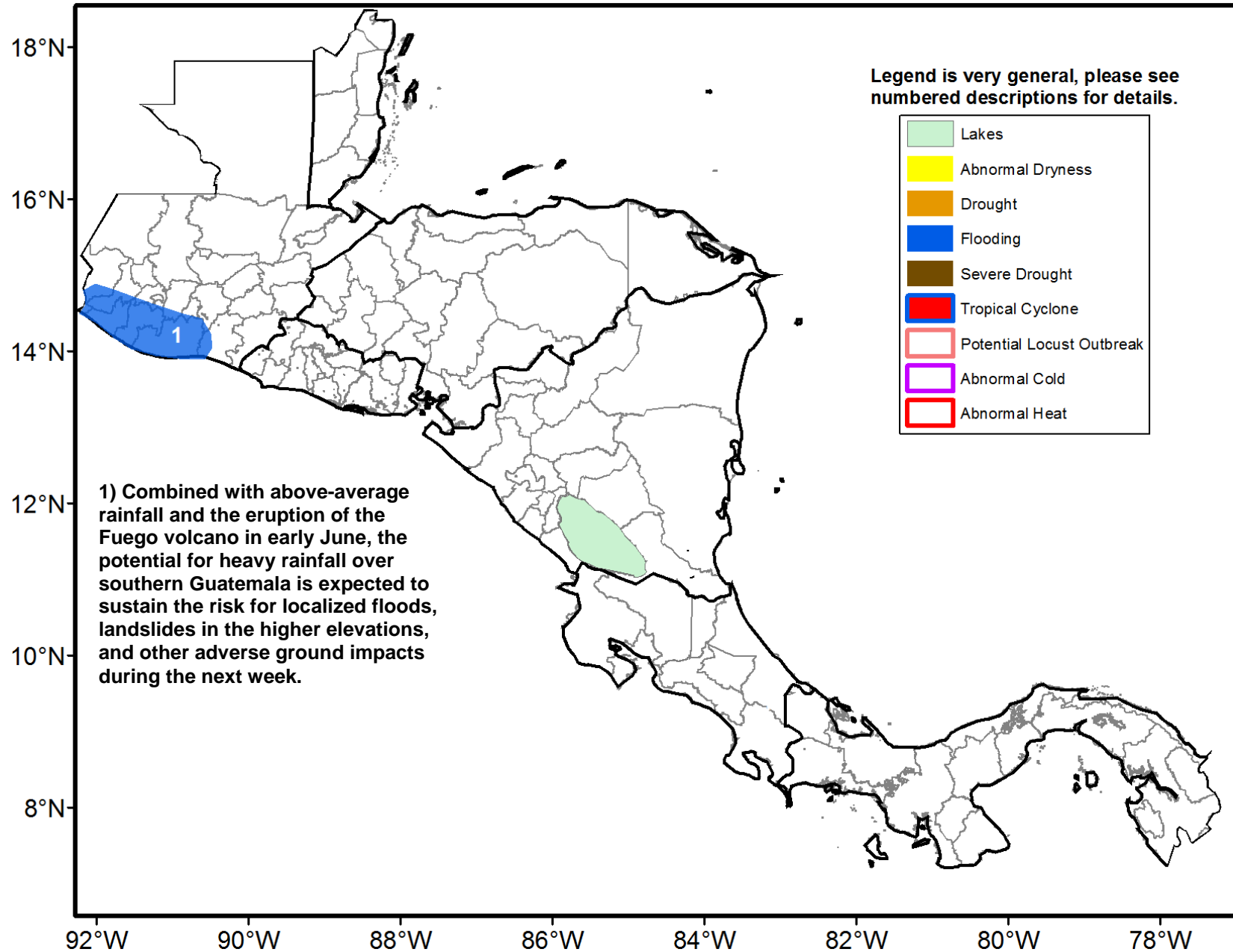




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook June 14 – June 20, 2018

The continuation of potentially heavy rainfall sustains the risk for flooding in southern Guatemala.



Anomalous dryness strengthens over northern Guatemala.

Despite last week's forecast for an enhancement of seasonal rainfall over northern Central America, some central and northern areas in Guatemala received another week of average to below-average rainfall. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>150mm) were registered over southwestern Guatemala and southeastern Nicaragua, with pockets of high rainfall totals (>75mm) observed over El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Since the beginning of May, the Primera rains have performed unfavorably over Guatemala and parts of western Honduras, with many central and northern departments receiving less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation. However, analysis of rainfall frequencies during this period indicates generally average conditions (i.e. near normal number of rain days), which suggests that moisture deficits are not the result of sustained dryness and prolonged dry spells, but rather persistently low rainfall totals registered during the early stages of the Primera season in the region. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health conditions (VHI) reflects depicts pockets of poor values in central and northern Guatemala; however positive trends in the VHI values have been noted in the region during early June.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest another week of heavy rainfall over many Pacific facing departments in Central America with weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm over southern Guatemala, western Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Following the eruption of the Fuego volcano in southern Guatemala, many downslope areas remain at risk for flooding and possible landslides during the outlook period. Currently, no tropical cyclone activity is expected during the forecast period.

