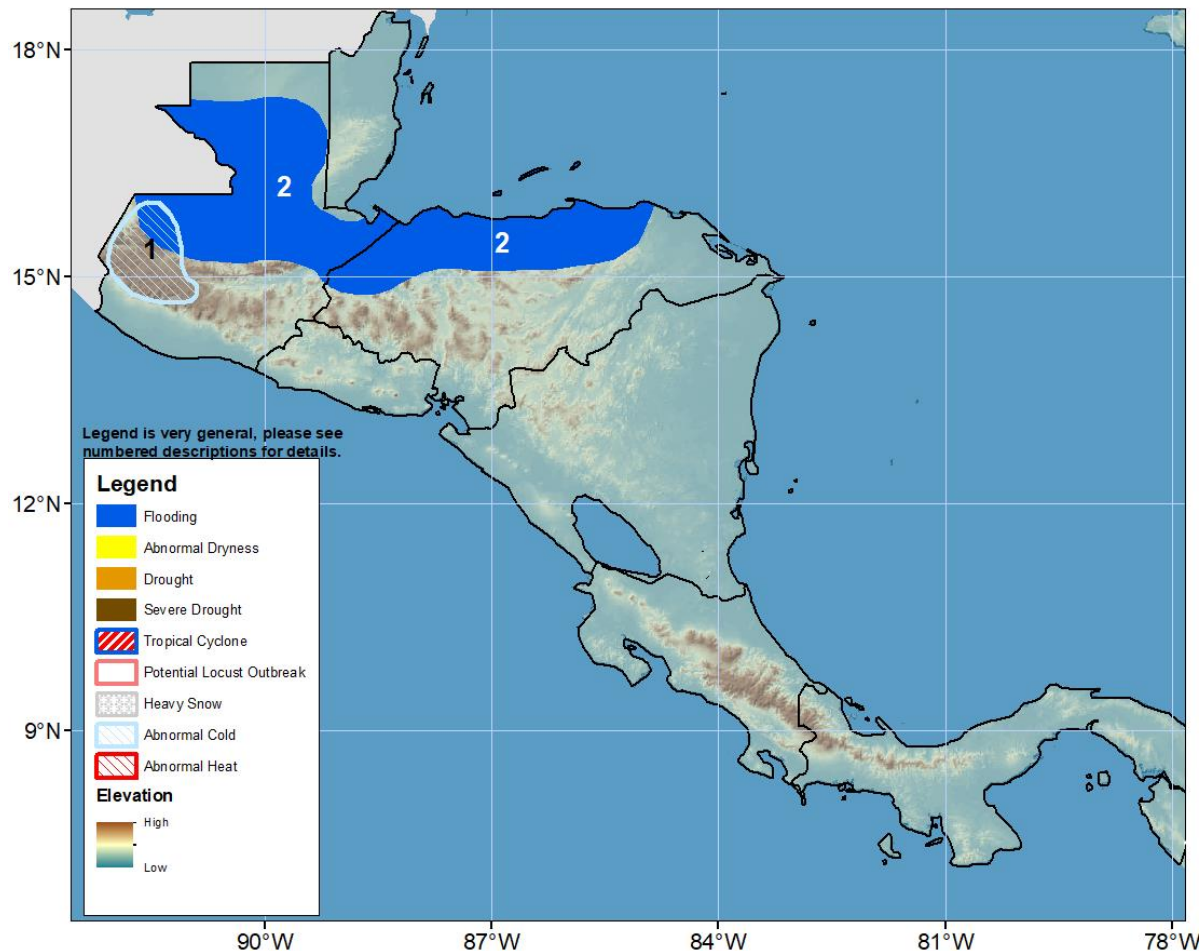




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 24 February – 2 March 2022

The potential for flooding remains over parts of Guatemala and Honduras as enhanced rains could continue.



1) Model temperature forecasts indicated that below-average minimum temperature may continue over northern Central America, potentially resulting in near to below-freezing night time or early morning temperatures over the elevated terrains in western Guatemala during the outlook period.

2) The past two weeks' increased rains have triggered flooding over areas of the Petén, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal Departments of Guatemala, according to reports. Reports also indicated high river levels, flooding, damaged houses and infrastructures over the Atlántida, Yoro, The Bay Islands, and Cortés Departments of Honduras.

Enhanced rains observed along the Gulf of Honduras during the past week.

During the past week, while suppressed rainfall was registered over much of the interior of Central America, locally moderate rains persisted along the Gulf of Honduras, the northwestern coastlines and the Bay Islands of Honduras. This past week's above-average rainfall contributed to maintain thirty-day moisture surpluses over portions of eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. Meanwhile, ongoing suppressed rainfall has sustained near-average conditions over the remainders of the region. This past ninety days, cumulative rainfall was between 200 – 400 percent of the average along the Atlantic tier of northern Central America and localized areas in western and northern Guatemala due to more frequent and increased rains along the Caribbean-facing portions of the region. In contrast, near to below-average seasonal rainfall was registered across central Honduras, central Nicaragua, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama. The latest update in Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) indicated that near-average vegetation conditions prevailed over Central America despite residual, poor conditions over some localized areas.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggested that enhanced precipitation pattern, with light to locally moderate rains, is to continue over northern Guatemala, Belize, and the Gulf of Honduras, which could exacerbate the ground conditions or even trigger new flooding over many already-saturated areas in the region. Light to moderate rains are also expected along the eastern littorals in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Meanwhile, minimum temperature may once again average below normal over parts of northern Central America, which could bring near or below-freezing temperatures over elevated regions in western Guatemala.

