



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 24 – December 30, 2015

- Above-average rains observed in Guatemala, Belize.



Average to below-average rains forecast over Central America during late December.

During the last week, much convective activity was observed along the Gulf of Honduras coastline, bringing ample amounts (25-100mm) of precipitation for parts of Honduras, northern Guatemala and Belize. Further south across portions of coastal Nicaragua and Costa Rica, lighter rainfall totals were received. During the last 30 days, seasonal rainfall continues to range between average to well above-average across much of northern Central America, with the largest moisture surpluses (>100mm) prevalent throughout many parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. Conversely, average to below-average conditions continue to be observed across many Atlantic coastal departments of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, as precipitation has generally trended in negative direction here since November. Satellite derived vegetation health indices continue to depict generally favorable ground conditions for much of Central America, with some local areas depicting less favorable conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, a more suppressed rainfall regime is forecast throughout Caribbean. The highest rainfall accumulations are expected across some of anomalously dry parts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Average to below-average rains are expected many areas in Gulf of Honduras region. Minimum temperatures are expected to be below-average across the higher elevations of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, but are not forecast to fall below freezing temperatures during the next seven days.

