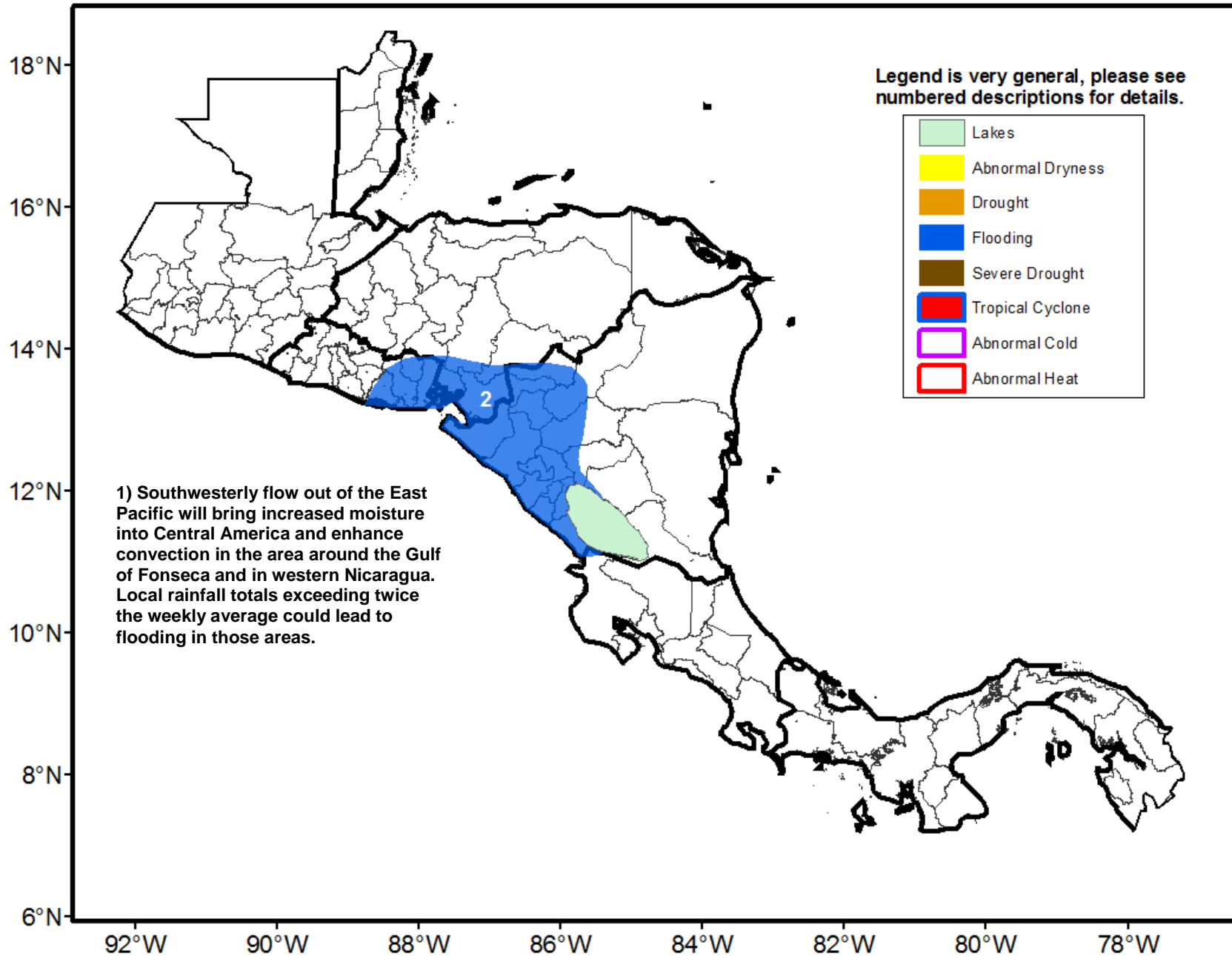




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 20 – October 26, 2016

- Moisture deficits increased for many areas of Central America; Areas of flooding possible this week.



## Widespread heavy rainfall is forecast for Nicaragua, Southern Honduras and El Salvador during the upcoming week.

A varied pattern over the last 7 days brought localized above-average precipitation to parts of the region, but continuing dryer-than-normal conditions across many other areas, especially in the interior. The greatest rainfall, as observed by TRMM, was located over southeastern Nicaragua and southern Guatemala where over 150mm fell. Other areas, including El Salvador and the Petén department of Guatemala, received well in excess of 100mm. Flooding was reported in Poptún, Petén department. The story was different for parts of central Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, which received light and well below normal rainfall. Many of the mountainous areas of south-central Guatemala exhibit deficits of 50-100mm for the week. The 'Postrera' season has generally been dryer than normal for the majority of Central America. The largest and most consistent deficits for the period are located in Guatemala. Negative anomalies of 100-200mm or more are widely observed, with consistent suppressed precipitation for the past 3 weeks. As some of these areas are sensitive due to a poor finish to the 'Primera' season, the placing of abnormal dryness may be necessary shortly, without improvement. Satellite vegetation health products indicate that conditions on the ground are mostly favorable or neutral. Expected degradation due to building moisture deficits has yet to be observed.

During the upcoming outlook period, rains are forecast to be heavy and above normal across Nicaragua and the Gulf of Fonseca region. Totals greater than 100mm are expected to be ubiquitous across the country with amounts well above 200mm possible, especially in western departments. Similar conditions should stretch southward through Costa Rica and Panama. Farther north, central Guatemala and Honduras should see near-average rainfall. Again though, the lowest totals will likely be in some of the areas that are already the driest.

