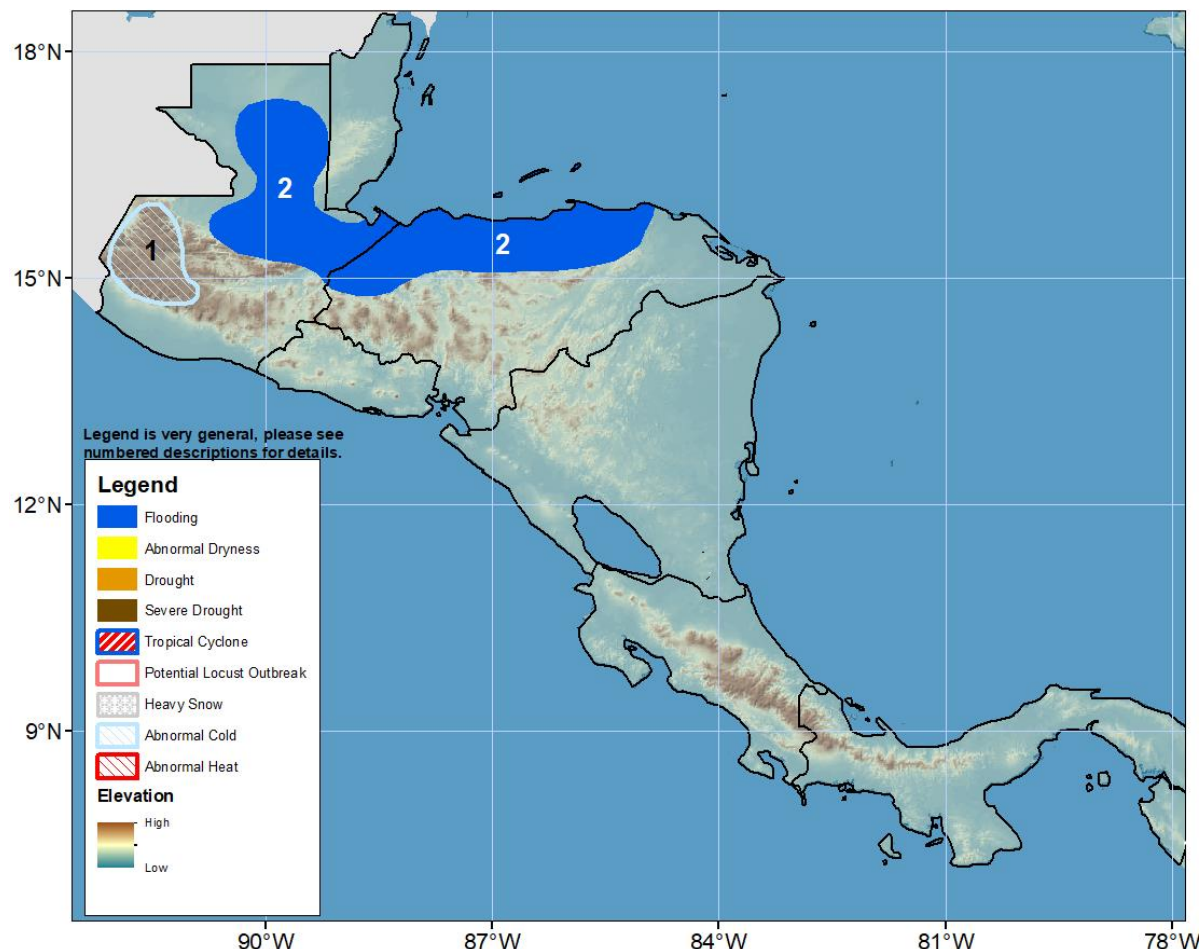




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 17 – 23 February 2022

Light to moderate rains forecast to continue, maintaining high risks for flooding over parts of Guatemala and Honduras



1) Model temperature forecasts indicated that below-average minimum temperature may continue over northern Central America, potentially resulting in near to below-freezing night time or early morning temperatures over the elevated terrains in western Guatemala during the outlook period.

2) This past week's increased rains triggered flooding over areas of the Petén, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal Departments of Guatemala, according to reports. Reports also indicated high river levels, flooding, damaged houses and infrastructures over the Atlántida, Yoro, The Bay Islands, and Cortés Departments of Honduras.

The forecast continued light to moderate rains maintain heightened risks for flooding over northern Central America.

During the past week, suppressed rainfall dominated over Central America. However, locally moderate rains fell along the Gulf of Honduras, localized areas of Guatemala, and the northwestern coasts of Honduras. This past week's increased rains triggered flooding over Sayaxche in Petén, Panzos and Cobán in Alta Verapaz, and Morales in Izabal Departments in Guatemala, Atlántida, Yoro, The Bay Islands, and Cortés Departments in Honduras, based on reports. An analysis of the past thirty days' cumulative rainfall indicated that near-average conditions prevailed over Central America. However, wetter-than-average conditions persisted over parts of northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Consequently, vegetation conditions improved relative to the conditions during early January over most areas, based on the most recent Vegetation Health Index (VHI) analysis. Also, reports indicated that an earthquake with its epicenter, located about 56 km from Mazatenango, struck Guatemala during early hours local time on 16 February, which impacted roads, crops, houses, and buildings across many areas in Guatemala.

During the outlook period, light to moderate rains are forecast over the Atlantic-facing regions in eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Light rains are expected over northern Guatemala, Belize, and the Gulf of Honduras. The forecast additional rains may exacerbate conditions over many previously-flooded areas in northern and eastern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Meanwhile, minimum temperature is again forecast to average below-normal over northern Central America, potentially bringing an abnormal cold weather that may negatively impact crops and the livelihoods of people over the higher terrains in western Guatemala.

