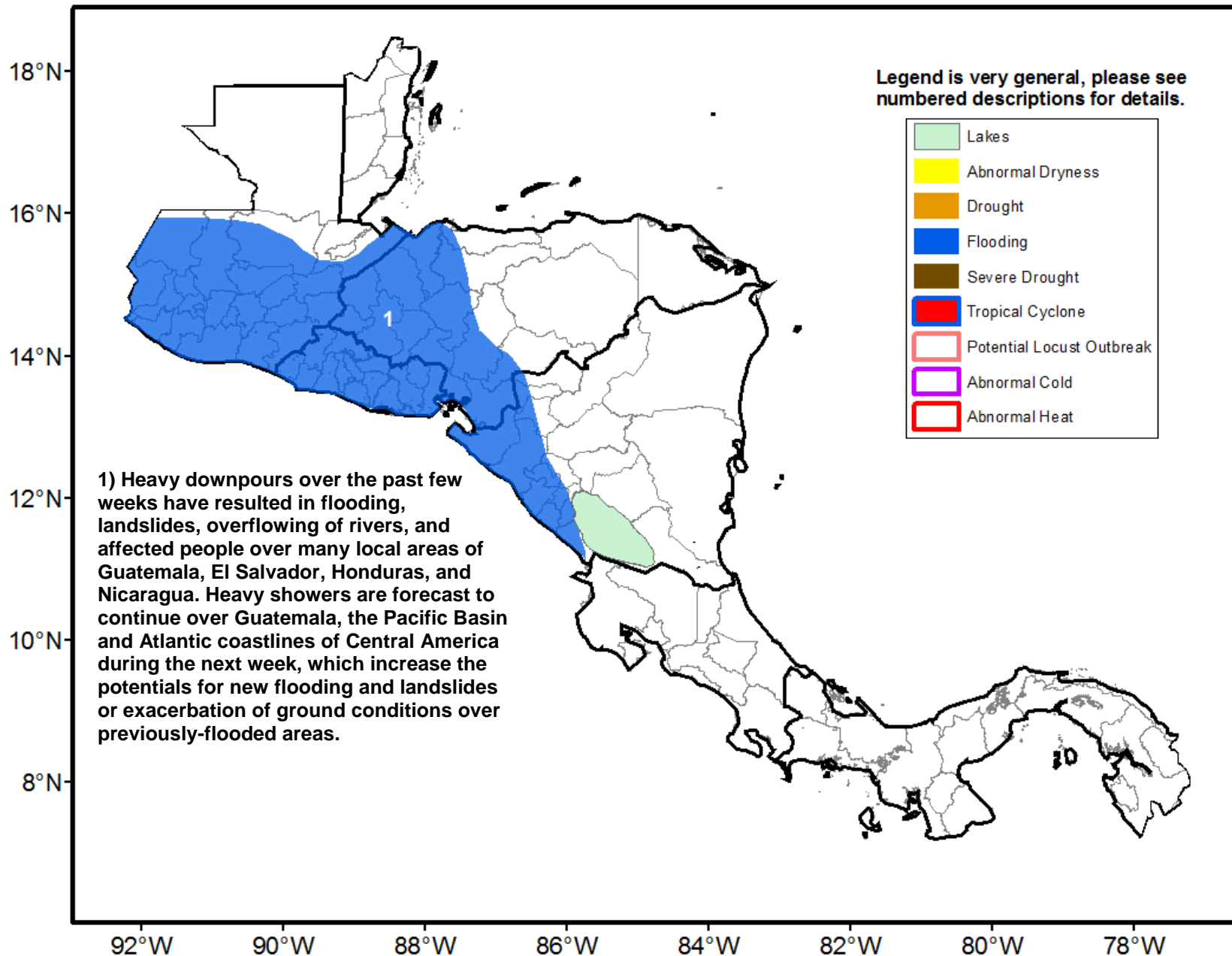




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook June 29 – July 5, 2017

- Consistent rain triggered flooding, landslides, and affected people in many areas of Central America.



Heavy rain likely to continue over Guatemala and the Pacific Basin of Central America

During June 20-26, large amounts of rainfall were observed over localized areas of western and northern Guatemala, Belize, northern Honduras, eastern and southwestern Nicaragua, and Panama, while light to moderate rain was recorded over the inland of Central America. The consistent, enhanced rain over the past few weeks has saturated the grounds and triggered flooding and landslides over many local areas of the region. Fatalities, landslides, flooding, and affected people were reported over many localities, including but not limited to the Huehuetenango department of Guatemala, La Paz and La Libertad departments of El Salvador, and Rivas department of Nicaragua. Since late May to present, accumulated rain has been above-average throughout most areas of Central America, except southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua, where negative anomalies have ranged between 50-200 mm. The persisting rainfall deficits could be attributed to an irregular spatial and temporal distribution of rain since the beginning of the current rainfall season. However, due to a near-average rainfall frequency since the beginning of June, biomass conditions were mostly average to above-average, according to recent vegetation indices. The continuation of seasonal rain is expected to provide favorable soil moisture and benefit agricultural activities over many local areas of the region.

For next week, heavy showers are forecast over western Guatemala, the Pacific Basin and Atlantic coastlines of Central America, which increase risks for new flooding or landslides or aggravation of conditions over already-affected areas. Over the Southern Caribbean, enhanced rain is also expected over Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain is forecast across central Honduras and central Nicaragua.

