



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 10 – March 16, 2016

- Ground conditions look to remain favorable across the region, with widespread rains likely next week.



Heavy, above-average rainfall was observed across northern Guatemala and Belize during the last week.

During the past week, the main story was the enhancement of rainfall in northern Guatemala and Belize. Elsewhere in the region, precipitation was close to normal. According to TRMM rainfall estimates, upwards of 150mm of rain fell over many areas of the Petén Province of Guatemala and Belize. These totals are well in excess of average for the beginning of March. More moderate rainfall totals extended southward across Guatemala and into many parts of Honduras. 25-50mm of rain was observed in these areas. Rain showers were generally light and widely scattered throughout the rest of Central America. Over the previous 30-day period, rainfall for much of Central America has remained very similar to climatology. The past week's precipitation pattern has helped to diminish existing deficits in north/central Guatemala. Vegetation indices show indications of good vegetation health throughout the entire region. Even those areas of Guatemala that had been slightly concerning have shown marked improvement during the last 7 days.

For the upcoming outlook period, Guatemala is expected to see a decrease in rainfall, while more widespread rain is expected to move into Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. These areas should see 10-25mm of rainfall with embedded higher totals possible, especially for El Salvador and western Honduras. Low temperatures are expected to be slightly below normal in Guatemala but are to stay just above the freezing mark.

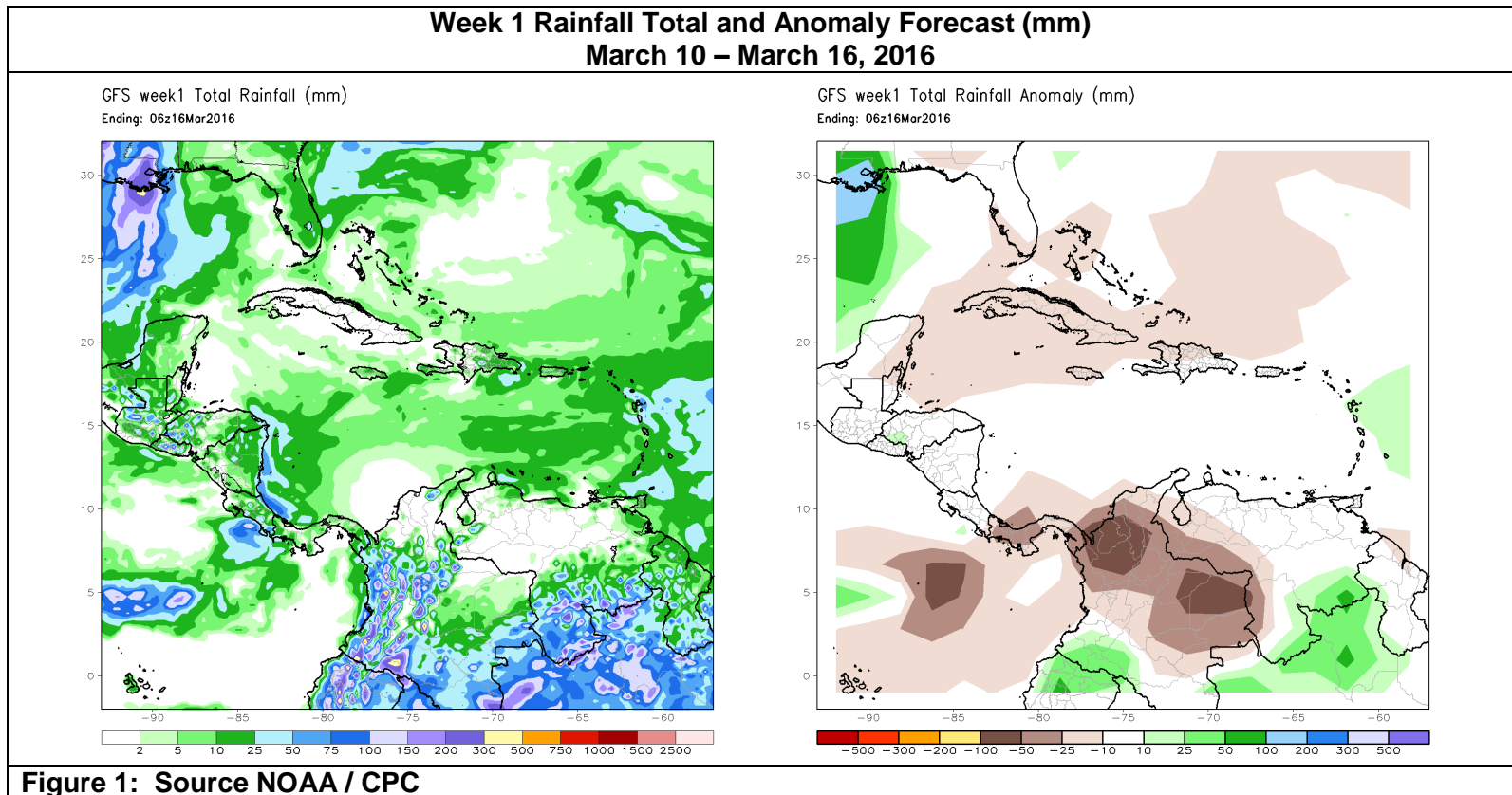


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC