



## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 3 – 9 February 2022

Weather conditions with stronger-than-normal winds could bring abnormal cold weather over western Guatemala.



**1) The forecast passage of weather disturbances with stronger-than-normal winds is expected to bring cold air mass with near to below-freezing nighttime or early morning temperatures over the higher elevations in western Guatemala.**

## Suppressed rainfall prevailed over Central America during the past week.

During late January, suppressed but typical rainfall pattern during this time of the year dominated over Central America. Yet, locally enhanced rain triggered flooding, impacting crops over localized areas over the San Marcos Department in Guatemala, according to reports. Additionally, enhanced activities of the Santiaguito Volcano have dispersed volcanic ashes, impacting coffee, mani, and rubber tree crops over the Quetzaltenango and Retalhuleu Departments, based on reports. An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since December of the past year to present has indicated that near-average conditions prevailed over the interior of the region. Nevertheless, seasonal rainfall was above-average with surpluses over 50 mm along the Atlantic coastlines, including the Gulf of Honduras, eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. Conversely, rainfall was below-average with deficits ranging between 25 – 50 mm across central Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and the Atlantic tier of Panama. As the *Apante*, December – April, rainfall season progresses, while the Caribbean Littorals continue to receive their seasonal rain, the dry Pacific tier experiences many localized forest fires, according to recent analyses. Meanwhile, vegetation conditions were mostly adequate across the region. Though, residual poor conditions persisted over many localized areas, including parts of northern and central Guatemala, central El Salvador, and central Nicaragua.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggested that light to moderate rains are possible along the Atlantic-facing region of Central America. Moderate rains are also expected over parts of central Guatemala. The forecast passage of low-pressure systems along with stronger-than-average winds maintains increased chances for nighttime or early morning near or below-freezing temperatures, potentially impacting crops and livelihoods of residents over elevated terrains in western Guatemala.

