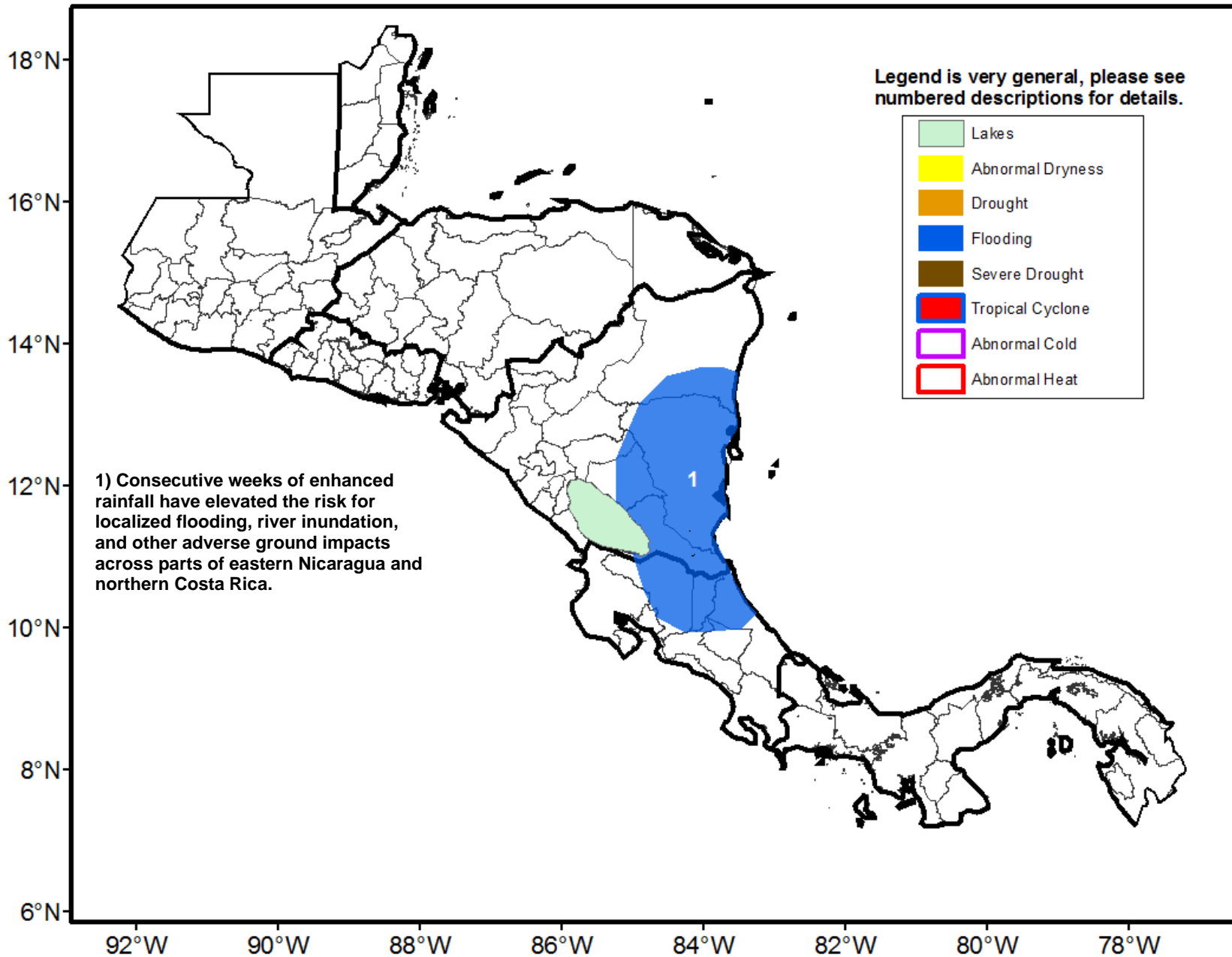




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 29 – January 4, 2016

- Above average rainfall continues over eastern Nicaragua.



Average to above-average precipitation conditions observed throughout Central America.

During the last week, heavy rains continued over the southern Caribbean and along the Atlantic coastline of Central America with moderate to heavy precipitation (>75mm) totals over eastern Nicaragua. While lighter rainfall was received over northern Costa Rica this past week, three consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall has been observed over the Atlántico departments of eastern Nicaragua, sustaining the risk for localized flooding. Further north, more 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, moisture deficits have continued to weaken in the region, as more normal to above normal moisture conditions can be seen throughout Central America for the Apante rains season. 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 a seasonable distribution rainfall along the Atlantic coastline of Central America, with rainfall amounts >25mm over many coastal departments of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Due to the saturation of ground conditions, high rainfall in eastern Nicaragua may trigger flooding. Elsewhere, more seasonable rainfall amounts for several interior departments.

