua severely dry; St. Kitts slightly dry; St. Maarten extremely dry; and Guyana extremely wet in the north to normal in the east. [Read more...](#)

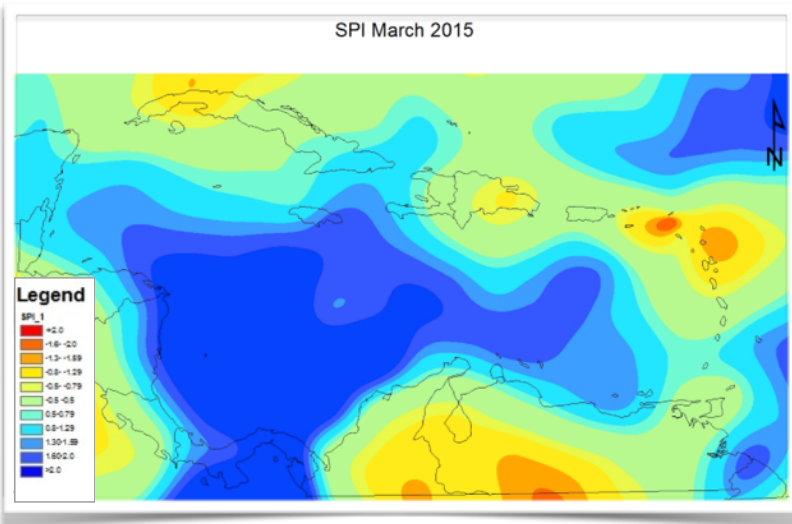
Headline Impacts

In the northern part of Dominica, farmers complained of the uncharacteristic dry conditions being experienced. Rain-fed crops under production and livestock faced water stress. ([Dominica CAMI Bulletin](#))

Based on the rainfall experienced January and February, and the outlook for March to June, a moderate level or worse drought is evolving over the January-June (JJ) period; hence a drought warning is in effect for the JJ period. ([Antigua CliSec, March 30](#))

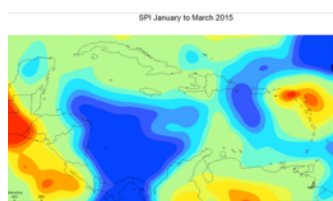
Upcoming Events

The region will focus on early warning information systems to support sectoral decision making. This begins with a workshop on May 6-7th, 2015 that will facilitate the establishment of a regional consortium of stakeholders.

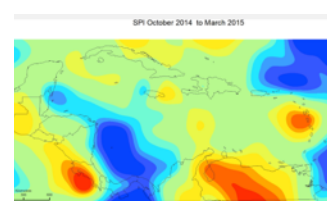


January-February-March Rainfall Summary

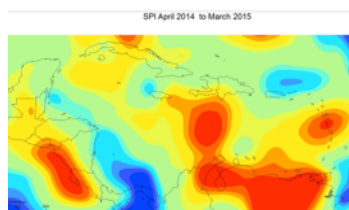
For the three month period in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana, there is a clear distinction between the normal to below normal north and the normal to above normal south. Trinidad, Tobago and St. Lucia were normal; Grenada and Barbados moderately wet; St. Vincent slightly wet; Dominica, St. Kitts and St. Croix moderately dry; Antigua and Anguilla severely dry; St. Maarten exceptionally dry; and Guyana moderately wet in the north to normal in the southeast. Aruba was normal. Puerto Rico ranged from very wet in the west to slightly wet in the east, but the Dominican Republic was from normal in the west to extremely wet in the east. Belize, Cuba and Grand Cayman were normal, and so too was Jamaica apart from the extreme south that was slightly wet.



JAN - MAR 2015
SPI 3 MONTHS



OCT 2014 - MAR 2015
SPI 6 MONTHS



APRIL 2014 - MAR 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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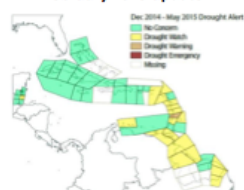
Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox:
scox@cimh.edu.bb

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

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

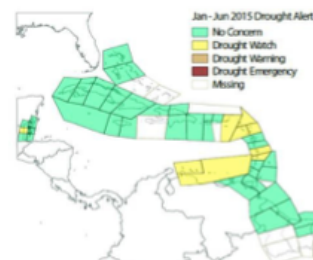
SPI outlook Jan to Jun – areas under immediate drought concern?

February 2015 update



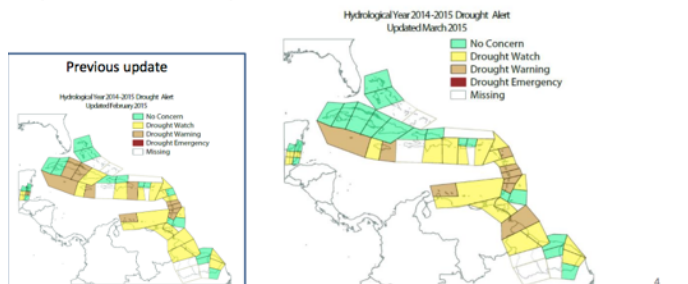
March 2015's update:

No drought concerns are noted in the Caribbean from Puerto Rico westwards as the concerns subsided in Belize. Drought concern has grown further east and south, with Antigua issuing a short-term drought warning and impacts being felt in some parts of the northern Windward and Leeward Islands. However, St. Lucia is no longer under a drought warning. Some concern exists in ABC Islands, in portions of eastern and extreme south-eastern Caribbean.



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 February 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater.
- Impactful hydrological drought is a concern across the region (except Bahamas, Cuba, Grenada, Suriname and Tobago). A drought warning is issued for ABC Islands, Antigua & Barbuda, Cayman, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent as well as portions of northern Guyana.



Current Drought Situation

—Cayman, Eastern Jamaica, Haïti, Antigua 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.

—An El Niño has emerged. El Niño often results in a drier dry season (except for the NW Caribbean), and particularly in the SE Caribbean 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://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/caricof_drought_end_June2015.pdf