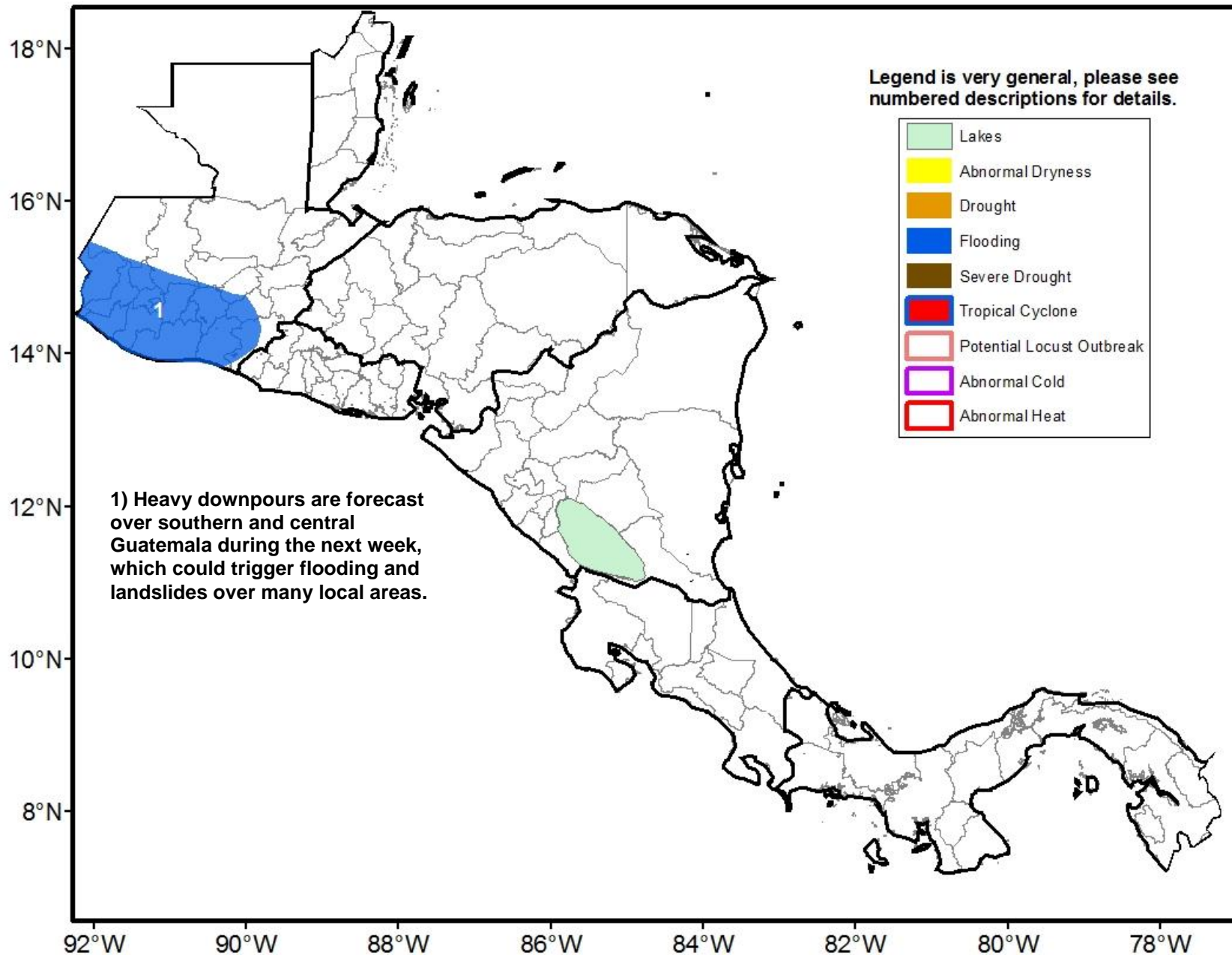




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 17 – 23, 2018

The forecast heavy rain during the next week maintains elevated risks for flooding in southern Guatemala.



Widespread, moderate to heavy rain forecast over Central America during the next outlook period

From May 8-14, moderate to heavy rain was scattered over few areas of Central America with the heaviest rainfall amounts over southwestern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, southern Honduras, and the southern Caribbean. Light to moderate rain also fell in western and southern Guatemala, western Honduras, and southern Nicaragua, while little to light rain was observed elsewhere. Compared to climatology, this past week's rain was average to below-average over the region, particularly eastern and northern Guatemala, where rainfall deficits between 25-50 mm were registered. The somehow insufficient rain over the past few weeks has resulted in strengthening thirty-day negative rainfall anomalies over northern and central Guatemala, western Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Although thirty-day positive rainfall anomalies persisted over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca region, north-central Honduras, and southern Costa Rica, the onset of seasonal rain is much needed over many inland areas to ensure adequate soil moisture for the *Primera*, May-August, growing season. Vegetation conditions, inferred from remote sensing, have indicated neutral to favorable conditions throughout much of Central America. However, below-average conditions have started to emerge over localized areas of central Guatemala, central Honduras, and portions of northern Costa Rica.

During the next week, widespread moderate to heavy rain is forecast over Central America, with the heaviest rain amounts along the Pacific Rim of the region. The forecast increased rain may help reduce moisture deficits partially over some areas; but it also could trigger flooding and landslides over many already-saturated areas, including southern Guatemala and other local areas.

