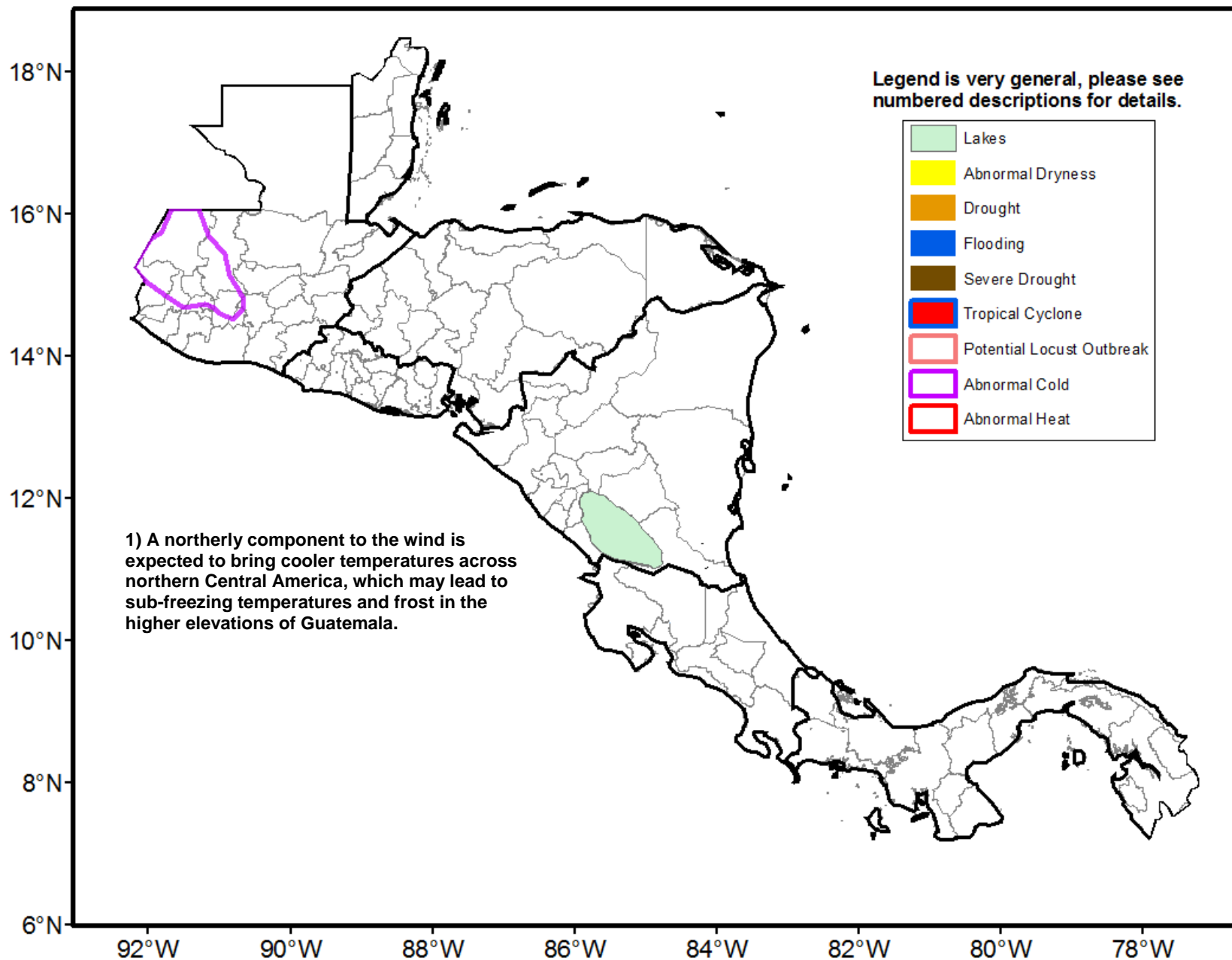




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 4 – January 10, 2017

Light to moderate rains prevailed along Caribbean coastal areas during the past week.



Cooler than normal temperatures will make a return through the outlook period.

Light to moderate rains were observed along the east coast of Nicaragua last week, while heavier and more widespread rainfall was found in Costa Rica and Panama. Up to 75mm of rain was observed in those countries according to satellite estimates. Light rains also grazed the coast of Belize. The rest of the region remained seasonably dry. Thus far, performance during the Apante season has been near normal across many portions of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and eastern Honduras. Contrastingly, moisture conditions have proved wetter than average over areas of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, with positive 30-day rainfall anomalies exceeding 50mm. Vegetation indices point towards healthy ground conditions for the most part. A few local areas, such as in eastern Honduras and southeastern Nicaragua show some poorer values. Observed temperatures remained seasonable.

Over the next 7 days, heavier rains are likely in the southern Caribbean. Heavy rainfall totals and possible flash flooding are forecast in Panama and Costa Rica, especially during the beginning of the outlook period. Moderate rainfall totals of more than 25mm are likely to stretch along the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua and Honduras. An increased northerly component of the wind is expected to decrease temperatures for the second half of the outlook period. Temperatures are forecast to become cooler than normal. Minimum temperatures are likely to approach or dip below freezing in the higher elevations of Guatemala. This may negatively impact livelihoods of those living in the region.

