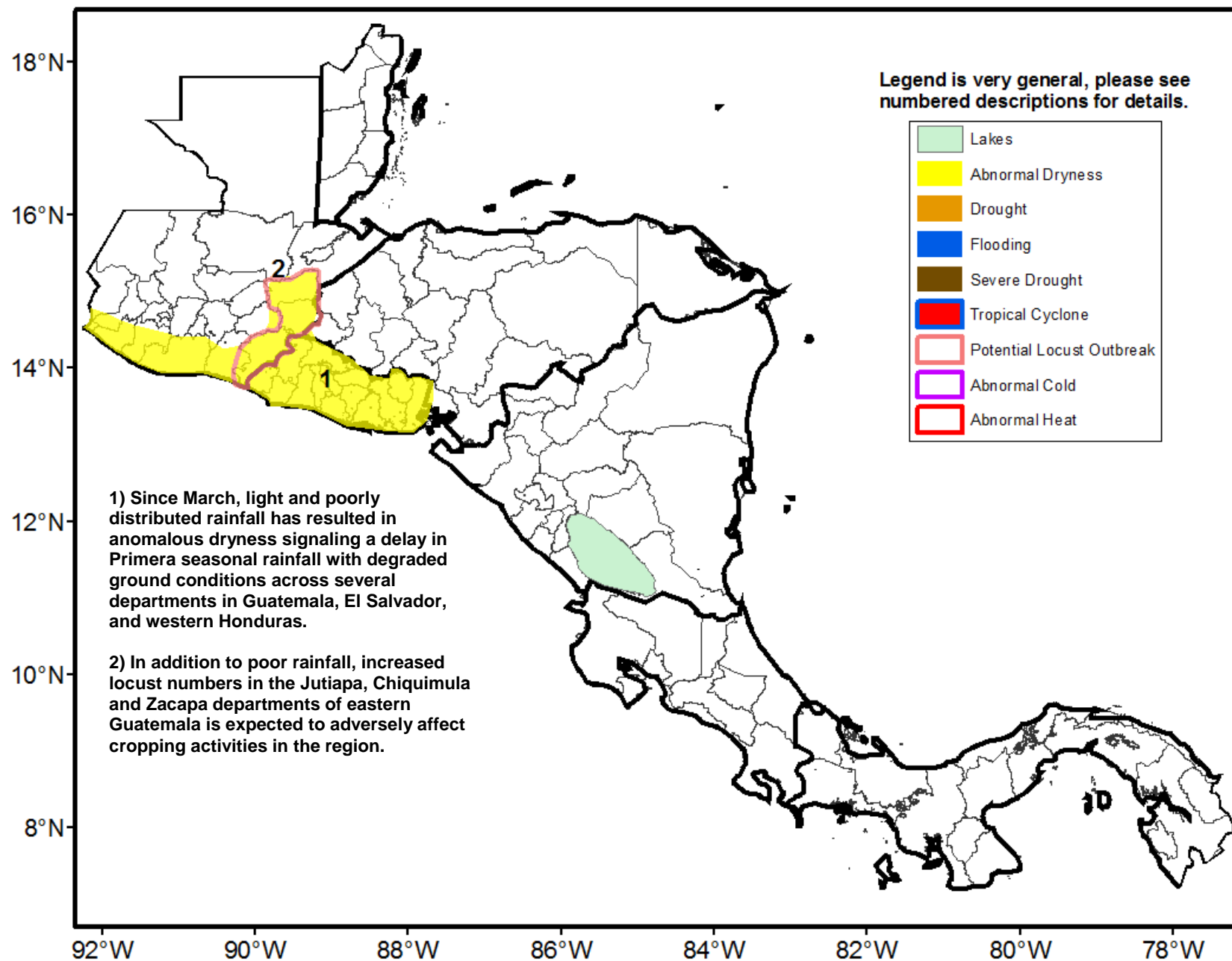




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 4 – 10, 2017

- Heavy rains occurred in northern Guatemala, scattered near or below average rains found elsewhere



Recent heavy rains in Guatemala fell north of the country's abnormally dry regions.

Light and moderate rains were widely scattered throughout the Central America Region during the past week. Recently, strong convection brought copious amounts of rain to a large portion of northern Guatemala. Satellite estimates indicate that more than 150mm fell on parts of the area. Despite a few areas receiving greater than 25mm of rain, most other areas saw rainfall near to, or suppressed below average. Some locations receiving the best rains during the week include western Honduras, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and Panama. The week's pattern yielded small negative 7-day anomalies for many parts of the region. Some of the biggest deficits are found in El Salvador. This extends to the 30-day time period as well, where deficits of up to 50mm are observed. Dryness is also observed during the period in southern Guatemala and now into central Honduras. Repeated weeks of suppressed rainfall since the climatological start of the Primera rains have resulted in steadily increasing moisture deficits. The poor conditions are increasingly reflected by the vegetation health index. Values are low in many of the areas of concern and the tendency is quite negative for a large portion of the region.

Looking ahead to the next outlook period, rains should be on the increase across the region with a spatial distribution typical for the start of May. Some of the heaviest rain (>100mm) is possible in southern Guatemala and western Nicaragua according to the GEFS model. The best rainfall may miss the driest areas along the immediate coastline of Guatemala. Heavy rain is also likely in Costa Rica and Panama. Around 25mm of rain is possible for many other parts of the region.

