Kristin Wilson Grimes, Ph.D.
Virgin Islands Water Resources Research Institute
University of the Virgin Islands
Water Resource Sustainability Issues on Tropical Islands Meeting
Dec 1-3, 2015

Solomon Bay, St. John, VI
Photo: V. Wright
United States Virgin Islands

From Platenberg and Boulon, 2006
Water Conservation Mandated by Law

USVI < 40 inches of rain annually; Cistern pour, St. Croix
Tropical Storm Gabrielle
University of the Virgin Islands, Masters in Marine & Environmental Studies Class, 2013
Virgin Islands Water Resources Research Institute

VI WRRI established in 1973
VI WRRI Mission Statement

• **Three-Fold Mission:**
  - To conduct research on water resources and related areas;
  - To assist in the training of students and water resources professionals;
  - To provide information exchange in the area of water resources, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

• **Advisory Board assists in developing priority areas**

   UVI Masters of Marine & Environmental Studies graduate, Jess Keller ‘15
Current Projects

• **Engineered Pervious Layer for Rooftop Rain Harvesting and Solar/Dark Inactivation of E. coli** – Dr. Sangchul Hwang, UPR Mayagüez and Dr. Henry Smith, UVI, retired

• **Influences of Watershed Inputs on Water Quality and Bioluminescent Dinoflagellates in Mangrove Lagoon, St. Croix, USVI** – Dr. Bernard Castillo II, UVI, Kynoch Reale-Munroe, resident scientist, and Dr. James Pinckney, University of South Carolina

• **Water Ambassadors Program** – Christina Chanes, UVI Extension, Dr. Avram Primack, VI EPSCoR, Dr. David Morris, UVI

• **Support for this joint conference!**
Major Driver of Change: Land-Use Change

Botany Bay, St. Thomas, looking east
Major Driver of Change: Climate Change

Dry livestock watering pond, for goats, pond in Catherine’s Rest, St. Croix

St. Croix farmers brace for losses in face of 'worst' drought in years

BY AESHA DUVAL (SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS)
Published: July 24, 2015
Looking Ahead: Leveraging Opportunities

- Cross-systems comparisons and collaborations with other island WRRIs and the USGS Caribbean WSC
- Synergies with VI EPSCoR
  - Emerging Area: Watershed Dynamics
  - VI Environmental Analysis Lab
  - New Public Education and Outreach Director, Citizen Science Coordinator
  - VI STEM Institute, GK-12
- NOAA funds for watershed projects
Questions?
Kristin Wilson Grimes
kristin.wilson@uvi.edu
340.693.1392

Maho Bay, Virgin Islands National Park, St. John