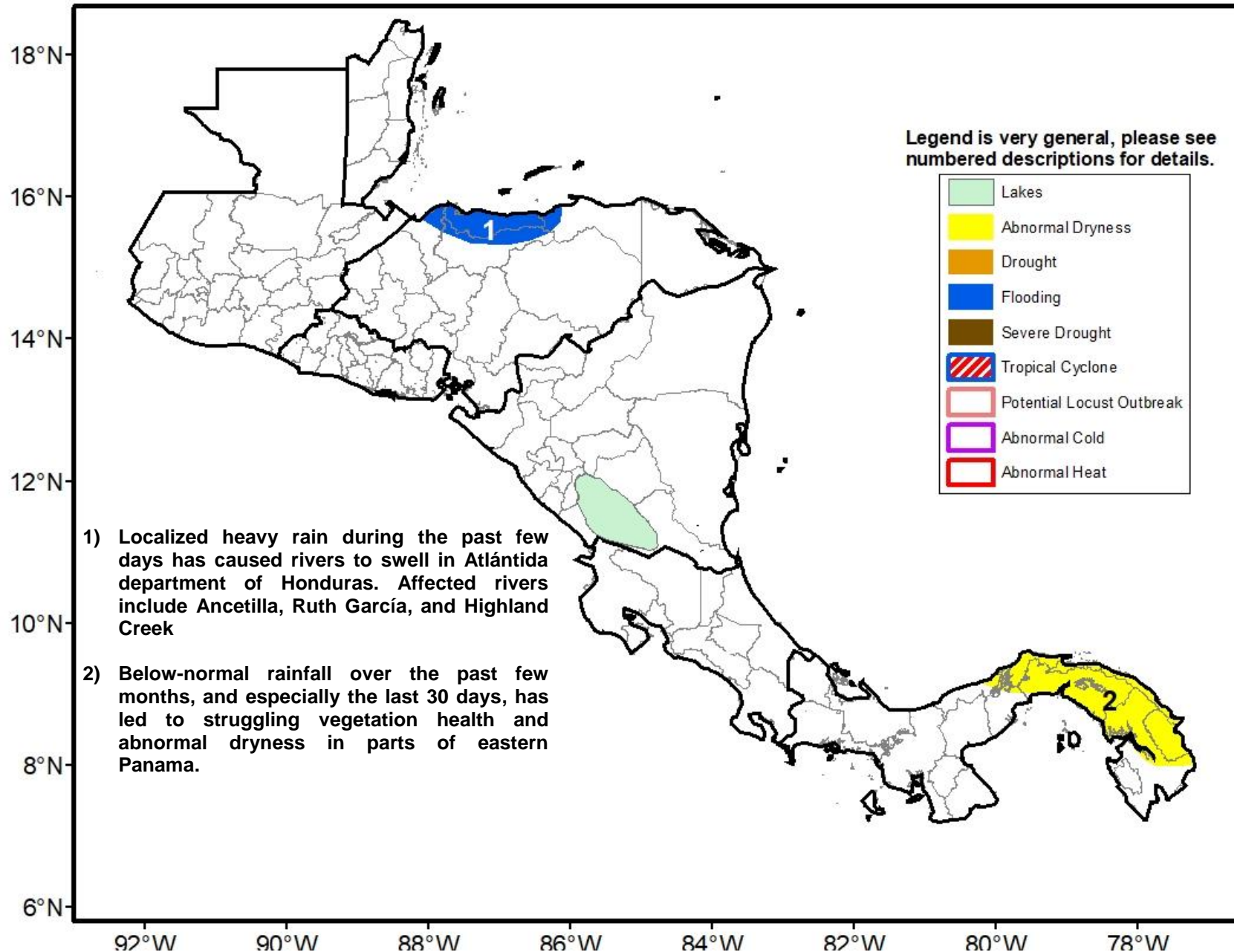




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 21 – January 27, 2021

Moderate to heavy rains fell in Honduras and Belize as well as the abnormally dry portions of Costa Rica.



A transition to dryer conditions is forecasted for the coming week.

Some areas of heavy and above-normal rainfall were observed along the region's Caribbean coastline this past week. Total rainfall of 50mm+ was observed according to gauges in Belize. Even heavier rainfall, exceeding 100mm, was observed in northern Honduras and eastern Costa Rica. This has caused some flooding issues in northern Honduras. The rainfall in eastern Costa Rica served to reduce seasonal moisture deficits, greatly benefitting the region. Light to moderate rains occurred in northern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and Panama, while characteristically dry conditions were present for Pacific-facing parts of the region. Over the past couple months, rain has been suppressed in the southern Caribbean. Some 30-day rainfall deficits are still present in parts of Costa Rica and Panama, despite recent rains. Seasonal performance throughout the rest of the region has been good. After the uneven rainfall performance, vegetation health is negatively affected in parts of Panama according to NDVI. Abnormal dryness is posted in Panama where short and long-term rainfall deficits still persist.

During the outlook period, rains are forecast to decrease across the region. Totals for the week should remain around 25mm or less, but perhaps a little higher in Costa Rica. These totals are generally a little suppressed below normal for late January. Temperatures are forecast to remain near average throughout the region, so subfreezing temperature will not be a major threat.

