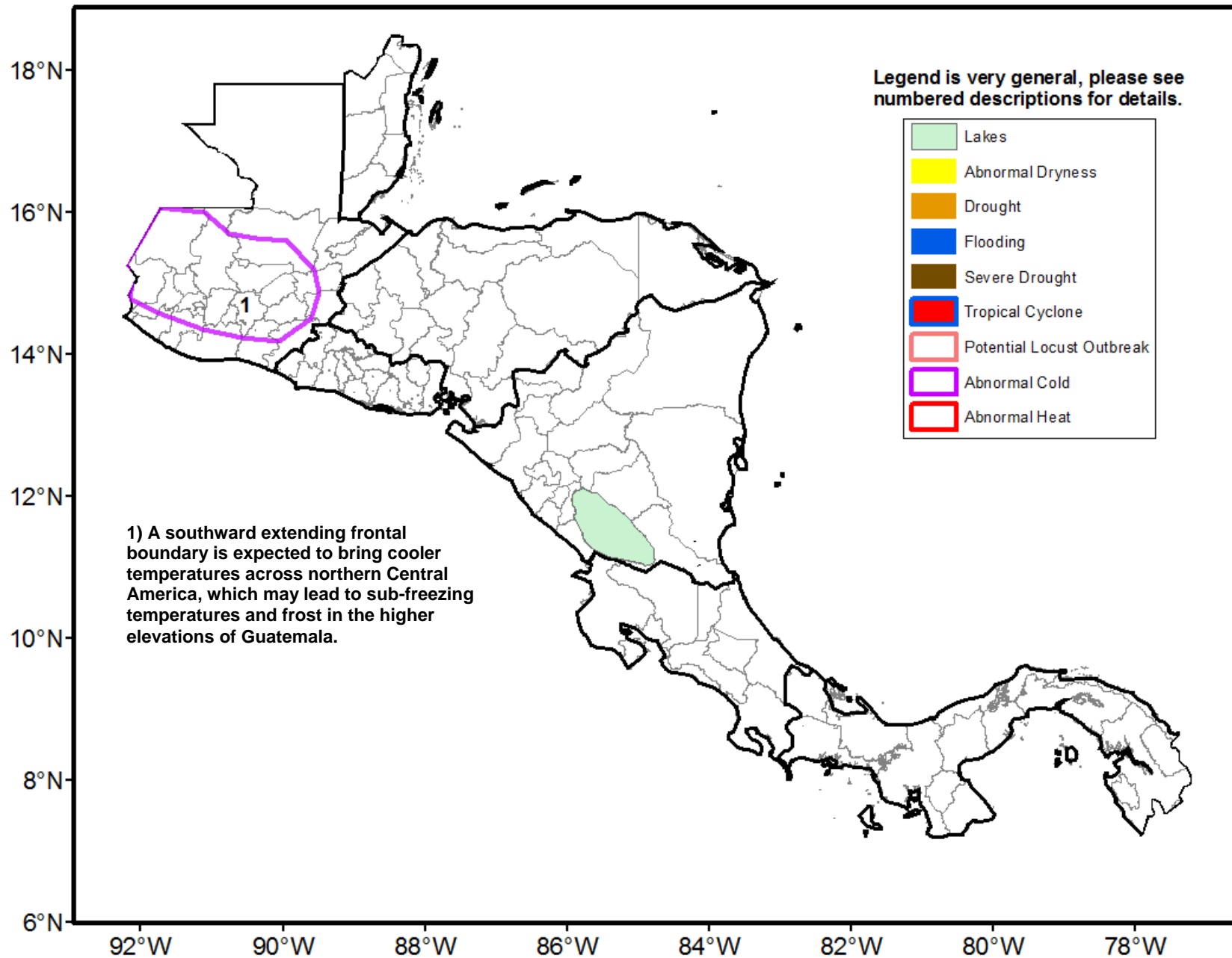




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 7 – December 13, 2017

Increased rainfall and cooler temperatures expected for parts of Central America.



Seasonally drier conditions prevailed throughout Central America during the last week.

In late November, seasonal rainfall remained concentrated offshore in the Atlantic/Caribbean, with very few interior areas of Central America receiving rainfall. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations were received over Costa Rica and Panama (25-50mm), with very limited rainfall amounts registered in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Since early November, the evolution of seasonal rainfall continues to weaken in accordance with climatology (end of Postrera season), however, several regions finished the season drier than average. Lingering moisture deficits over the past 30-days are noted in parts of northern and southern Guatemala due to poorly distributed November rainfall. Combined with strong surface winds, these parts of Guatemala may be conducive to forest fires over many local areas. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices depict some ground degradation in northern Guatemala, however generally moderate to positive conditions exist elsewhere over much of Central America.

For the next seven days, a drier weather pattern is expected during the early portion of the outlook period. An increase in shower activity is expected across the southern Caribbean and along the Atlantic coastline of Central America before a southward extending cold front pushes through the region. The advection of cold air associated with the frontal passage is expected to suppress rainfall, but lead to cooler temperatures over Guatemala and Honduras in early December. With minimum temperatures expected to remain near to above-freezing point, this may negatively affect livelihoods of local residents over the higher terrains of Central America.

