

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

May 2015 | Volume I | ISSUE 12

## Announcement

Impactful drought is highly likely in much of the Caribbean at least until the end of May and into June. This is particularly so in Jamaica, Cayman Islands, the Leeward and Windward Islands; Guyana and the ABC Islands. Concerns continue into July in parts of the Eastern Caribbean including the Leeward Islands, southern Windward Islands and parts of the Guianas.

## Month at a Glance

The eastern Caribbean and Guyana were normal to below normal apart from St. Vincent and St. Lucia that were moderately wet. Trinidad, Tobago and St. Kitts were normal; Grenada, Antigua and Anguilla moderately dry; Barbados normal to slightly dry; Dominica extremely dry; St. Maarten and St. Croix slightly dry; and Guyana normal in the west and slightly dry in the east. [Read more...](#)

## Headline Impacts

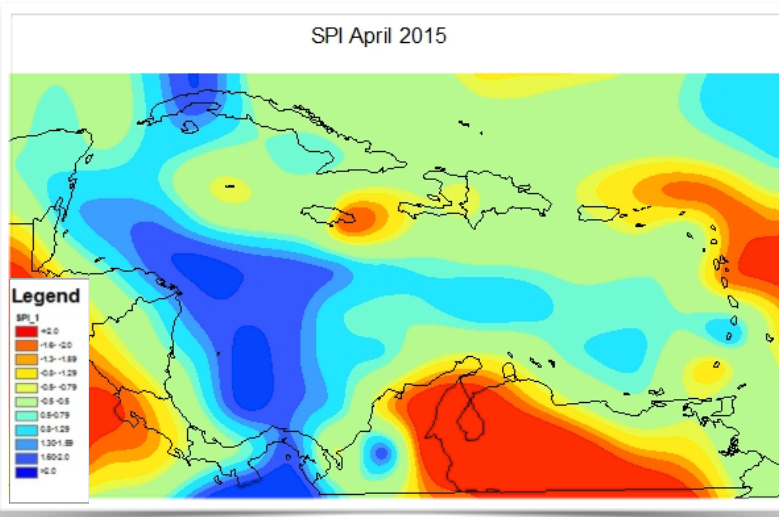
Generally dry conditions were experienced over most parts of Guyana for the month of April. In some regions, there were reports of the shortages of water supply for domestic purposes. (Guyana's Farmer's Weather Bulletin)

A third water catchment in Antigua falls below extraction level ([Antigua Clisec, April 2015](#))

The dry conditions in Dominica impacted vegetation and crops such as melons and pumpkins which were significantly affected by leaf curling. Onions were also affected and 35% of the crop was lost. Bush fires were also observed. ([Dominica Agro-Met Bulletin](#))

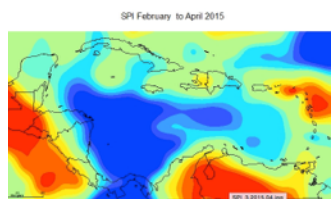
## Upcoming Events

The Wet/Hurricane Season CariCOF assembly scheduled for June 1st-2nd, 2015 in Castries, St. Lucia.

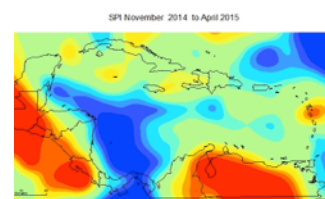


## February-March-April Rainfall Summary

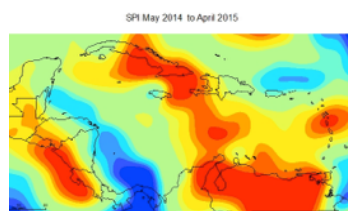
For the three month period, conditions were mixed over the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad and St. Kitts were slightly dry; Tobago and Grenada normal; Barbados slightly wet; St. Vincent moderately wet; St. Lucia normal to slightly wet; Dominica and Antigua severe to extremely dry; Anguilla extremely dry; St. Maarten exceptionally dry; St. Croix moderately dry; and Guyana slightly wet in the north to normal further south. Aruba was normal and Puerto Rico normal to slightly dry. Conditions in the Dominican Republic ranged from slightly dry in the west to moderately wet in the east. Jamaica was slightly wet in the west and normal in the east, while Grand Cayman was normal. Conditions in Belize ranged from moderately dry in the south to normal in the north.



FEB - APR 2015  
SPI 3 MONTHS



NOV 2014 - APR 2015  
SPI 6 MONTHS



MAY 2014 - APR 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...](#)

### For more information contact:

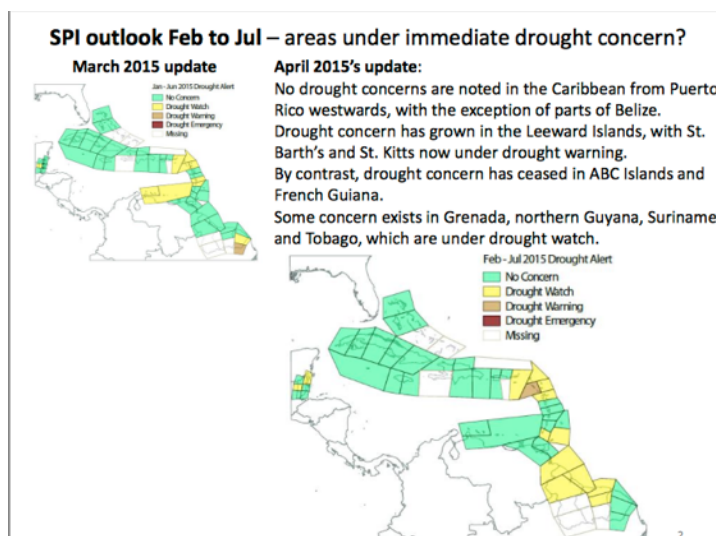
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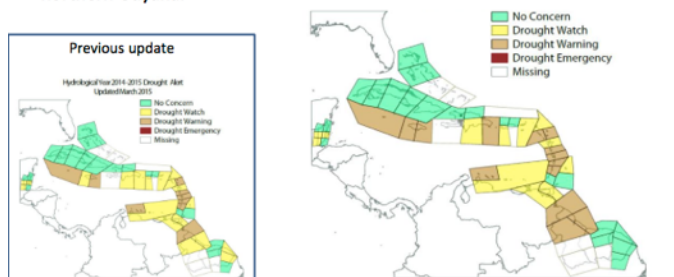
Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#) (Click here)

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



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

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until March 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater.
- Impactful hydrological drought is a concern across the region (except Bahamas, parts of Belize, Cuba, French Guiana, Grenada, Suriname and Tobago).
- A drought warning is issued for ABC Islands, Antigua & Barbuda, Cayman, Dominica, E Dom. Republic, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent as well as 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, including the Leeward Islands, are currently facing shorter-term drought.

### •Shorter-term:

—It is likely that a short-term drought situation may persist (and might intensify) in the Leeward Islands and deteriorate or improve in other areas

### •Longer-term:

—Because of below normal rainfall during the previous wet season, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles and northern Guyana toward the end of May.

—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. Areas with existing water shortages may not see any improvement until the upcoming wet season. [\[Available for download\]](#)