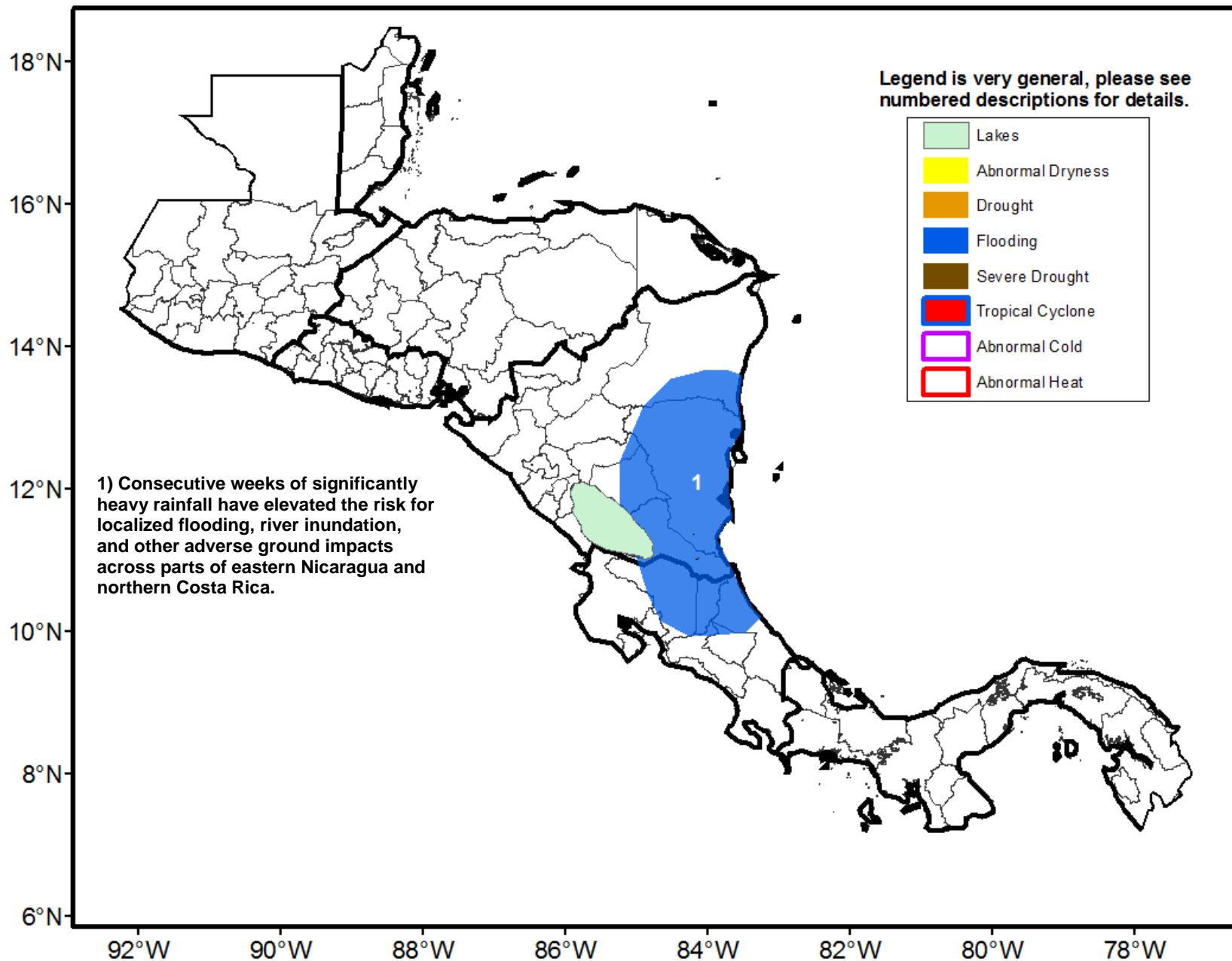




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 22 – 28, 2016

- Heavy rains continue throughout southern Caribbean, eastern Nicaragua.



Average to above-average precipitation conditions observed during early to mid-December throughout Central America.

During the last week, an enhanced rainfall pattern continued over the southern Caribbean and along the Atlantic coastline of Central America with copious accumulations of precipitation (>150mm) received over eastern Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica. This marks the second consecutive week with heavy rains over eastern Nicaragua, which has elevated the risk for flooding and other adverse ground impacts in the region. Further north, more moderately seasonable rainfall accumulations were received across many parts of Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and El Salvador. Following an unfavorable Postrera rains season across eastern Guatemala and western Honduras due to poor October rains, long term moisture deficits have been weakening in the region. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health conditions depicts mostly fair to locally low in over values in the higher elevations of eastern Guatemala and western Honduras.

During the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of average to above-average rainfall along the Atlantic coastline of Central America, with the potential for rainfall amounts >50mm over many coastal departments of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Due to the saturation of ground conditions, excessive rainfall over a short period in eastern Nicaragua may trigger flooding. Elsewhere, more seasonable rainfall amounts for several interior departments.

