



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 17 – March 23, 2016

- Favorable rainfall patterns have led to very positive ground conditions across the region.



Rain was heaviest in northern Guatemala, and lighter showers were widespread across the rest of the country and western Honduras.

During the past week, the heaviest of the rains were again concentrated in northern Guatemala and neighboring Belize. Localized areas received more than 100mm of rain according to TRMM estimates. Many other areas observed favorable rains for this time of year as well. Many areas in southern Guatemala received more than 10mm of rain, with local totals greater than 25mm. Similar totals were observed over many scattered areas of Honduras. Rain showers were much more widely scattered throughout Nicaragua. This overall pattern has yielded neutral or positive rainfall anomalies for the entire region. Over the previous 30-day period, precipitation anomalies have generally become favorable. Northern Guatemala and Belize exhibit the largest positive anomalies, greater than 100mm. Recent precipitation patterns have eliminated any dryness that existed in Guatemala. There are only some scattered very local areas showing any signs of vegetation stress according to the VHI. The pattern is, on the whole, extremely favorable.

For the upcoming outlook period, the area of enhanced rain should shift southward slightly into central departments of Guatemala. Totals there may exceed 100mm. But rainfall totals greater than 25mm is still likely across the Petén department. Elsewhere, rains are likely to be lighter and more widely scattered. Totals should be near to climatology or possibly slightly lower along Caribbean facing coasts.

