



## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 25 – March 2, 2016

- Increased rain forecast along the Atlantic Basin of Central America during the next week.



## Heavy rain is possible along the Atlantic Basin during the next week.

Over the past thirty days, moderate to large rainfall deficits have been observed in northern Guatemala, Belize, north-central Nicaragua, and southeastern Costa Rica. In contrast, small rainfall surpluses have been recorded in eastern Honduras, while near-average rain has been registered elsewhere. During the past week, a dry but seasonable weather pattern was mostly observed over Central America. Though, localized areas along the Gulf of Honduras such as Puerto Barrios of eastern Guatemala received higher (> 50 mm) amounts of rain. The continuation of marginal rain during this past week has contributed to maintaining below-average rain in western and northern Guatemala, north-central Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean since December of last year. However, recent field reports and vegetation index analyses have indicated favorable and healthy conditions over most areas of Central America.

During the next outlook period, the return of wetter weather is forecast as frontal systems are expected to move near or across Central America. Moderate to locally heavy rain is expected along the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean. The forecast heavy rain could trigger localized flooding and landslides over some areas. Light to locally moderate rain is expected over parts of the interior of the region, including the Alta Verapaz and Petén departments of Guatemala, north-central Honduras, east-central Nicaragua, and central Costa Rica. For temperatures, although minimum temperature could drop 2-6 degrees Celsius below normal during the next week, it is expected to remain near or above freezing point across the higher elevations of western and central Guatemala.

