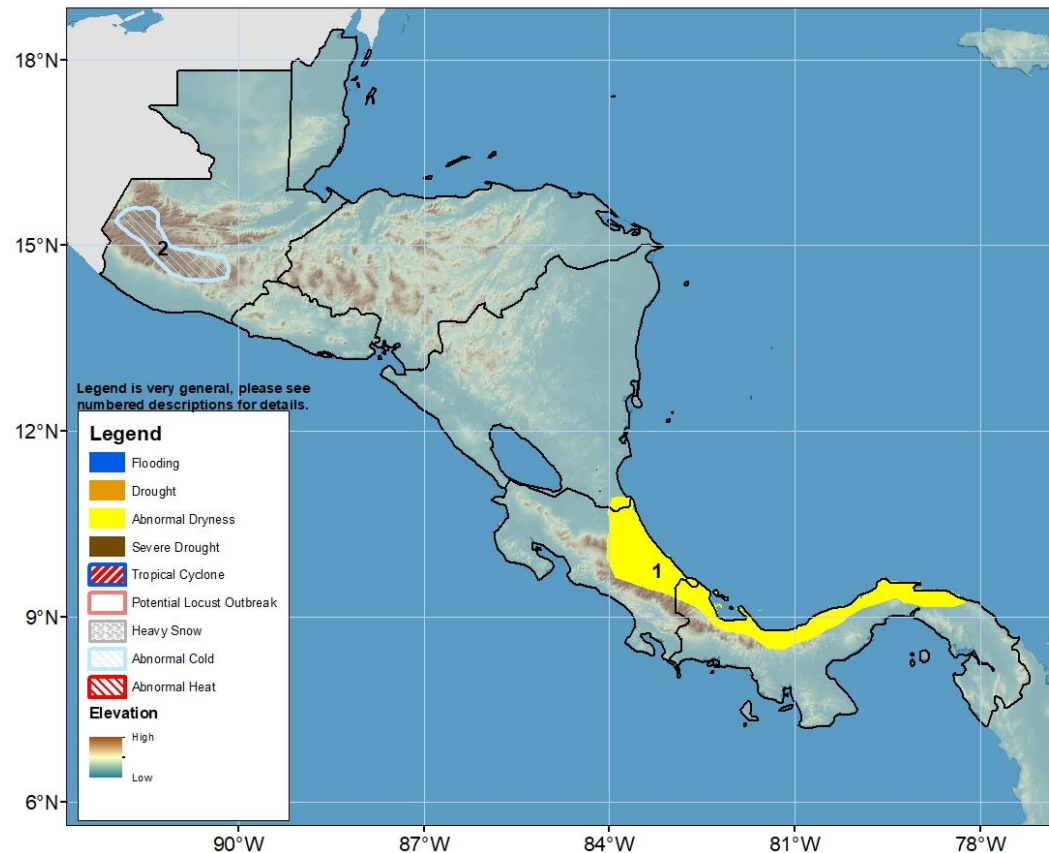


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 19 – 25 January 2023

Dryness and below-freezing temperature continues in parts of the southern Caribbean and Guatemala, respectively.



1. Suppressed rainfall since December of the past year and the corresponding low Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) values in eastern Costa Rica and northern Panama have led to abnormal dryness in the region.
2. Near-average to below-freezing temperatures are expected to persist over the higher elevations in Guatemala as a result of frontal systems moving across northern Central America during the next week. In addition, despite the high daytime temperatures, the thermal amplitude favors frost conditions in western Guatemala.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Rainfall is expected to be at or below-average over Central America during the next week.

During the past week, Central America registered another week of suppressed rainfall, which maintained overall dry conditions in the region. However, little to light (up to 25 mm) rain fell over localized areas in southwestern and eastern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama. This past week's rain amounts were near average; however, the past 30-day cumulative rain remained below-average, with deficits between 25-50 mm along the Atlantic Littorals in Costa Rica and Panama. Moreover, drought monitor such as the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) also showed negative values, indicating persisting dryness in the region. Meanwhile, a large diurnal temperature range, dry soils, and strong winds have led to environments, conducive to forest fires over many local areas in Central America.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts indicated that little to no rainfall is likely to continue over most areas, except for eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and parts of Panama, where moderate rain is possible. The continuation of near-average to below-average rain could maintain thirty-day rainfall deficits, and hence dryness in the dry portions of the region. Meanwhile, the forecasted approach of a frontal system across northern Central America during the early outlook period may bring cold air mass, with minimum temperature nearing or descending below the freezing point across the higher elevations in western Guatemala, which could negatively affect local residents or leading to frost in the region.

