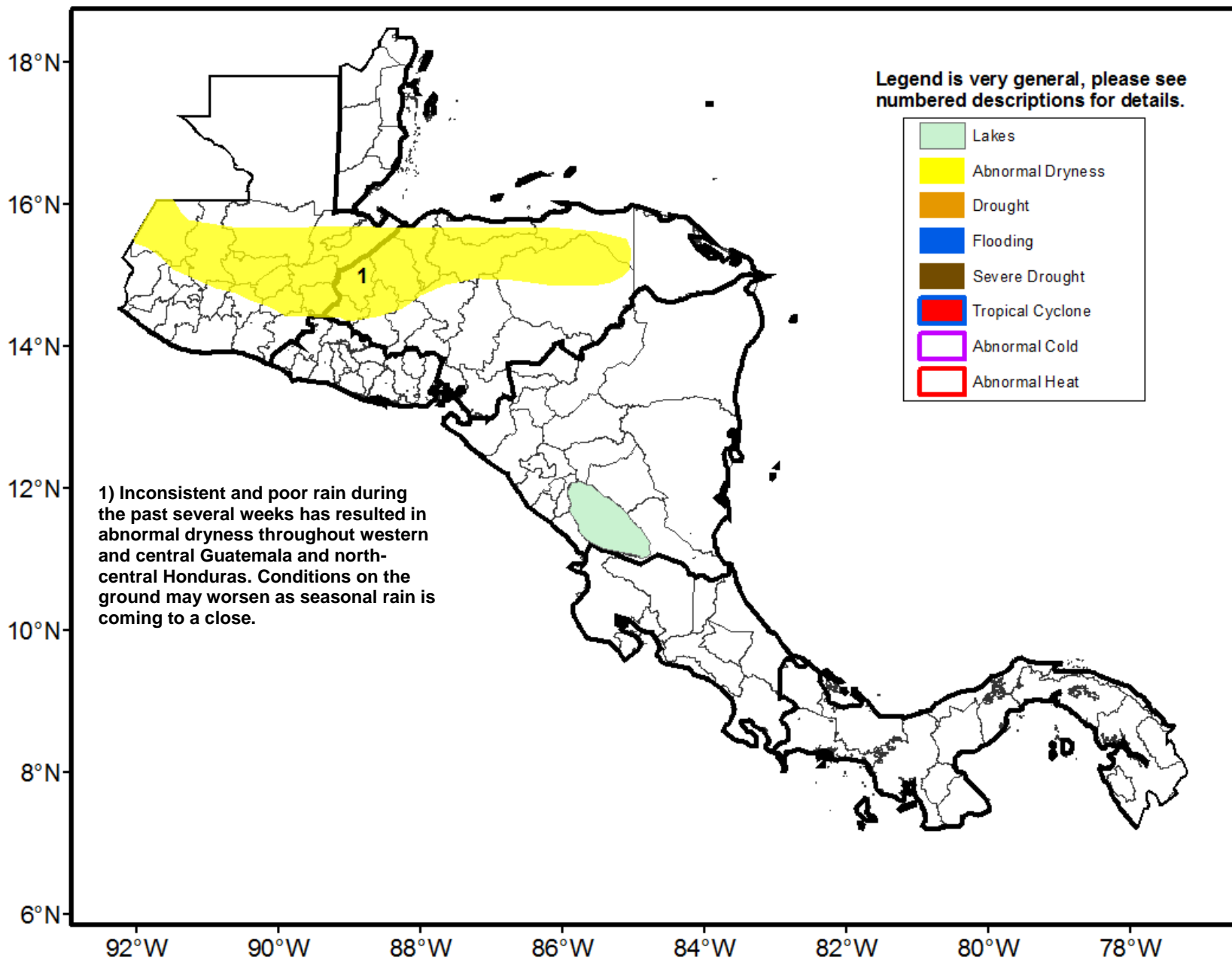




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 15 – 21, 2016

- Drenching, above normal rainfall observed across the southern Caribbean.



## Increased rainfall should continue for eastern areas of Honduras and Nicaragua.

Rainfall increased significantly over southeastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica this past week. A nearby area of low pressure in the southern Caribbean is bringing heavy rainfall and storminess. Parts of southeastern Nicaragua picked up more than 100mm of rain. Rainfall totals tapered off to the north and west. Widely scattered showers were observed across the rest of the region, with some locally moderate amounts in southeastern and northern Guatemala. The past week was a continuation of a recent trend for abnormally wet conditions in the southern Caribbean during the last month. Since early November, many areas in Guatemala, Honduras and Belize have experienced below-average rains leading to late season moisture deficits. The anomalous dryness across central and eastern Guatemala and western Honduras has been associated with a longer-term trend of low and erratic seasonal rainfall, as several areas have received less than 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulations since early September. The suppressed Postrera rains in the region are likely to lead to unfavorable ground conditions and may negatively impact cropping activities. Since the Postrera season has all but ended, recovery of moisture deficits appears unlikely.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest that heavy rainfall will persist throughout eastern parts of Central America, with the potential for rainfall amounts >100mm along the Caribbean coasts of Nicaragua and Honduras. Much of the rain will be focused during the beginning of the period. Seasonable rainfall amounts are expected throughout Honduras, El Salvador and southern Honduras during the next 7 days.

