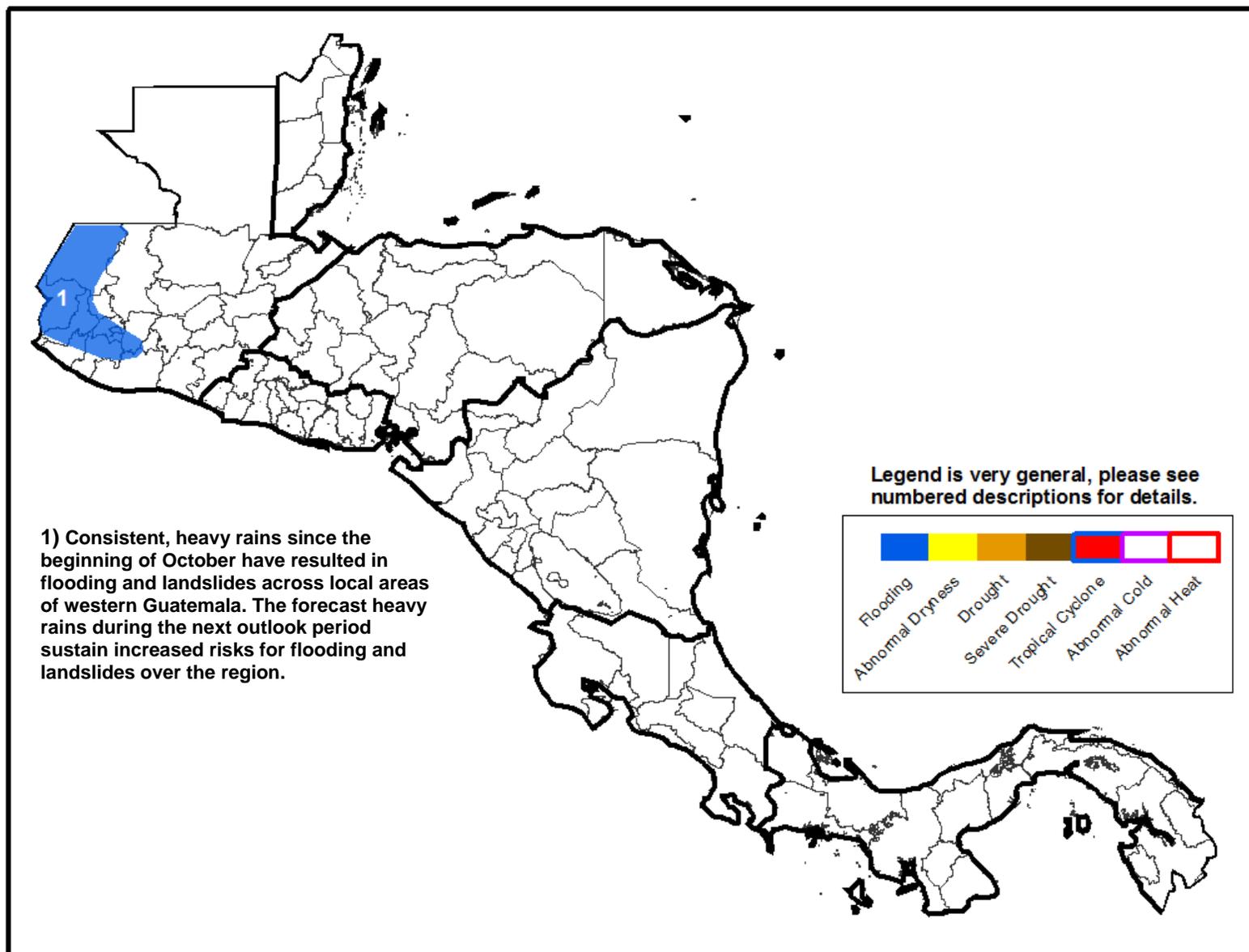




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 24 – October 30, 2013

- Heavy rains forecast to continue over western Guatemala during the next week.



Heavy rains expected along both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Central America.

During the past week, heavy and above-average rains were observed along the Pacific rims of Central America, while light to moderate and below-average rains were recorded along the Atlantic coasts of the region. The heaviest (> 150 mm) rains were registered across southwestern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, northern Pacific region of Costa Rica, and western Panama. Moderate to heavy rains also fell across much of Nicaragua. In contrast, reduced rains, with light to moderate rainfall amounts were received across Honduras and central Guatemala during the past week. Along the Gulf of Honduras, since late September, a poor rainfall distribution has contributed to growing rainfall deficits across the Petén department of northern Guatemala, much of Belize, and northern Honduras. Indices for vegetation conditions, however, still indicated overall favorable crops over much of Central America with the exception of localized areas of northwestern Honduras. The return of favorable rains is needed in order to reduce moisture deficits across the Atlantic Basin of Central America.

For next week, anomalous low-level convergence, with moisture influx from the Pacific is expected to bring another week of heavy rains over the western two-thirds of Guatemala. This could potentially trigger new flooding and exacerbate ground conditions over many already-saturated areas of the country. Meanwhile, heavy rains are also forecast along both the Pacific and Atlantic Basins of Central America. In contrast, reduced rainfall, with light to locally moderate rains are expected over Nicaragua. To the south, abundant (> 50 mm) rains are forecast over the southern Caribbean.

