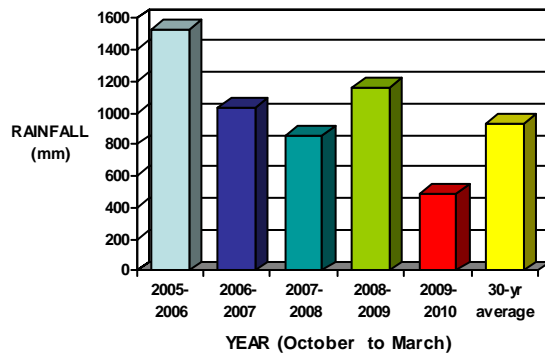


## Review of Strategies by the CWSA – A Response to the dry season 2009-2010

### BACKGROUND

According to the statistics at the Met office at the ET Joshua airport, St. Vincent and the Grenadines received significantly below par rainfall since October 2009.



Statistics show that even after having received 60% of the normal average rainfall during the months of October and November 2009, less than 3 inches of rainfall fell for the entire month of December 2009. The situation worsened in January when less than 3 inches of rain fell for the entire month and this was followed by a mere one-eighth of an inch for the entire month of February 2010. The dry spell continued well into March 2010 when only 2 ½ inches of rainfall was recorded. There were a total of seven (7) rain days for the year up to the end of March 2010.

This prolonged dry spell and the lack of rainfall resulted in significantly lower stream flows on many of the major rivers on mainland St. Vincent and in particular on the Vermont/Buccament river and the Montreal system of rivers and springs. This affected the production of treated water at some of the major water sources and forced the CWSA to put in motion a series of measures to ensure a satisfactory and equitable distribution of water supply to all the residents of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### STATUS OF SYSTEMS

1. **Hermitage** – No issues, excess capacity
2. **Layo** – No issues, excess capacity
3. **Dalaway, Stream 24** – inflow reduced to about 60%
4. **New Mamoon** – Not yet complete but activated to supplement the Supply from Majorca
5. **Montreal** – Worst affected, inflow reduced to about 50%
6. **Majorca** - Inflow reduced to about 50%
7. **Jennings** - Inflow reduced to about 90%
8. **Perseverance** – Inflow reduced slightly. No issues
9. **Sandy Bay**- Inflow reduced slightly. No issues
10. **Owia** - No issues, normal supply
11. **Fancy** – No issues, normal supply

## **CWSA'S RESPONSES TO THE PROLONGED DRY SEASON**

- Activated its emergency response teams by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Heightened Public Relations and sensitization of the public about:
  - a) the lack of rainfall
  - b) the reduced river flow into the intakes
  - c) the need for conservation measures and storage
  - d) the need to reduce the incidence of bush fires
- Arranged visits with the media to affected intakes and created a video documentary
- Produced and aired constant advertisements, news releases, notices to the general public
- Sections of the technical staff worked around the clock to monitor and control all systems during the periods of rationing
- Interconnected affected systems in order to utilize excess capacity on other systems like Jennings, Layou and the new Mamoom
- Trucked water to the higher elevation areas that experienced outages beyond 6 hrs
- Barged water to the Grenadines on demand utilizing the newly acquired water tender to aid in distribution on the islands
- Made additional arrangements for loading ships at the towns of Walliabou and Barouallie from the Hermitage system
- Inspected and monitor schools, public buildings and facilities for leaks (a large number of leaks were identified and repaired)
- Embarked immediately on the temporary disconnection of most all standpipes
- Constantly reviewed areas and timing of rationing on the Dalaway, Majorca and Montreal systems.