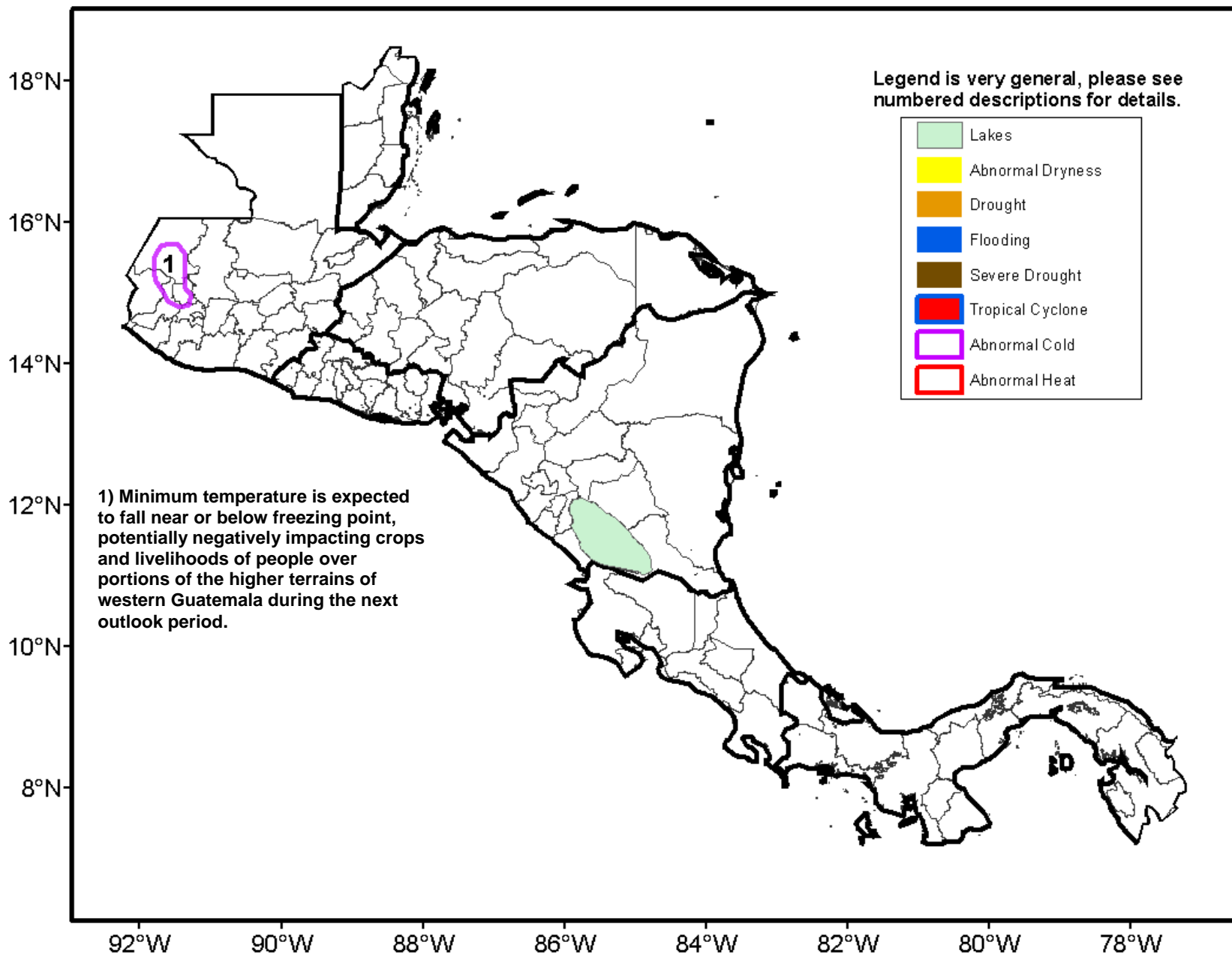




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 23 – March 1, 2017

- Increased rain expected over Central America during the next outlook period.



Increased, widespread light rain forecast along the Pacific Rim and inland of Central America.

During the past week, a dry weather pattern, with mostly suppressed rain, was observed over Central America. Rainfall anomalies have indicated average to slightly below-average conditions across much of the region during the past thirty days. Small (< 50 mm) negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies persisted along the Gulf of Honduras, northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and parts of eastern Costa Rica. As far as vegetation health is concerned, most indices continued to show neutral to favorable conditions throughout much of Central America. This may indicate a near normal evolution of the *Apante*, December-April, rainfall season over many local areas.

During the next week, numerical weather model suggests an increase in rainfall over Central America, with widespread, light to locally moderate rain over the Pacific region of southwestern Guatemala, eastern and southern Honduras, and Nicaragua. Farther south, moderate to locally heavy rain is expected over central Costa Rica and Panama. Compared to the climatologically dry (right panel) period of the next week, the forecast increased rain may substantially increase soil moisture and benefit cropping activities over many local areas. For temperatures, minimum temperature could fall near or below-freezing over the higher elevations of western Guatemala as minimum temperature is forecast to fall 4 to 8 degrees Celsius below-average during the next week.

