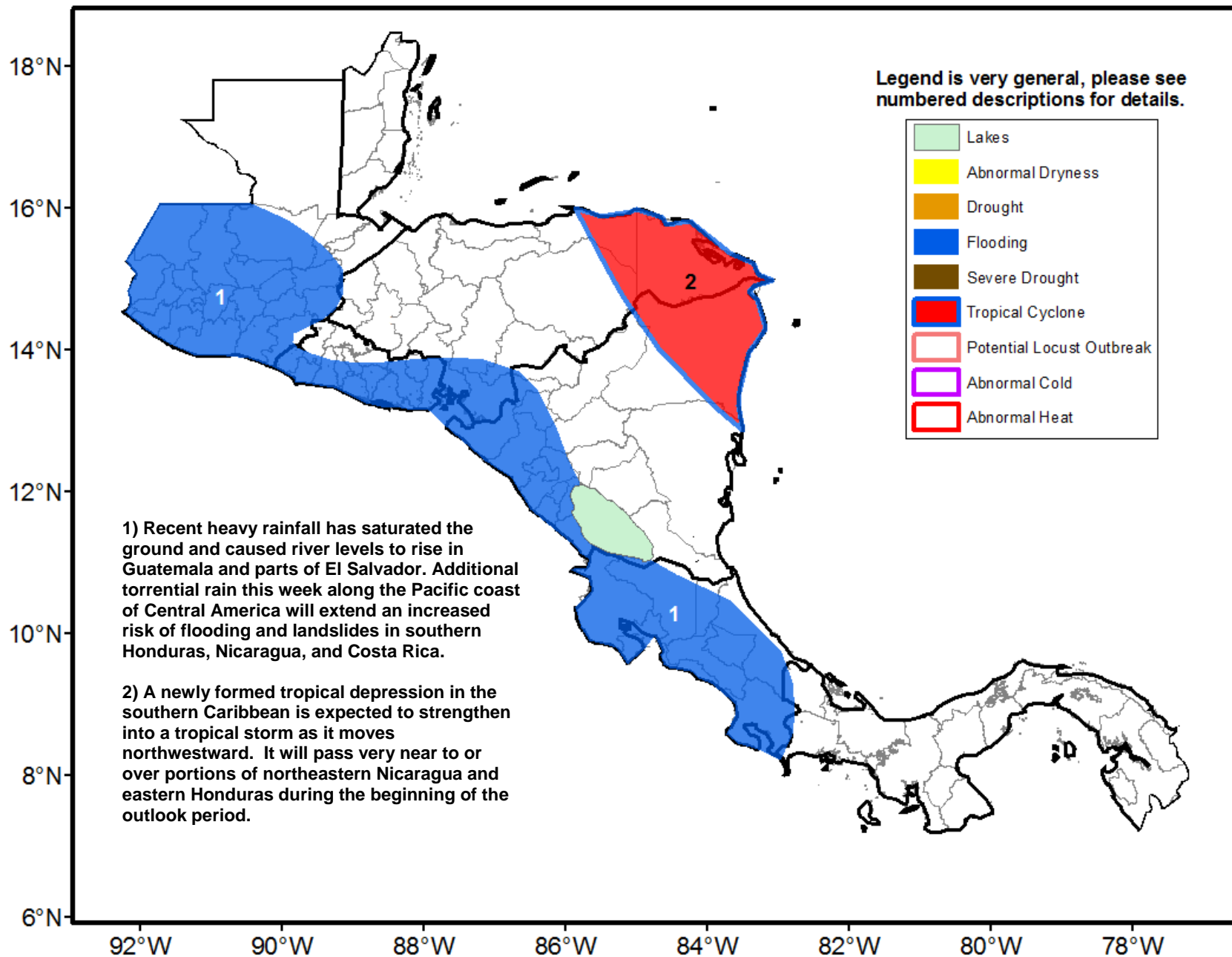




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 5 – October 11, 2017

Heavy rain threatens flooding along the Pacific coast; tropical storm conditions threaten the Caribbean coast



Dry conditions in Guatemala have started improved but dry spells continued in eastern Nicaragua.

Many parts of Central America received heavy rain during the last week. Above-normal precipitation was widespread across several countries. The greatest rainfall totals (>150mm) according satellite estimates were observed in Guatemala, both throughout the central departments and along the southern coast. Similar amounts were observed in western Nicaragua and local portions of Honduras. El Salvador received much less rain than the previous week, only receiving 25mm or less. The east coast of Nicaragua saw suppressed rainfall for another week. Rains have been consistently suppressed in this region with several dry spells throughout September. 30-day deficits currently range from 100 to 200mm there. That equates to 25-50 percent of normal precipitation for the period. Vegetation indices have not yet responded with poor values in Nicaragua. Recent improvement of the situation has been observed in Izabal department of Guatemala where rainfall deficits have decreased in magnitude and spatial coverage.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, more widespread heavy rain is likely. The center of the heaviest precipitation is expected to stretch along the Pacific coast. Weekly rainfall totals of 200mm or more are likely in Guatemala southward through El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Very heavy rains are also likely in southern Honduras. Additional significant rain will prolong the risk of flooding and landslides. A strong area of thunderstorms is organizing in the southern Caribbean. It is expected to strengthen over the next couple days and bring tropical storm conditions as it moves northwest, passing close to or over eastern Nicaragua and Honduras.

