



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 6 – March 12, 2014

- A favorable increase in rains expected for many interior portions of Guatemala and Honduras next week.



Suppressed rains were observed over much of Central America during the past week.

During the last week, a continuation little to no rainfall was observed throughout the majority of Central America. The highest rainfall accumulations were localized, with 30-50mm estimated in south central Guatemala, as well as throughout the Pacific departments of Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. On the Atlantic side of the region, a reduction of precipitation was observed. Rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated average to below-average rainfall across the region, with increasing negative anomalies over portions of northern Central America. The suppressed rainfall during February has not adversely impacted developing crops, however, the sustained dryness have created conditions that are favorable for forest fires over many local areas of Central America. In late February, ten wildfire locations were reported over the Quiché, Baja Verapaz, Sololá, and Suchitepéquez departments of Guatemala. Although rainfall March is climatologically drier than most months in Central America, a small increase in rains are typically expected for more areas along the Pacific and for interior departments.

During the next seven days, precipitation forecast suggest an increase in rainfall for interior portions of Guatemala and Honduras, with continued light rains along the Atlantic coastlines. Light to moderate rainfall amounts (20-50mm) are expected to provide beneficial ground moisture for central Guatemala and southern Honduras. Minimum temperature is likely to remain above freezing over the elevated terrains.

