

Drought in Central America

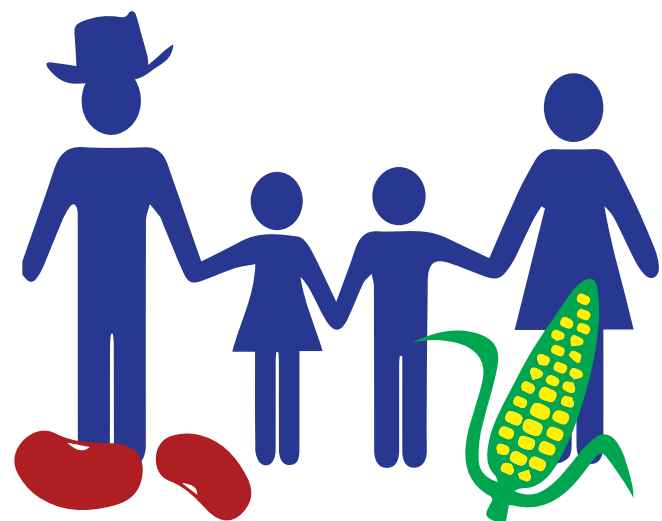
In Central America, droughts are becoming more severe and recurrent, especially for communities that live in the Dry Corridor and the “Arco Seco” of Panama.

EFFECTS OF THE 2014 DROUGHT:



In El Salvador, hydroelectric production was reduced from **35%** to **17%**

440 K small producers lost their basic grain crops,



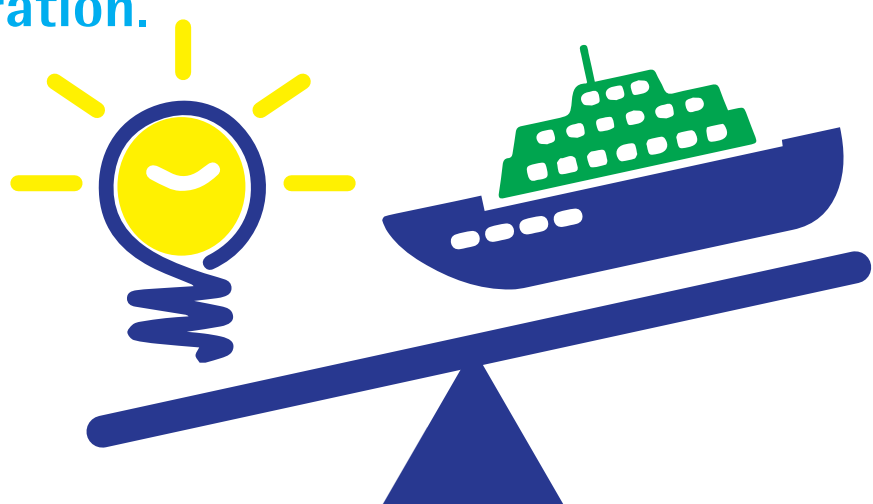
in GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS and NICARAGUA.



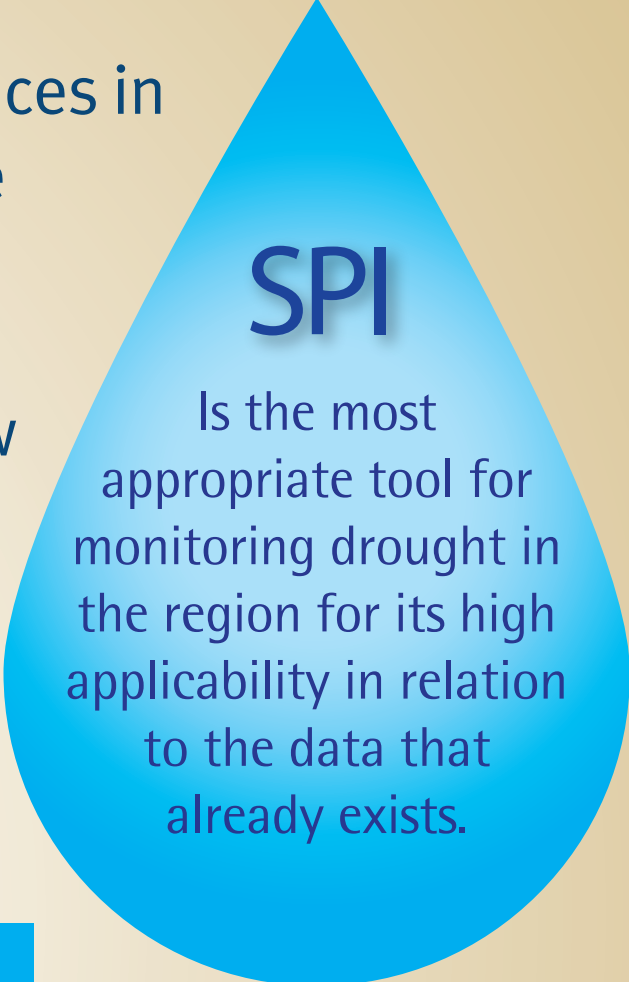
43 communal aqueducts were affected in northern Costa Rica, that is: **22 K people.**

The Panama Canal revenues for shipping are **200** times more substantial than hydropower generation.

IN 2014, THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY DECIDED NOT TO GENERATE ENERGY SO AS TO NOT AFFECT THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANAL.



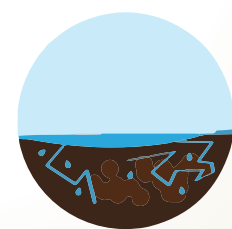
National climate services in Central America, have strengthened their capacity to monitor drought. They are now using a common tool, the Standardized Precipitation Index, SPI.



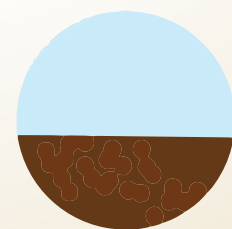
SPI

Is the most appropriate tool for monitoring drought in the region for its high applicability in relation to the data that already exists.

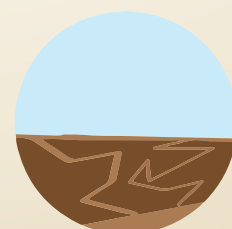
SPI RESULTS:



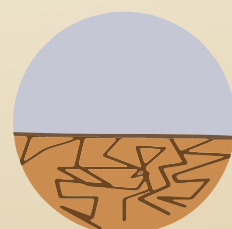
2,0+ extremely humid



-0,99 to 0,99 normal

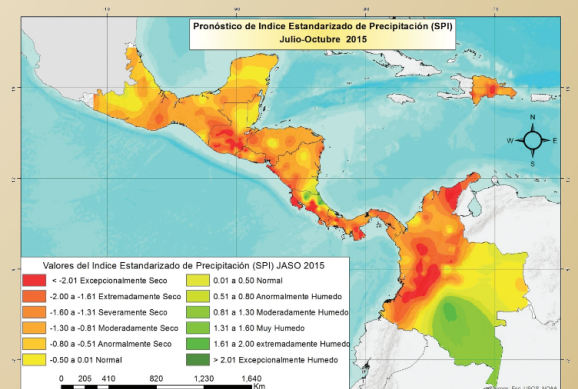


-1,0 to -1,49 moderately dry



-2 and less extremely dry

The SPI is based on the probability of precipitation. It can help to assess drought severity and provide an early warning of drought.



Example of a map with SPI results. Map taken from the Climate Forecast of July 2015, CRRH.

The SPI results are shared with national decision-makers, and in this way, countries are better prepared for the dry periods.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AN INTEGRATED APPROACH AND SHOULD BE PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF COUNTRIES.