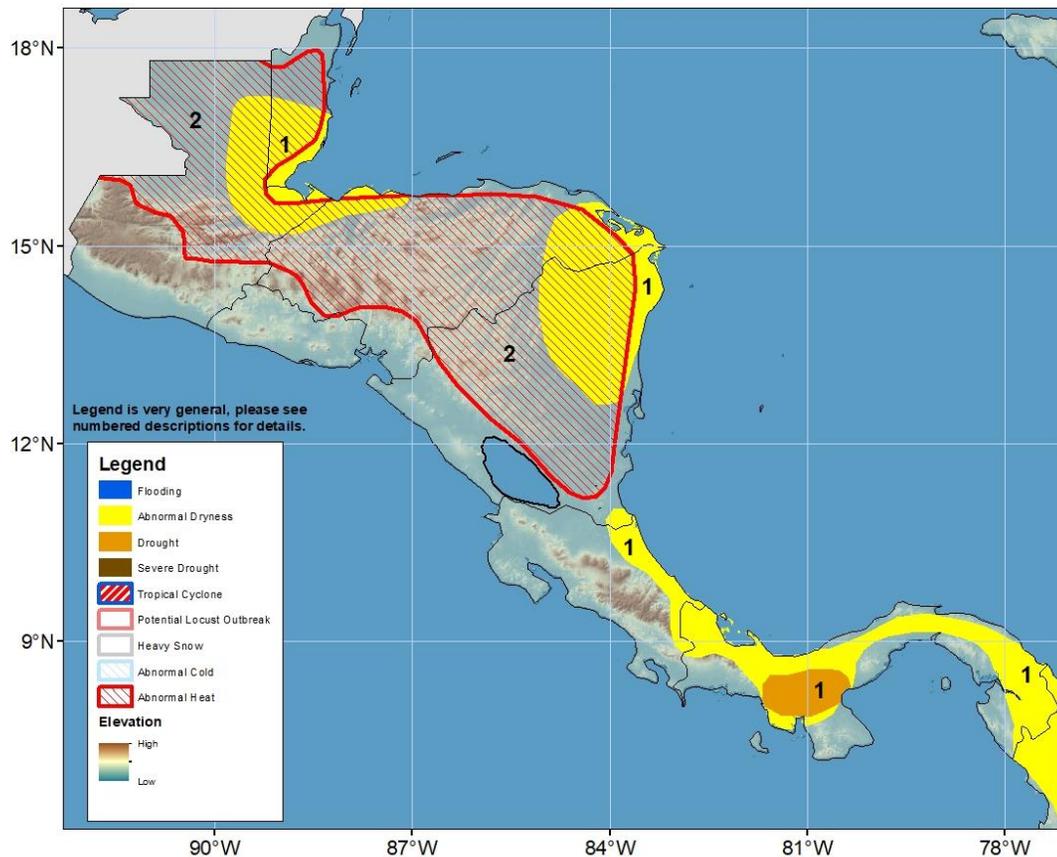


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 28 March – 3 April 2024

Much-above average temperatures and dry conditions likely to continue over Central America



- 1) The lack of rainfall in the past 30 and 90 days has resulted in prolonged dryness in southern Belize, northern and southern parts of Honduras, central/northeastern Nicaragua, and the Caribbean Tiers of Costa Rica and Panama. The observed rainfall deficits and above-average temperatures continue to affect the shipping industry in the Panama Canal.
- 2) Temperature forecasts suggest that mean maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than average by 4-8 degrees across much of Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, northwestern El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

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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Relatively dry conditions remained in place during the past week.

During the past 7 days, Central America observed little rain. Some light rains occurred in central Guatemala. Locally moderate rain occurred in Costa Rica and some coastal portions of Panama, while localized anomalously high totals more than 100 mm occurred in central Honduras. The pattern yielded 10-25 mm negative anomalies across parts of Guatemala, and northwestern Honduras. Over the past 30 days, below-average conditions covered much of the region. Dryness, with rainfall deficits between 25-100 mm, was present in parts of northern and central Guatemala, southern Belize, Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and portions of Costa Rica and Panama. Over the past 90 days, areas such as north-central Nicaragua and central Guatemala continued to register total rainfall below 25% of the average. Abnormal dryness is posted over the dry portions of Central America, where insufficient rainfall has affected conditions on the ground. Low stream flows across many areas, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua may adversely affect irrigation upon the start of the next growing season. Guatemala's sugar cane yields are already likely to be lower this year as a result. This is also adversely affecting energy production in Guatemala, which issued a declaration of emergency valid through June. Meanwhile, abnormally hot temperatures have continued over parts of the region.

During the next week, forecast call for moderate rainfall greater than 25 mm in northwestern Honduras and rainfall of 10 - 25 mm in Belize, northern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua Costa Rica and Panama. Scattered light showers are possible elsewhere. This will yield small negative anomalies for Caribbean-facing regions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala. Meanwhile, well-above average mean maximum temperatures are forecast across the region. The hot temperatures in many cases will be warmer than 35°C and reach 4 – 8°C above average. Burning activities, combined with strong winds, above-average temperatures, and dry conditions increase the risks for forest fires over many areas in Guatemala.

