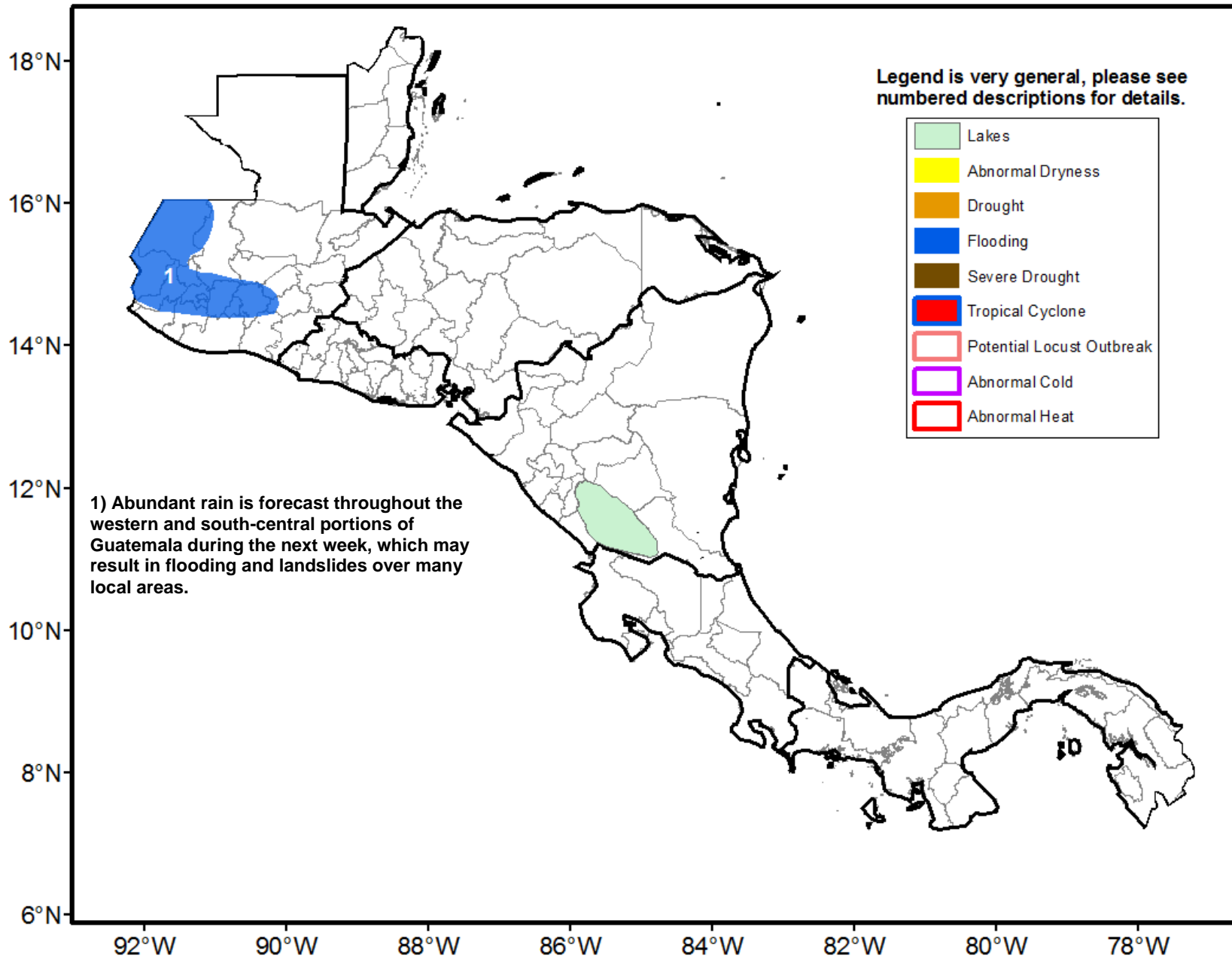




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 17 – 23, 2017

- Widespread, moderate to heavy rain observed over Central America during the past week.



Consistent rain helped eliminate moisture deficits over many areas of Central America

During the past observation period, widespread moderate to heavy rain fell throughout Central America. Large (> 100 mm) rainfall amounts were recorded over the Pacific region of Guatemala, Gulf of Honduras, Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean, according to satellite rainfall estimates. In Guatemala, this past week's heavy rain resulted in flooding and affected people over the southern portions of the Guatemala department, media reports indicated. Meanwhile, the continued favorable rain over the past several weeks has also reduced or eliminated moisture deficits over some areas. As a result, rainfall surpluses remained throughout western and southwestern Guatemala, El Salvador, central and southern Honduras, Nicaragua, and much of the Costa Rica and Panama. A comparison of the most recent Normalized Difference Vegetation Index with that of four weeks ago showed a significant improvement in vegetation conditions across most areas of Central America. The continuation of seasonal rain should help sustain favorable soil moisture for the current May-August season's cropping activities over many local areas of the region.

For next week, abundant rain is again forecast along the Pacific Basin of Central America, with heavy showers over western and south-central Guatemala. This, therefore, maintains elevated risks for flooding and landslides over many local and previously-flooded areas of the region. Heavy rain is also possible along the Atlantic coasts of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, while moderate to heavy rain is expected along the Gulf of Honduras. Elsewhere, light to moderate rain is forecast.

