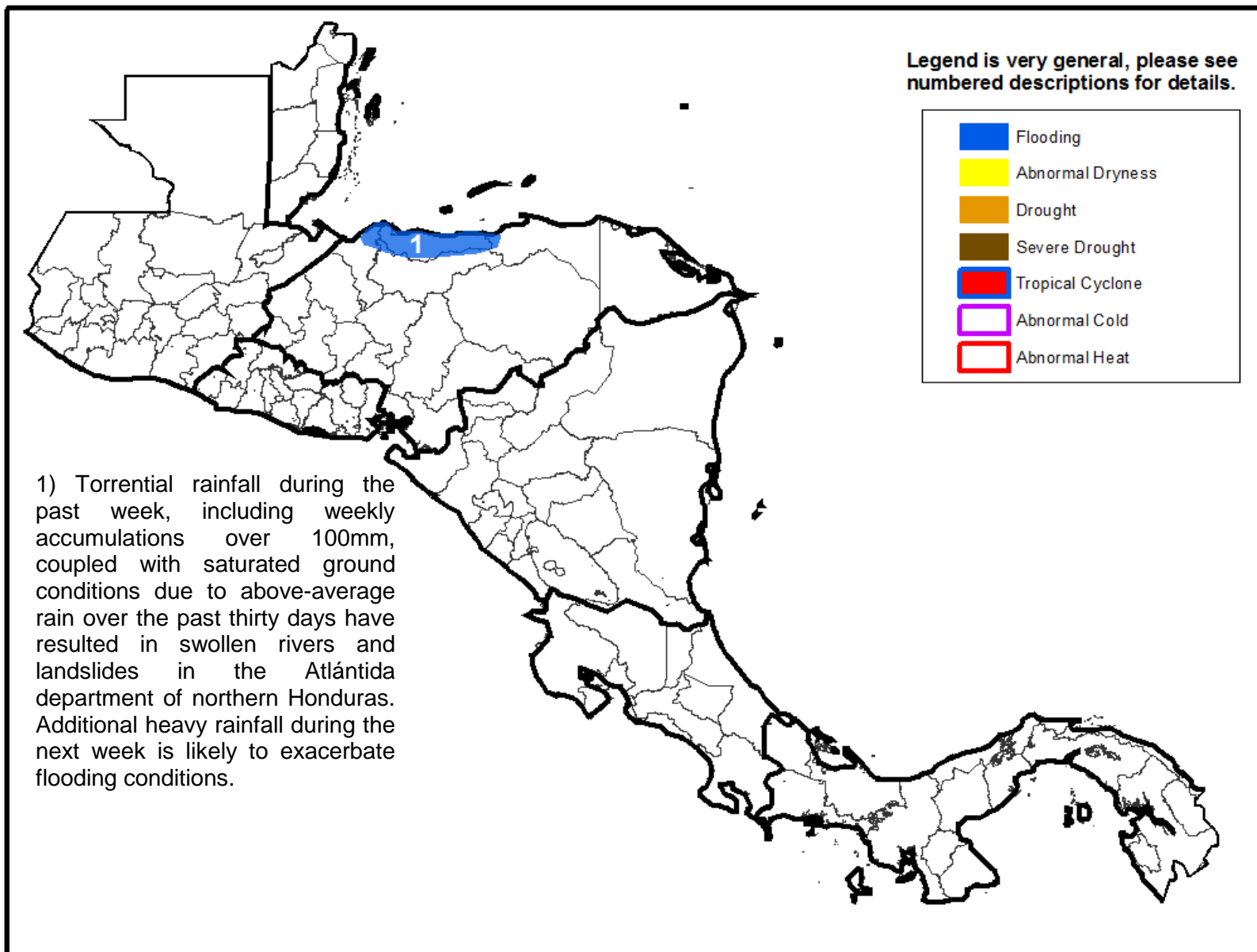




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 16, 2014 – January 22, 2014

- Torrential daily rainfall during the past several weeks has saturated areas in northern Honduras.



Heavy rainfall is observed for a third consecutive week in the Gulf of Honduras.

During the past seven days, rainfall was localized across the Gulf of Honduras and southern Central America. The highest weekly rainfall totals (>100mm) were located along the Gulf of Honduras coastline in the Atlántida department of northern Honduras. The torrential rains around La Ceiba in northern Honduras have led to localized flash and river flooding, which has stranded more than 20,000 people over the last several weeks. The continued above-average rainfall across the Gulf of Honduras has led to thirty-day and Apante season rainfall surpluses as rains have been 200% of normal in some locations in Honduras. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) was observed in Belize, the Izabal department of Guatemala, interior portions of Honduras and areas farther south in eastern Costa Rica. Elsewhere, little rain (<15mm) was observed. Overall, much of Central America has recorded average to above-average seasonal rainfall during the Apante season.

For the upcoming observation period, a cold front is expected to linger across northern Central America, enhancing rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras. This is forecast to lead to heavy rains (>50mm) across already saturated areas in northern Honduras. The forecast heavy rains are likely to keep flooding risks elevated across the Atlántida department of Honduras into the next week. The front will also usher in colder temperatures to higher elevations in Guatemala, although temperatures should remain above-freezing. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) is forecast for the Caribbean coastlines of Costa Rica and Panama, while light rains (<15mm) are expected for interior portions of Central America.

