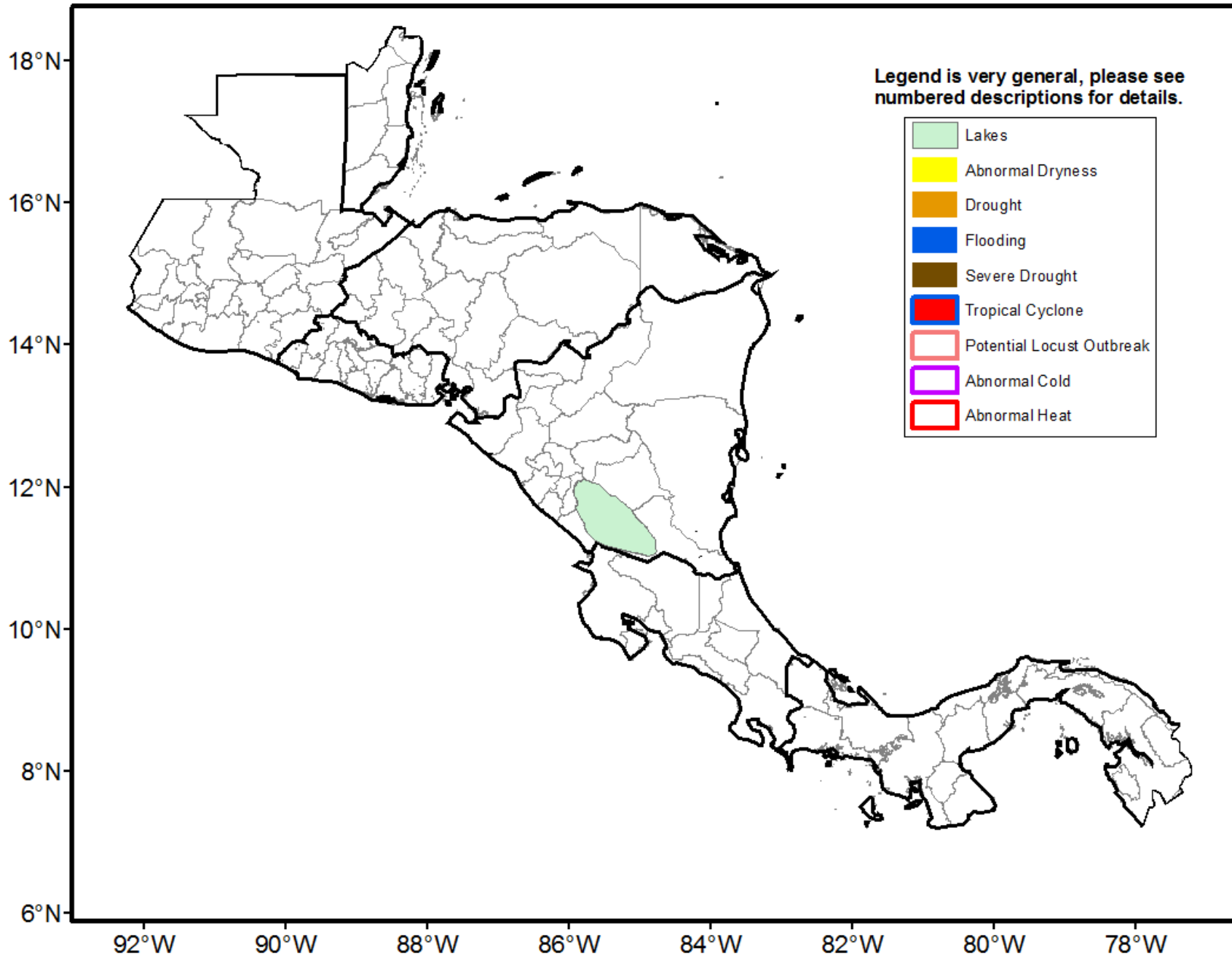




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 13 – 19, 2017

- Some areas continue to miss out on rainfall that has benefitted the rest of the region.



Rainfall performance continues to be uneven across the region

While many areas received lighter than normal rains during the past 7 days, there are some locales in which rains were ample. Mountainous regions of southern Guatemala, central Honduras, and western Nicaragua all saw 25mm or less of rain – below normal for early July. Other areas, including those throughout much of Belize, El Salvador, and southeastern Nicaragua, received heavy rains. Total amounts of up to 200mm led to substantial positive 7-day rainfall anomalies. Over the past 30 days, several bouts of heavy rains have built up substantial moisture surpluses scattered through the region. The most persistent signal, however, has been in southern Guatemala and southern Honduras, where repeated weeks of below-average rain slowly built moisture deficits. 30-day deficits are now as much as 100-200mm despite rains being relatively frequent through the period. There is mixed evidence as to whether these moisture deficits are having significant impact on the ground. For instance, the Vegetation Health Index shows relatively healthy vegetative conditions, while the NDVI shows very low values indicating stressed vegetation. Indeed, ground reports indicate that there has been enough moisture for cropping activities. Increased rain in the near future would not hurt.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, weather models indicate that above-average rainfall can be expected in southern Guatemala. As much as 1500mm of rain is possible for that region. In the northern part of Guatemala and in Belize suppression is favored. Elsewhere, near-normal rainfall is likely for most regions. Heavier rain is possible immediately along the east coast of Nicaragua where 150mm of rain is possible.

