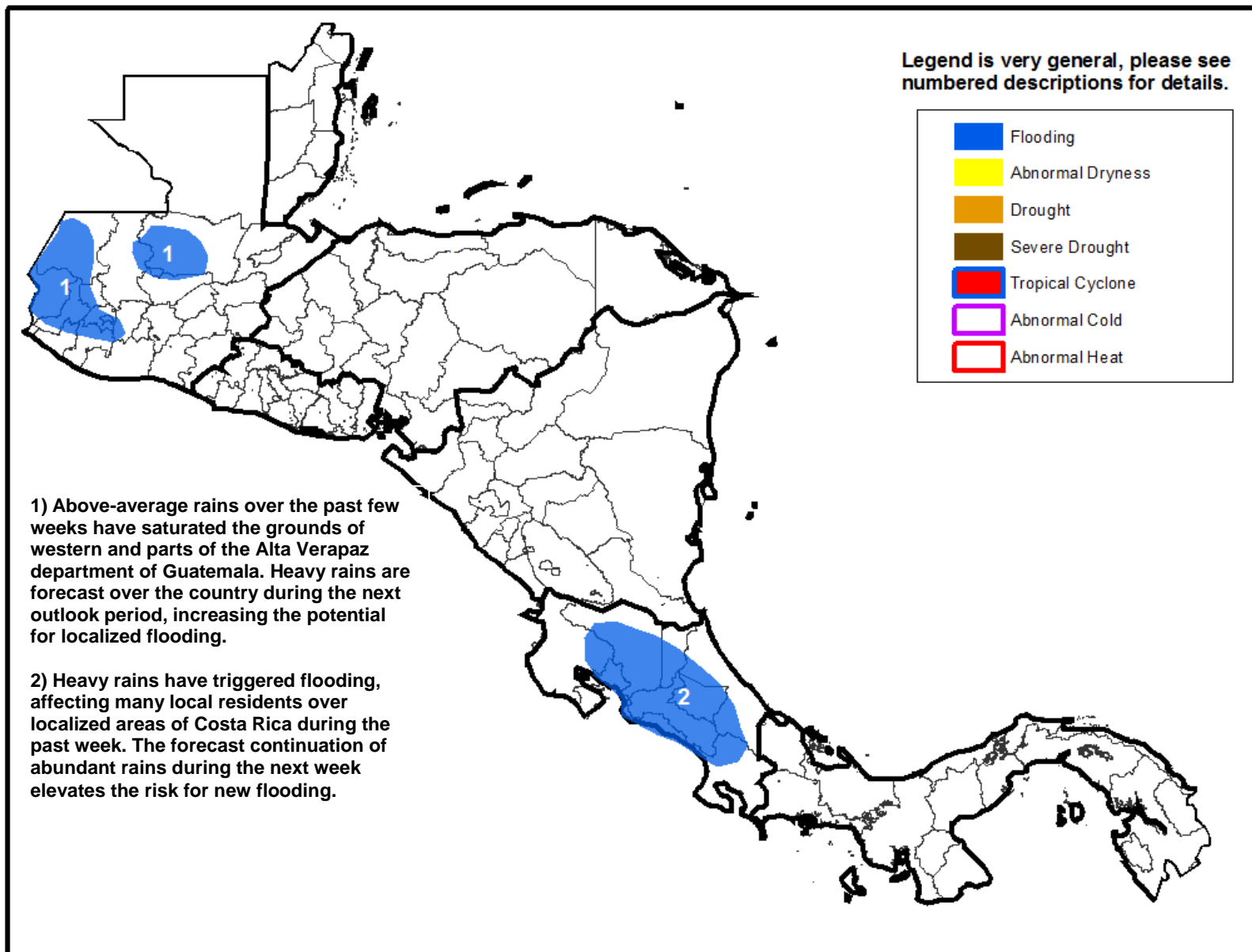




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 1 – May 7, 2014

- Heavy rains are expected along the Pacific Basin of Central America during the next week.



Heavy rains forecast over many areas of Central America.

Average to above-average rains were observed over much of Central America during the past week. Heavy rains fell over southwestern Guatemala, western El Salvador, southwestern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama, while light (< 20 mm) rains were recorded elsewhere. In northern Central America, the continuation of heavy rains has increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses over southwestern Guatemala. Conversely, dry weather throughout April has increased moisture deficits over central and eastern Guatemala onto much of Honduras. Farther south, this past week's heavy rains helped to neutralize rainfall deficits over many local areas over the past thirty days. Recent vegetation indices showed that unfavorable conditions have developed over localized areas of the Petén department of Guatemala and north-central Honduras due to insufficient rainfall. The return of enhanced rains is needed to eliminate accumulated deficits and replenish ground moisture across many local areas of Central America.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest heavy rains over Central America. Copious (> 50 mm) amount of rains are expected over Guatemala, particularly the western parts and Alta Verapaz department. This increases the risks for flooding over many local areas. Abundant rains are also forecast over portions of El Salvador and southwestern Honduras. Over the Southern Caribbean, torrential rains are forecast to continue over Costa Rica and Panama, potentially resulting in localized flooding and worsening of ground conditions. Light to moderate rains are expected elsewhere.

