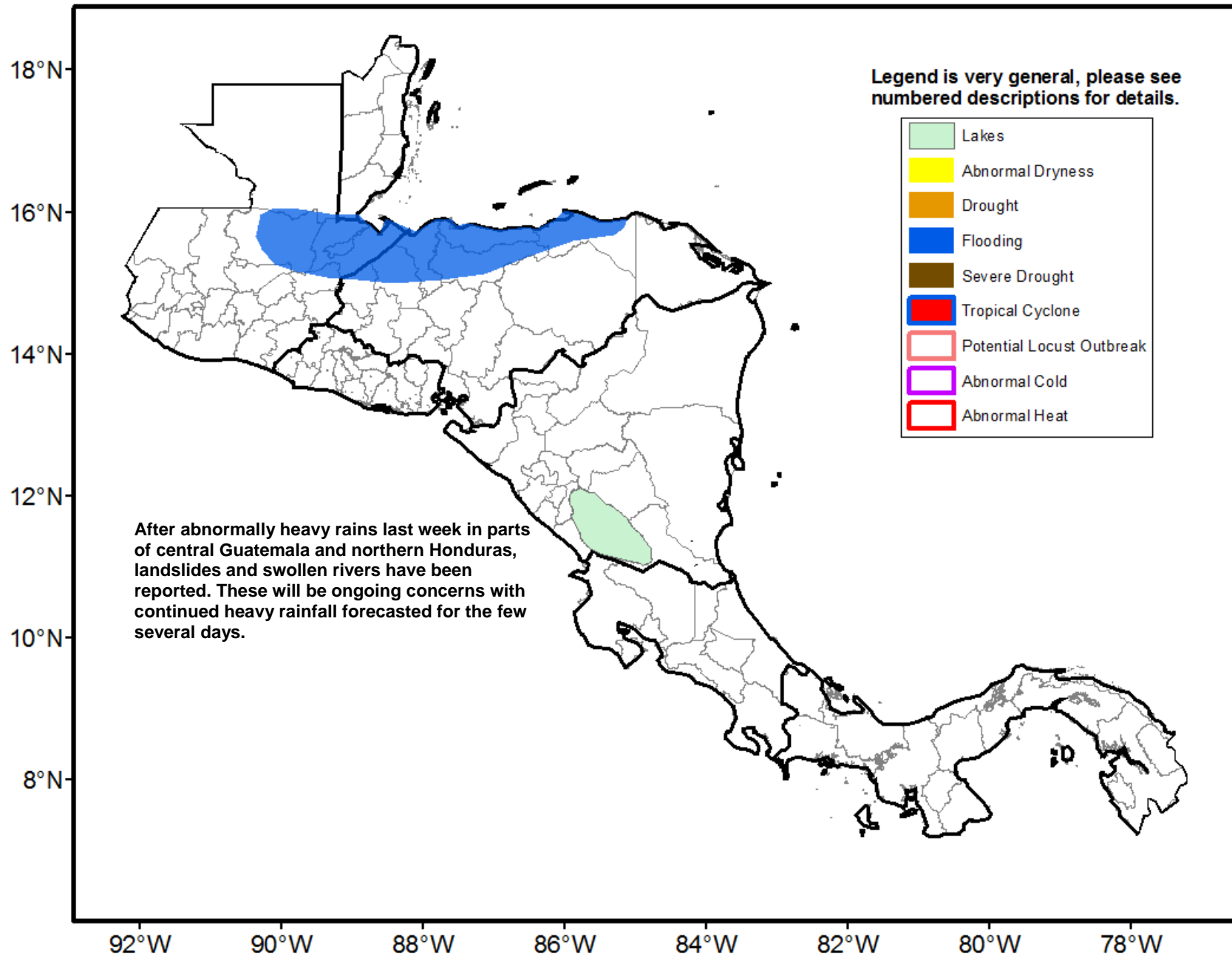




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 1 – February 7, 2017

Several areas received heavy and above-normal rainfall over the last 7 days



Near-normal temperatures and increased rain chances are in the forecast.

Over the past 7 days, heavy rains have been observed over many parts of Belize, eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. According to satellite rainfall estimates, more than 100mm of rainfall was observed locally. Other regions of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, along with northern Guatemala received more than 50mm of rainfall. Such rainfall totals far exceed normal for the end of January, and the rains in central departments of Guatemala resulted in flooding and landslides. Meanwhile, other parts of southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Nicaragua were mostly dry. To date, performance during the Apante season has been near normal across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and western Honduras. Contrastingly, moisture conditions proved wetter than average over areas of eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with positive rainfall anomalies widely exceeding 100mm, and in some cases 200mm, since December 1. Vegetation indices point towards very healthy ground conditions. With already lush conditions, there continues to be a positive trend in index values during recent weeks. Temperatures moderated across the region last week.

Additional heavier-than-normal rains are expected during the next 7 days, but expect the center of highest rainfall to shift over northwestern Honduras and neighboring areas of Guatemala. Moderate rains are likely along coastal areas of Honduras and Nicaragua. Higher amounts, possibly exceeding 75mm, are forecast for northwestern Honduras and central Guatemala. Minimum temperatures may dip slightly below normal once again this week, but lows should stay above freezing in the mountains.

