

# CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

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## Announcement

The entire Caribbean, particularly those in the east, should continue to monitor for low water availability over the coming months as the majority of the region draws closer to its climatological dry season, with still the potential for onset of an El Nino event. Greater concern exist over the Guianas until April 2015.

## Month at a Glance

There were diverse rainfall experiences during the month of October in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad, Grenada and St. Maarten were moderately wet; Tobago and Barbados abnormally dry; St. Vincent and Dominica severely dry; St. Lucia and Antigua normal; St. Kitts and Anguilla very wet; St. Croix moderately dry; and Guyana from very wet in the west to abnormally dry in the east. [Read more....](#)

## Headline Impacts

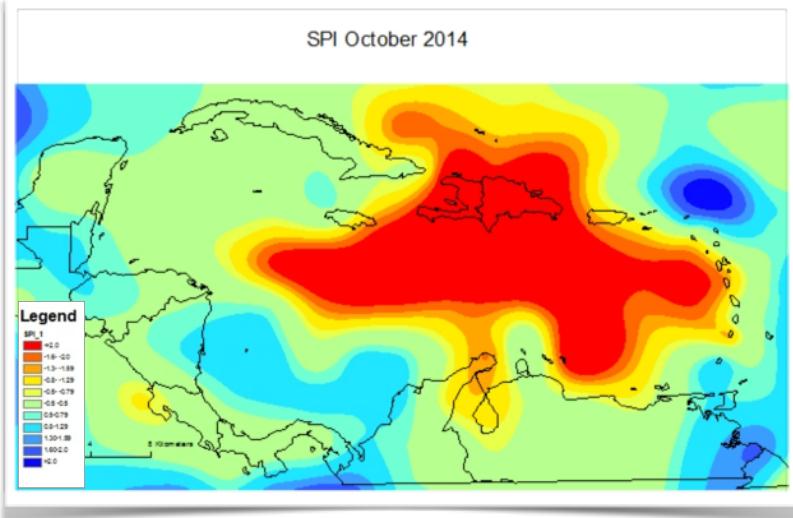
Prolonged drought in Haiti is likely to extend beyond October with the development of a possible El Nino event, which could jeopardise the performance of the growing season from August to December and trigger deterioration in food security particularly in the South and on the Central Plateau. ([USAID Food Assistance Fact Sheet](#); October 28th, 2014)

Farmers in the Buxton/Friendship area in Guyana complained about the lack of water over the month of October which impacted their irrigation schedule. (Guyana's Farmer Weather Bulletin, November 2014)

As is the seasonal nature of drought impacts in the Caribbean islands, influenced particularly by the eventual commencement of the wet season, most of the Caribbean is without significant drought impacts at this time.

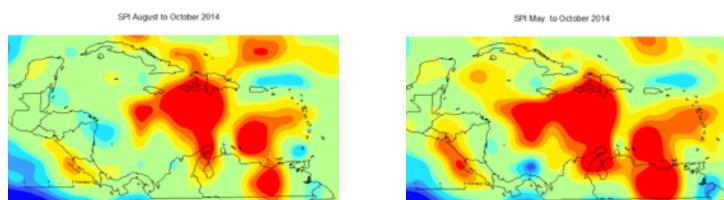
## Upcoming Events

CariCOF Dry Season Assembly in Antigua on December 1st-2nd, 2014.



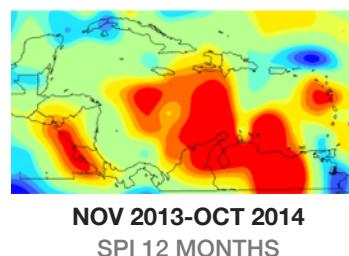
## August-September-October (ASO) Rainfall Summary

For the three month period, diverse rainfall conditions were experienced in the eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, Anguilla, St. Maarten and St. Croix were normal; Grenada moderately wet; St. Vincent and Dominica moderately dry; St. Kitts abnormally dry; and Guyana abnormally wet in the west and normal in the east. Puerto Rico was normal to abnormally wet; while Aruba was normal. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to extremely dry in the east, but Grand Cayman was abnormally dry. Apart from northern regions that were abnormally wet, Belize was normal.



AUG-OCT 2014  
SPI 3 MONTHS

MAY-OCT 2014  
SPI 6 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...](#)

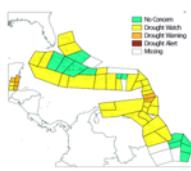
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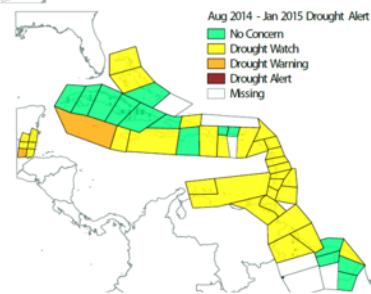
## Drought Outlook for the End of January *CariCOF's Drought Alert Map*

### SPI outlook Aug to Jan – areas under immediate drought concern?



**Previous month's update:**  
drought evolving over Belize, Dominica and Martinique;  
drought possible in most other areas (left inset).

**This month's update:**  
drought evolving over SE Belize and Cayman; drought  
possible in most areas (below).



**A drought watch continues for the eastern Caribbean, Guyana and the ABC islands at least until January 2015. Some concern has evolved over the western Caribbean in the vicinity of Belize and the Cayman Islands.**

Colour	Alert level	Meaning	Suggested action level
<b>GREEN</b>	No Concern	No drought concern	<b>Business as usual</b>
<b>YELLOW</b>	Drought Watch	Drought possible	<b>Keep updated, conserve water</b>
<b>ORANGE</b>	Drought Warning	Drought evolving	<b>Be prepared, conserve water, protect</b>
<b>RED</b>	Drought Alert	Drought of immediate concern	<b>Take action, ration water, protect</b>

## Current Drought Situation

-Haiti, the leeward side of Martinique and St. Maarten are in drought and have suffered water shortages.

-Recent drought conditions in Belize, Dominica and Jamaica have improved.

### Shorter-term Concern:

-We expect the drought situation to possibly appear in some of the islands and improve over others.

### Longer-term Concern:

- An El Niño is quite likely to happen. El Niño often results in a drier rainy season.

-Water shortages could occur in the dry season, which is our tourist season.

## **Caribbean Drought & Precipitation Monitoring Network (CDPMN)**

Available for download: [http://www.cimh.edu.bb/pdf/caricof\\_drought\\_end\\_Jan2015.pdf](http://www.cimh.edu.bb/pdf/caricof_drought_end_Jan2015.pdf)