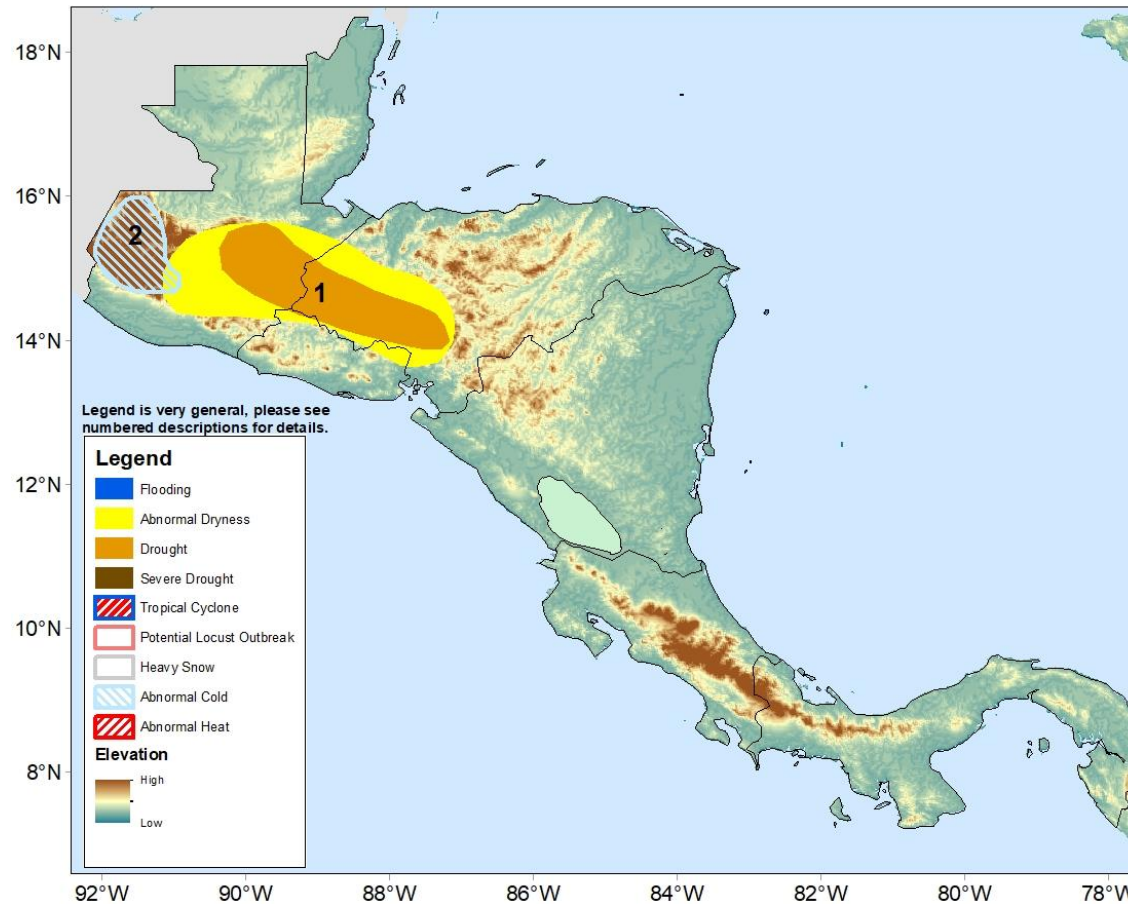




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 06 – 12 January 2022

A period of wetter than average conditions was observed during the last 30 days across northern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua.



1) Light and poorly distributed rainfall during late *Postrema* rainfall season has resulted in anomalous dryness signaling a delay in December-April seasonal rainfall with severe degraded ground conditions across several departments in eastern Guatemala and southwestern Honduras.

2) Possible freezing conditions are expected over the western part of Guatemala during the outlook period.

Possible freezing temperature can be expected across the western part of Guatemala during the outlook period.

A somewhat dryer pattern occurred last week across the region. Light rain (5-25mm) was received in some areas of northern and eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. Immediate coastal areas of Costa Rica and Panama saw light rainfall around 10mm or less. However, localized thunderstorms brought heavy rain (> 200mm measured) to parts of central Guatemala at the end of the period. The rain caused landslides, urban, and crop flooding. The week's pattern yielded small negative anomalies in the southern Caribbean and positive anomalies in central Guatemala. During the past 30 days, regions along the Atlantic side of Central America received significant amount of rainfall, with 50-100mm above average rainfall according to satellite estimates, especially over coastal area of northern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Southern Belize also observed large rainfall totals exceeding 50mm above normal rainfall which alleviated the abnormal dryness across the area. Several areas in eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua continue to exhibit moisture deficits during late *Postrera* and *Apante* season and do not show visible positive change on the vegetation health index. The NDVI still indicates poor ground conditions and even a negative tendency across southern Honduras and eastern Guatemala. Some improvement is seen in northwestern Nicaragua and is likely to continue in coming weeks after recent rains.

During the outlook period, a typical distribution of rainfall is expected across the region. Northern Guatemala, Belize, northern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua can expect 25-50mm. Seasonable rainfall is expected across Costa Rica, Panama, and coastal Pacific-facing regions. This increase of rainfall could be beneficial for crop activities, ground vegetation, and attenuate the ongoing forest fires and sugar cane fires across Guatemala.

