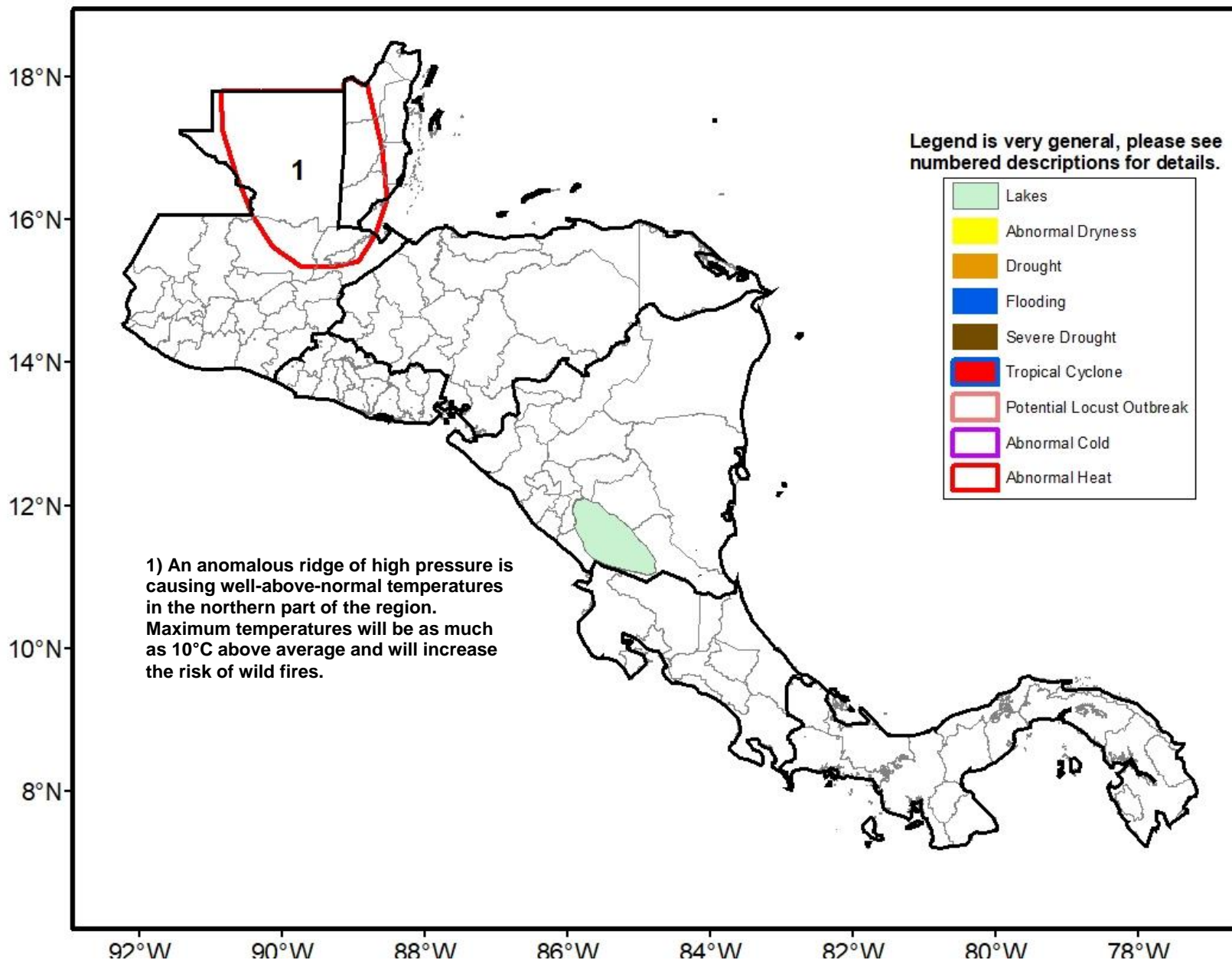




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 23 - 29, 2020

- Rains were suppressed for a large portion of Central America.



A broad and anomalous upper-level high continues to bring abnormal heat and dry conditions to portions of the region.

For the second week in a row, suppressed and light scattered rains were observed over most of Central America. A few light showers and thunderstorms were observed in Guatemala, western Honduras, and western Nicaragua. According to satellite estimates, local rainfall totals were around 25mm or less. Elsewhere, rainfall was more substantial in Costa Rica and Panama. An increase in moisture brought as much as 25-100mm of rainfall to those two nations. Moisture conditions had generally been sufficient and near or above normal in the region during the Apante season. However, during the last few weeks, some regions have begun to develop moisture deficits as the Primera rains have been slow to increase. Negative 30-day anomalies of 25mm to more than 50mm are visible in northern Guatemala, Belize, and now parts of Honduras. Early-season deficits have improved somewhat in the southern Caribbean after this week's increased rains. Drought monitors and vegetation health indices still suggest that ground conditions are largely good in the region. A few local areas of Belize and northern Guatemala are the exception.

During the outlook period, model guidance indicates at least moderate rain in southern Guatemala and western Honduras. However, a similar forecast last week did not verify. Rains should continue to be suppressed in northern Guatemala and Belize. Additional seasonable moderate rainfall is forecasted across Costa Rica and Panama, where totals could exceed 50mm in local areas. Abnormally hot temperatures, persisting from the past week are forecast to continue into the outlook period raising wild fire risk.

