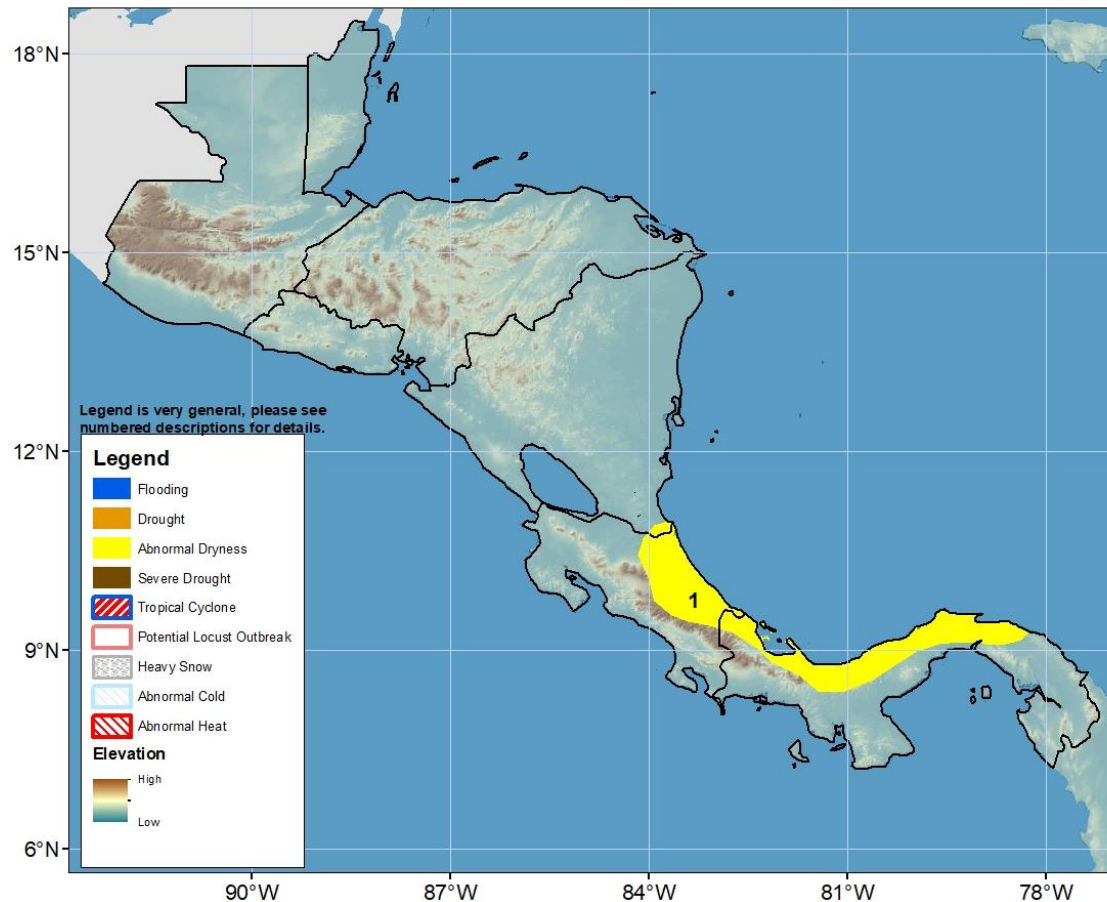


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 29 December 2022 – 4 January 2023

Central and northern portions of the region were seasonably dry while abnormal dryness has emerged to the south.



1. Suppressed rainfall and corresponding low SPI values in eastern Costa Rica and northern Panama have resulted in the placement of abnormal dryness.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Light and suppressed rains were observed for another week over southern portions of the region.

During the fourth week of December, most of Central America was dry. A little bit of shower activity occurred along the Caribbean coasts of Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as small portions of Costa Rica, central and eastern Panama. The lack of appreciable rain in eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama resulted in negative rainfall anomalies of 10-50mm for the week. Over the past 30 days, slightly below-average rain occurred in northern Honduras, while larger deficits (50-200mm) have accumulated in southern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and Panama. SPI as well as secondary rainfall estimates are coming into agreement about insufficient rainfall in Costa Rica and Panama so an abnormal dryness is placed. However, a beneficial end to the second rainy season was received through the rest of Central America where above average 30-day rainfall is still present. Vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory vegetation health for many parts of the region. Some minor indications of degraded ground conditions from recent dryness are evident in parts of Panama and Nicaragua.

For next week, model forecasts suggest moderate rain (25-50mm and locally more) is expected in eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, eastern and parts of Panama. Some lighter rainfall is expected in Belize and Costa Rica. Above-average mean temperatures are expected in the northern parts of the region during the outlook period. However, western Guatemala's highest elevations have reportedly dropped below in recent days in Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, and San Marco departments.

