



# DROUGHT OUTLOOK



## What is it?

- Identification of the region's ongoing and emerging drought concerns.
- Advance notice of expected drought alert levels for the coming season.
- Overview of shorter- and longer-term concerns in map and textual formats.
- Definition of the relationship between drought alert levels and the action levels they trigger.

## Where to find it

The CariCOF Drought Outlook is published on the 1st of each month. View and download the latest version at:  
<http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/outlooks/drought/latest>



## How it can help you

The CariCOF Drought Outlook provides early-warning information. It also suggests actions as practical information on how to effectively handle drought conditions across the region. It can help:



**THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR** mitigate and adapt to near-future water shortages through irrigation, pest management, mulching, seed selection, crop insurance, and water harvesting and conservation.



**THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTOR** release public service announcements and activate response plans.



**THE ENERGY SECTOR** take water conservation measures to achieve optimal balance of supply and demand. It can also enhance dam management for reliable hydro-power generation.



**THE HEALTH SECTOR** implement disease surveillance and manage the distribution of emergency water supply to help prepare for drought conditions.



**THE TOURISM SECTOR** integrate conservation efforts to reduce service interruptions and plan for changes in water, food and energy supply.



**THE WATER SECTOR** advise government on water rationing/restrictions, intensify resource protection including leak detection and distribution system repairs.

### Long-term drought outlook – drought concerns until end of the 2015 Caribbean hurricane/wet season (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015)?

- This 12-month SPI-based drought outlook uses observations until August 2015, with potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater. In general, impacts are expected if the 12-month SPI is  $\leq -1.3$  (very dry or worse – ref.: CDPMN).
- Impactful hydrological drought by the end of the wet season is a concern across all the Antilles (except Cuba) and in Belize.
- A **drought emergency** is issued for NW Belize and SE Puerto Rico. A **drought warning** is issued for Barbados, Belize, central Hispaniola, E Jamaica, Leewards, NW Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and Windwards.

