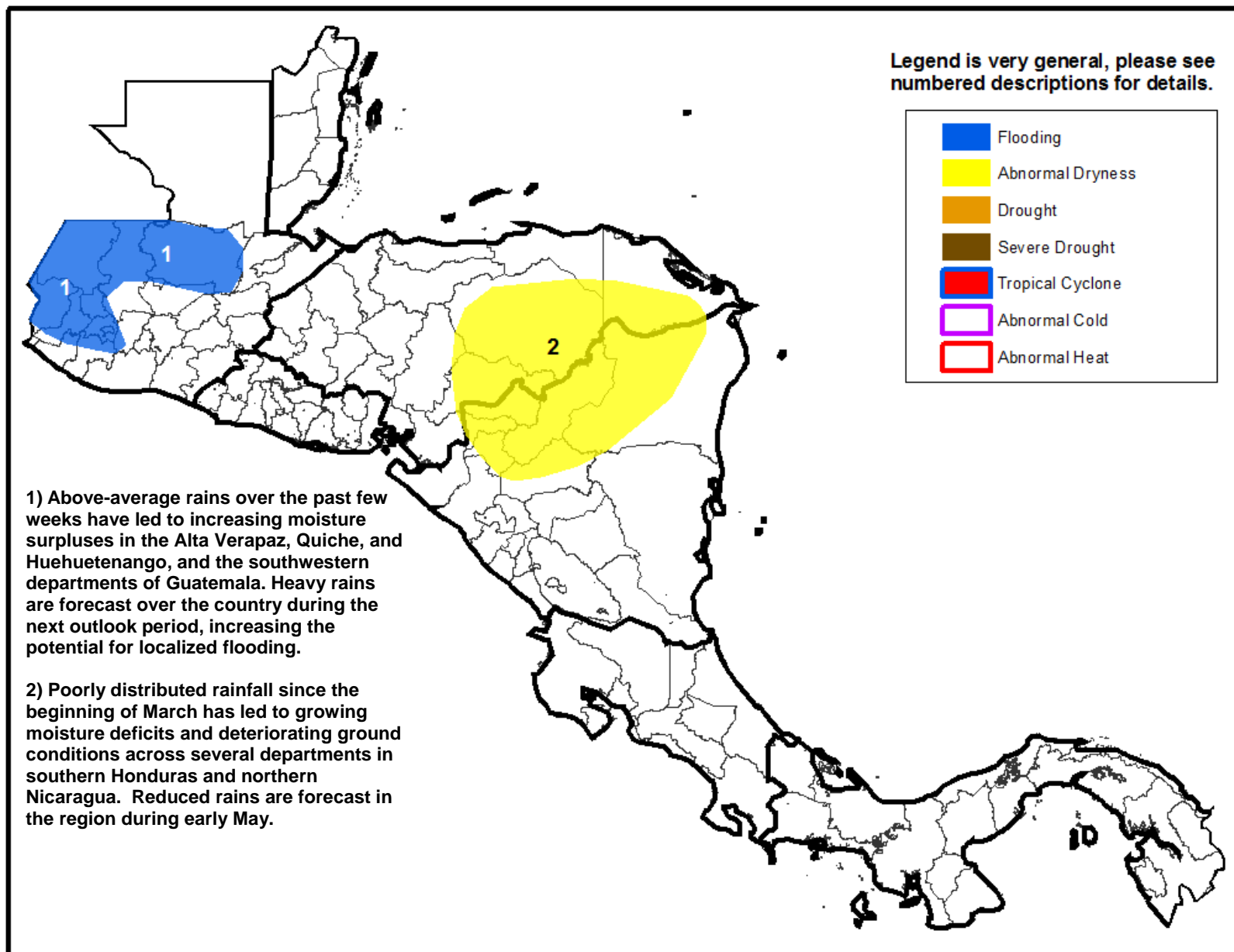




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 8 – May 14, 2014

- Above-average rains expected to continue throughout Guatemala during early May.



Heavy rains forecast to continue across many local areas of western Guatemala.

During the last seven days, a significant enhancement of early season Primera rainfall was observed throughout northern Central America. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations were received in the Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Peten departments of northern Guatemala and in Belize, with local amounts in excess of 150mm according to satellite rainfall estimates. More moderate, well-distributed rains were also received across southern Guatemala, western Honduras and El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Lesser weekly precipitation amounts were observed elsewhere. During the last 30 days, above-average precipitation has been observed across much of Guatemala, and neighboring portions of Honduras and El Salvador. These large moisture surpluses in the Alta Verapaz, Quiche, Huehuetenango, and southwestern departments of Guatemala are likely to sustain the potential for localized flooding, and possible landslides in the higher elevations as seasonal rainfall is expected to increase during the next several weeks. However, poorly distributed rains in southern Honduras and northern Nicaragua since March are likely to lead to unfavorable ground conditions for early Primera season cropping activities.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of locally heavy rains over the northern half of Central America. The potential for the highest weekly precipitation accumulations remain across many anomalously wet areas of Guatemala, particularly in the Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango departments. Further south, a more seasonable distribution of rains is expected throughout Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica.

