



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 03 – March 09, 2016

- Seasonable conditions prevailed during the past week and should continue into the next outlook period



A reasonable pattern of light rains remains in place. Rainfall is expected to expand in coverage across the region.

During the past week, a rainfall pattern typical for the time of year prevailed for Central America. An area of enhanced precipitation was observed in the Gulf of Belize region. The heaviest rainfall remained off shore, but nearby areas did receive upwards of 50mm according to TRMM estimates. Belize saw widespread rainfall of 25mm or more. The Izabal department of Guatemala observed heavy rain, and moderate rainfall also stretched across northern coastal portions of Honduras. Moderate rain showers also occurred over the higher terrain of southern Guatemala. Showers were very widely scattered in nature across Nicaragua. Over the previous 30-day period, rainfall for much of Central America has remained very similar to climatology. The area with the most significant anomalies has been northern and central Guatemala, showing deficits around 50mm. Frequency of rainfall has remained normal, even if totals have been below average. Likely as a result of this, there have not been any negative effects to cropping reported thus far. Despite this, vegetation indices do indicate some possible stress to vegetation in those areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, an expansion of rainfall congruent with seasonal shifts in climatology is expected. Rain is expected for most areas of Central America with only areas along the Pacific coast remaining dry. Rain totals should generally remain light to moderate but some higher totals are possible in northern Guatemala and western Honduras. These areas could locally see more than 50mm of rain. Low temperatures are expected to be slightly below normal in Guatemala but are not expected to reach the freezing mark.

