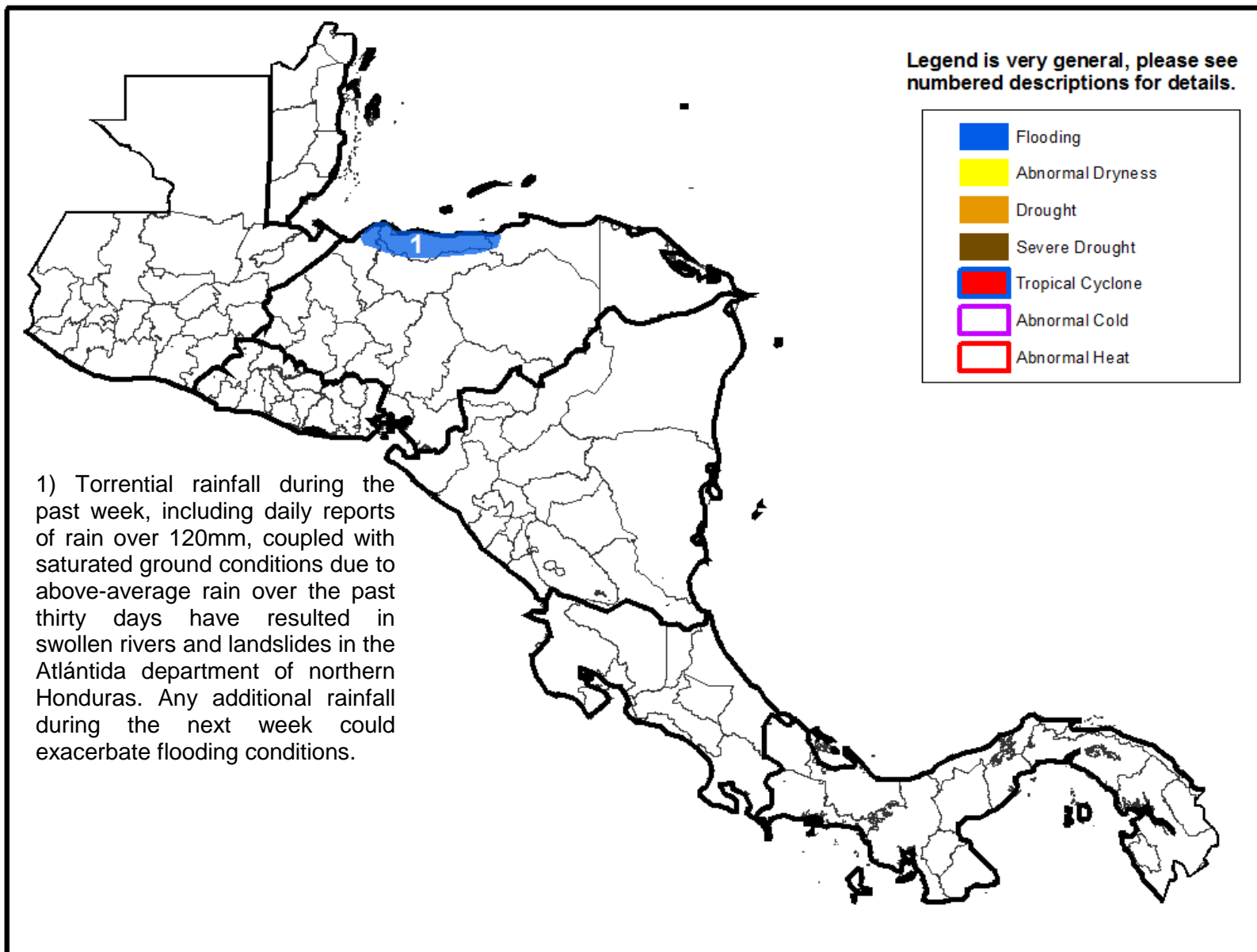




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 9, 2014 – January 15, 2014

- Heavy coastal rain showers continued along the Gulf of Honduras causing flooding in Honduras.



Heavy coastal rain showers continued for a third consecutive week along the Gulf of Honduras.

During the past week, much of Central America observed little to no rainfall except for coastal areas along the Caribbean. For many locations, this was a second consecutive week of reduced rainfall. However, for coastal areas along the Gulf of Honduras in Honduras, Guatemala and Belize as well as areas farther south in Costa Rica, heavy coastal rain showers (>40mm) continued during the last seven days. The heaviest rains fell across Belize and northern Honduras as over 80mm was recorded. The rains in the Atlántida department of northern Honduras have resulted in localized flooding, stranding over 20,000 people. The abundant coastal rains have added to already substantial thirty-day rainfall surpluses as rainfall totals are over 200% of normal. However, the gradual reduction in rainfall climatologically is likely to alleviate saturated ground conditions and keep soil favorable for winter cropping activities during January in most of northern Central America.

For the upcoming seven days, a lingering cold front at the beginning and end of the observation period is likely to enhance rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras, especially in already saturated areas in Belize and Honduras. The heaviest rains (>50mm) are forecast for the Caribbean coastlines of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy coastal showers (>25mm) are expected farther south in eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Lesser rainfall totals are expected farther inland across Central America. Minimum temperatures are also not expected to drop below freezing during the next week in the highest elevations.

