



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 31, 2015 – January 6, 2016

- Suppressed rainfall observed throughout Central America during late December.



Average to below-average rains forecast over Central America during early January.

During the last week, a large scale reduction of Apante season rainfall was observed throughout much of Central America. According to satellite data, the highest rainfall accumulations were limited to the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with little rains received across Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. During the last 30 days, large moisture surpluses (>100mm) remain prevalent in coastal Guatemala, Belize, and northern Honduras due to enhanced rainfall activity earlier in December. However, a region of anomalous dryness has developing across several interior departments of Guatemala, where rainfall has been suppressed over the last 2-3 weeks. In the higher elevations of Guatemala, many local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since late November. Satellite derived vegetation health indices continue to depict generally favorable ground conditions for much of Central America; however some deterioration has been observed.

For the upcoming outlook period, a continued suppression of precipitation is expected according to model, but to a lesser extent over the Gulf of Honduras region where rains may be more seasonable. The highest rainfall accumulations (>25mm) are expected across the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Belize, with more moderate amounts forecast for interior department of northern Guatemala. 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.

