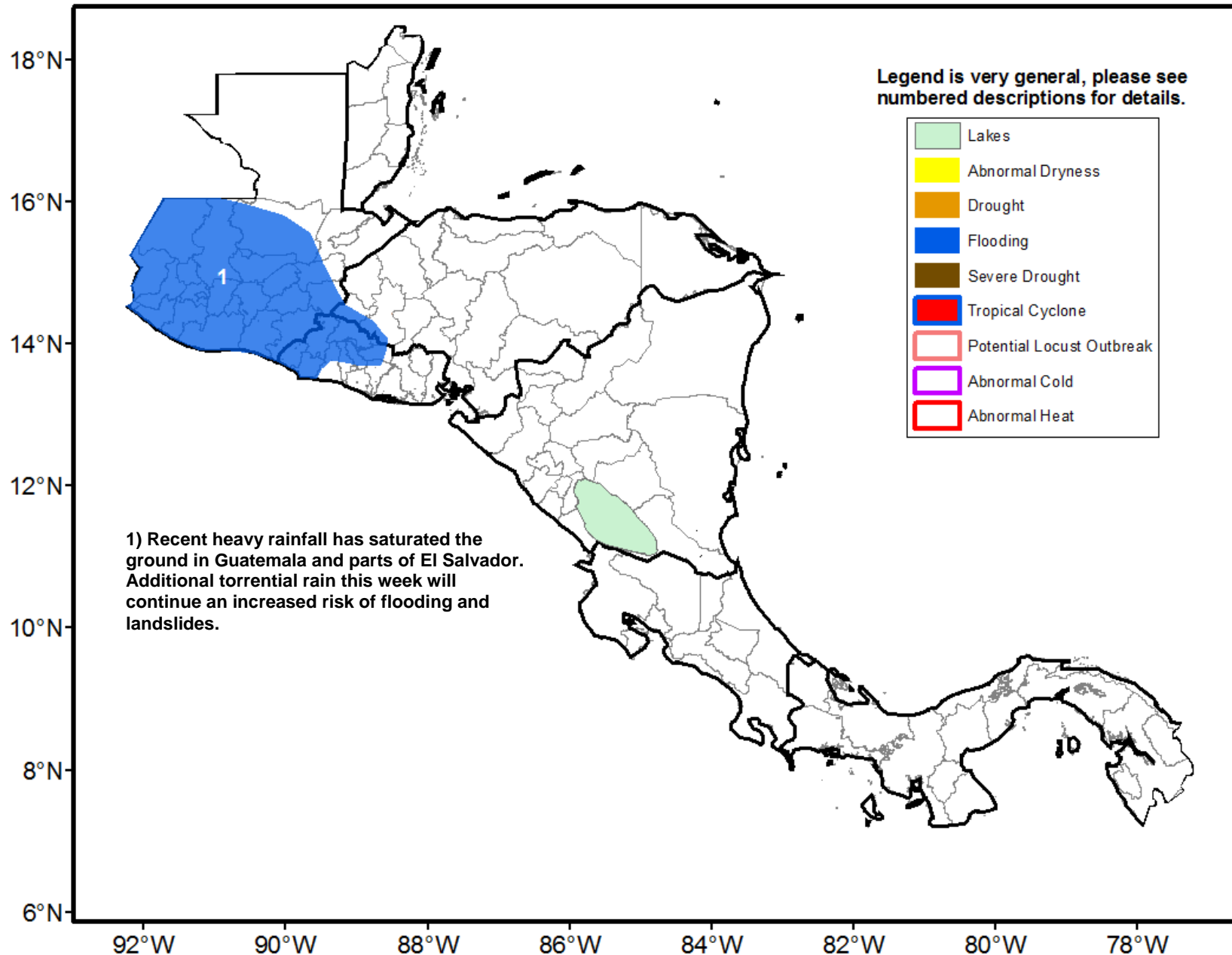




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 28 – October 4, 2017

Many areas received heavy rains last week, while northern Guatemala saw below-normal rainfall.



Dry conditions are becoming more prominent in eastern Nicaragua and around the Gulf of Belize.

Many parts of the region received heavy rain during the last week. Precipitation was more widespread than during the previous few weeks. The greatest rainfall totals (>150mm) according satellite estimates were observed in western Nicaragua. Rainfall amounts of at least 100mm were observed in southern Guatemala, Costa Rica, northeastern Nicaragua and the southern Caribbean. Generally moderate rains were observed over most of the other parts of the region. Some of the lowest observed 7-day totals were found in northern parts of Guatemala where negative rainfall anomalies of 25-100mm are evident. Over the past 30-40 days, rainfall deficits have grown over eastern Nicaragua and in the Gulf of Belize region of Guatemala. These two regions currently exhibit 30-day rainfall deficits greater than 100mm and less than 50% of normal rain. Vegetation indices have not yet registered poor values in Nicaragua, but they have started to in Guatemala, where there is growing concern on the ground in the Izabal Department. The area should be monitored to see if increased rains bring relief this week.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, more widespread heavy rain is likely. The center of the heaviest precipitation may shift northward from its location this past week. Weekly rainfall totals of 200mm or more are likely in Guatemala and 100mm or more are likely in Honduras. Significant rain this week will raise the risk of flooding and landslides. A decrease in rains can be expected this week for eastern Nicaragua.

