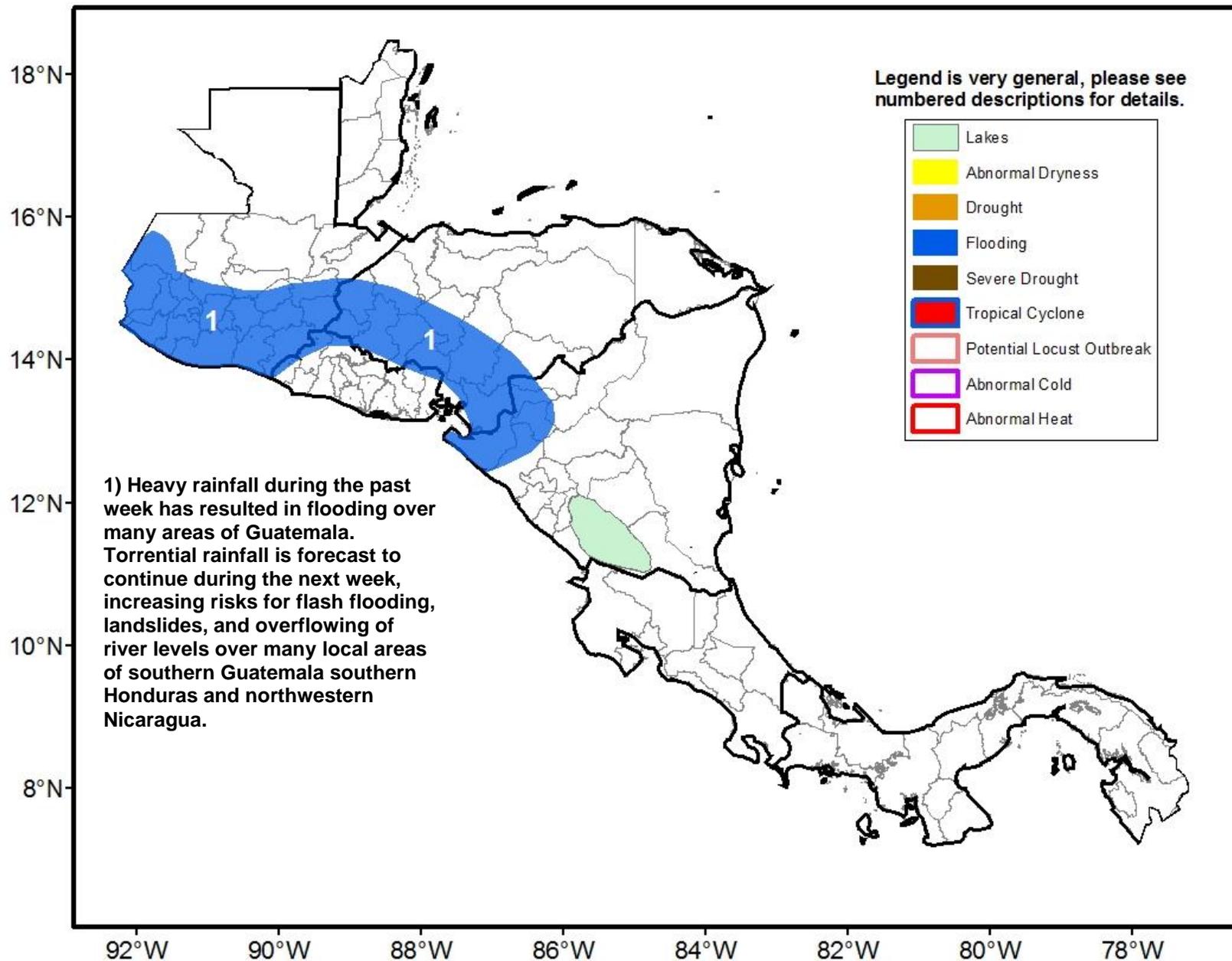




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 23 – 29, 2019

The forecast heavy downpours during the next week could trigger flooding and landslides over many local areas.



The forecast wet weather patterns during the next week increase the risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas.

During the past week, heavy rainfall was observed along the Pacific-facing region of Central America. From southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, western Nicaragua, to Costa Rica, and Panama, ample rainfall was registered, with the heaviest (> 100 mm) amounts over southwestern Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and the Pacific littorals of Costa Rica. Over Guatemala, this past week's enhanced rainfall resulted in flooding and landslides, which affected many people over various local areas, including the Guatemala, Sololá, Izabal, and Totonicapán departments, according to reports. Over the past thirty days, wetter than average conditions were registered throughout much of northern Central America, with the largest surpluses over northern Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, and northern El Salvador. The observed above-average rainfall might have benefitted cropping activities for the first rainfall season; however excessive moisture may have also damaged and destroyed crops over some areas. In contrast, below-average and dry conditions were recorded across central and eastern Nicaragua, and the Caribbean-facing regions Costa Rica and Panama.

For next week, wet weather conditions, with torrential and likely above-average rainfall, are forecast along the Pacific Rim of Central America. With the observed moisture surpluses and soil saturation during the previous few weeks, the forecast, additional rainfall is likely to exacerbate ground conditions over many already-flooded and affected areas. Additionally, the forecast enhanced rainfall may increase water river levels and, therefore, heightening risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas. Meanwhile, mean surface temperatures could continue to average above-normal as maximum temperature is expected to remain above-average across the region.

