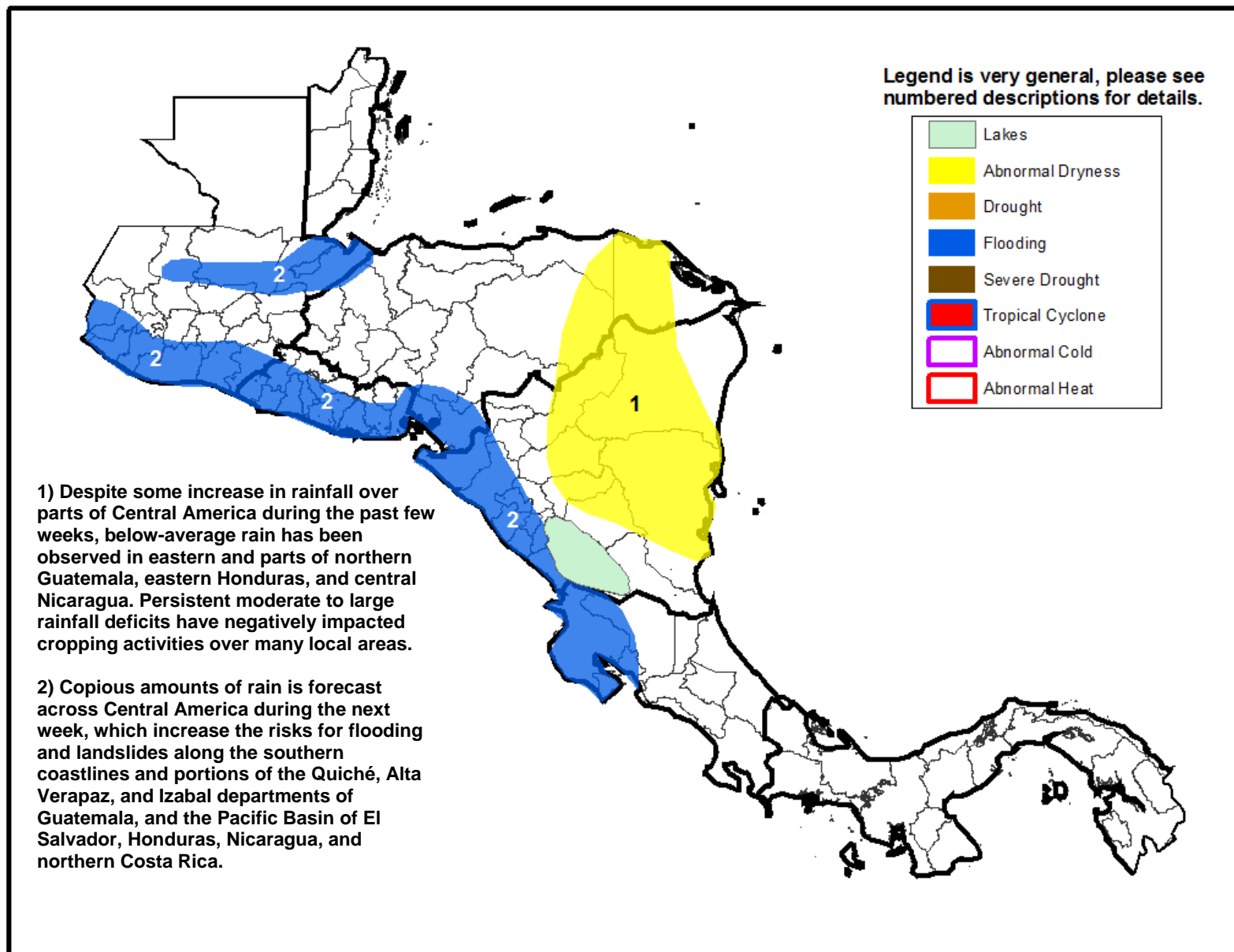




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 15 – 21, 2015

- The forecast downpours during the next week elevate the risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas.



Wet weather is forecast over Central America during the next week.

An increase in rainfall was observed over Central America, in particular the southern portions of the region, during the past week. Abundant rain fell along the Atlantic Basin of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, the Pacific region of Guatemala, El Salvador, northwestern Nicaragua, and the Pacific coastlines of the Southern Caribbean, according to the TRMM satellite estimates. Moderate rain was also registered across Honduras and west-central Nicaragua, while light to no rainfall was recorded over central Guatemala. This past week's rainfall was near average to slightly above-average across Honduras and Nicaragua, whereas it fared below-average across Guatemala. As a result, thirty-day rainfall deficits have increased over Guatemala, and moderate to large (50-200 mm) negative rainfall anomalies have persisted in eastern Honduras and central Nicaragua. Due to an erratic distribution in rainfall since the start of the *Postrera*, August-November season, a wide portion of Central America has experienced drier than average conditions, with accumulated rainfall accounting mostly only between 50-80 percent of the average. Recent vegetation indices from crop performance models have indicated poor and worsening conditions across areas of southern Honduras, western and eastern Nicaragua.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate a substantial increase in rainfall, with widespread heavy rain throughout Central America. Abundant rain is forecast along the Caribbean coastlines, Pacific littorals, and throughout the interior of the region. The forecast well above-average rain during the next week is expected to reduce accumulated deficits further, increase soil moisture, and benefit cropping activities over many areas of Central America. However, excessive rain may also trigger localized flooding and landslides over many local susceptible regions.

