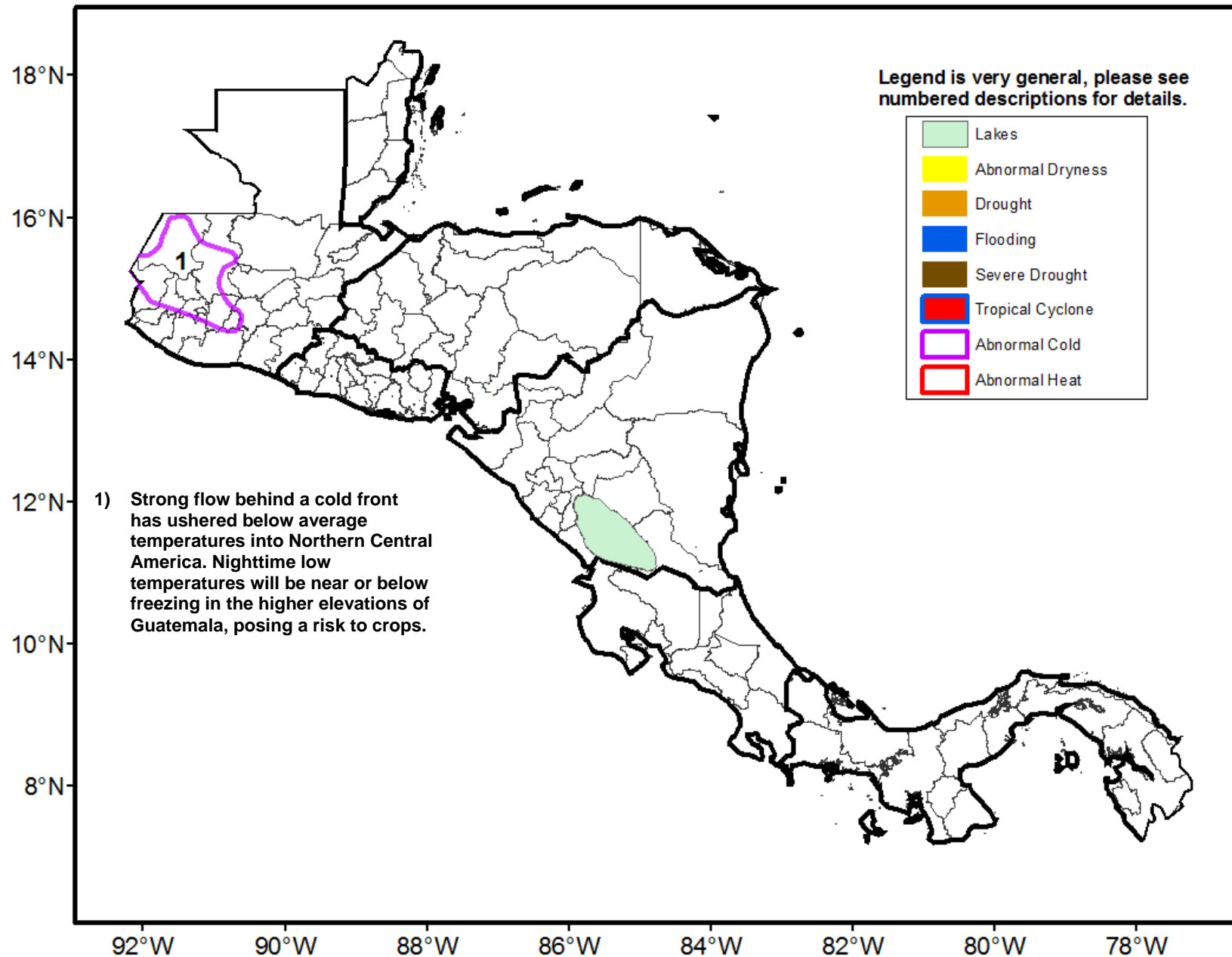




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 12 – 18, 2017

- Abnormally cold and near freezing temperatures are likely in Guatemala early next week.



**Rains were relegated to the southern Caribbean this past week, but may become more widespread next week.**

A dry pattern set in across the region this past week. Satellites observed a couple of areas of rainfall. 10-25mm of rain were received along the northern tier of Honduras. Another area of rain included southeastern Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica. More than 75mm of rain fell over extreme southern Nicaragua. The rest of the Central America region was generally dry during this time, with only some scattered light showers in Guatemala. Few in the way of anomalies are recorded across the region. Over the course of the past 30 days, several heavy rain events led to large positive rainfall anomalies (>200mm) that still persist over eastern Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica. Vegetation indices currently show positive vegetative conditions for most everyone. The few scattered, localized areas of poorer values are not cause for concern. As the next month or two are typically fairly dry in this part of the world, few changes to ground conditions are expected.

Looking ahead to the next outlook period, precipitation models suggest that increased, heavy rains are possible across areas of Central America along the Caribbean coast. Potential totals exceeding 100 or 150mm would be greater than is typical for the second dekad of January. It is important to mention that the ensemble forecast has large uncertainty this week, and that the model did a poor job with last week's forecast, so confidence is currently low. Minimum temperatures will be cooler than normal for northern Central America. Lows may reach near or below the freezing mark in the higher elevations of Guatemala. Also of note are reported strong winds through mountainous areas which will persist into the beginning of the outlook period.

