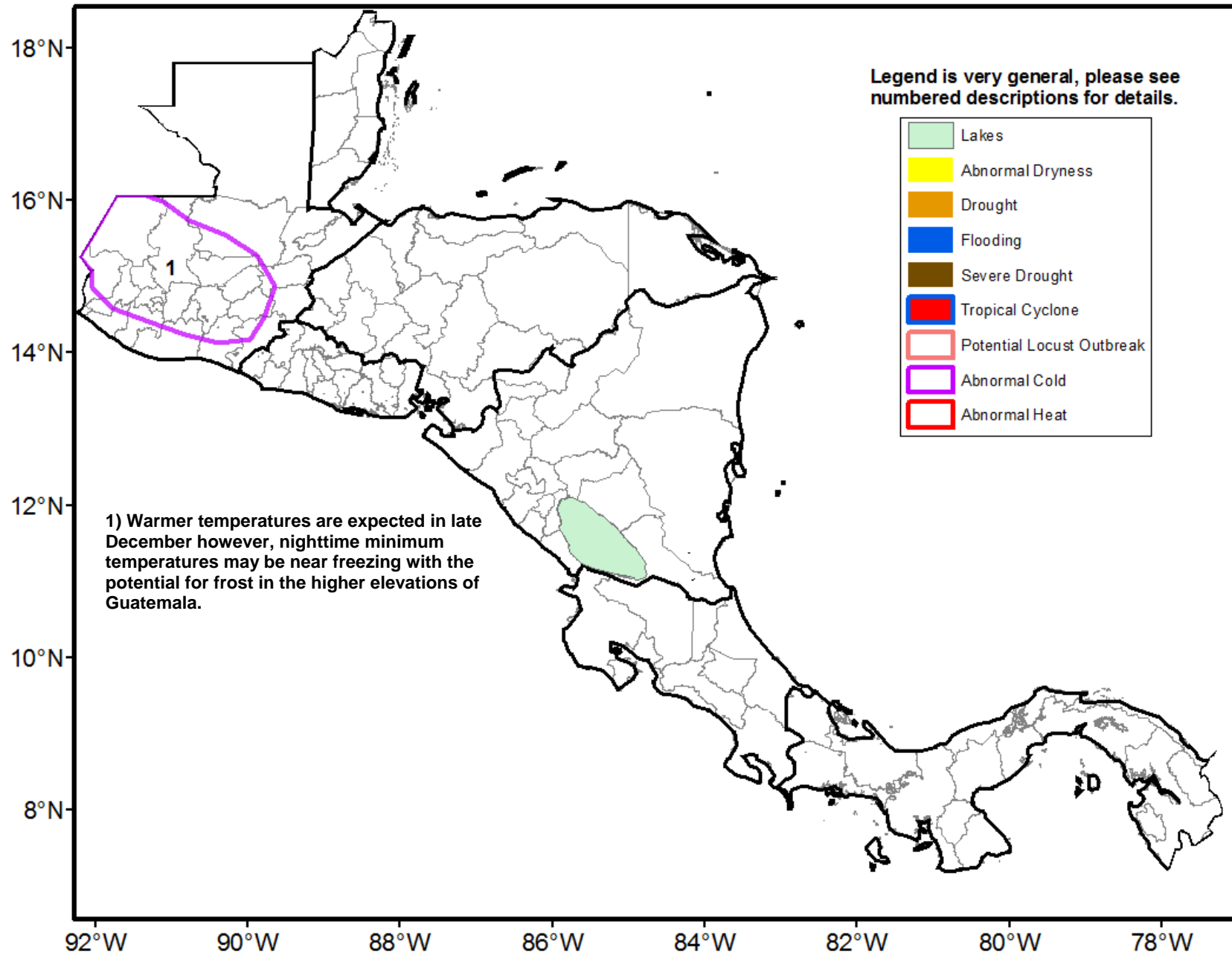




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 21 – December 27, 2017

Warmer temperatures and the potential for enhanced rainfall expected over Honduras and Guatemala.



Decreased amounts of rainfall received along coastal Nicaragua and Honduras during mid-December.

Following a period of enhanced rainfall during early December, a reduction in seasonal precipitation was observed over Central America during the last week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations were received over the southern Caribbean, with heavy amounts over western Panama and Costa Rica, and little rainfall registered further north in Guatemala and Honduras. Spatial analysis of latest 30-day rainfall anomalies suggests little change to the performance of Apante seasonal rainfall and moisture conditions. However, several areas in northern Guatemala and Honduras are experiencing a strengthening negative departure from normal due to the absence of rainfall during the middle of December. Here, rainfall has remained favorably frequent but low in quantity since mid-November. According to remotely sensed vegetation health indices, ground conditions show neutral to favorable ground conditions across much of Central America, with locally unfavorable values in portions of northern Guatemala.

Over the next seven days, an increase in seasonal rainfall is forecast over several Atlantic departments in Nicaragua, Honduras and northern Guatemala. Pacific facing parts of the Central America are expected to remain seasonally dry. Temperatures are forecast to return to near normal across much of region, however nighttime minimum temperature may fall to near freezing in higher elevations of Guatemala which may negatively impact livelihoods of those living in the region.

