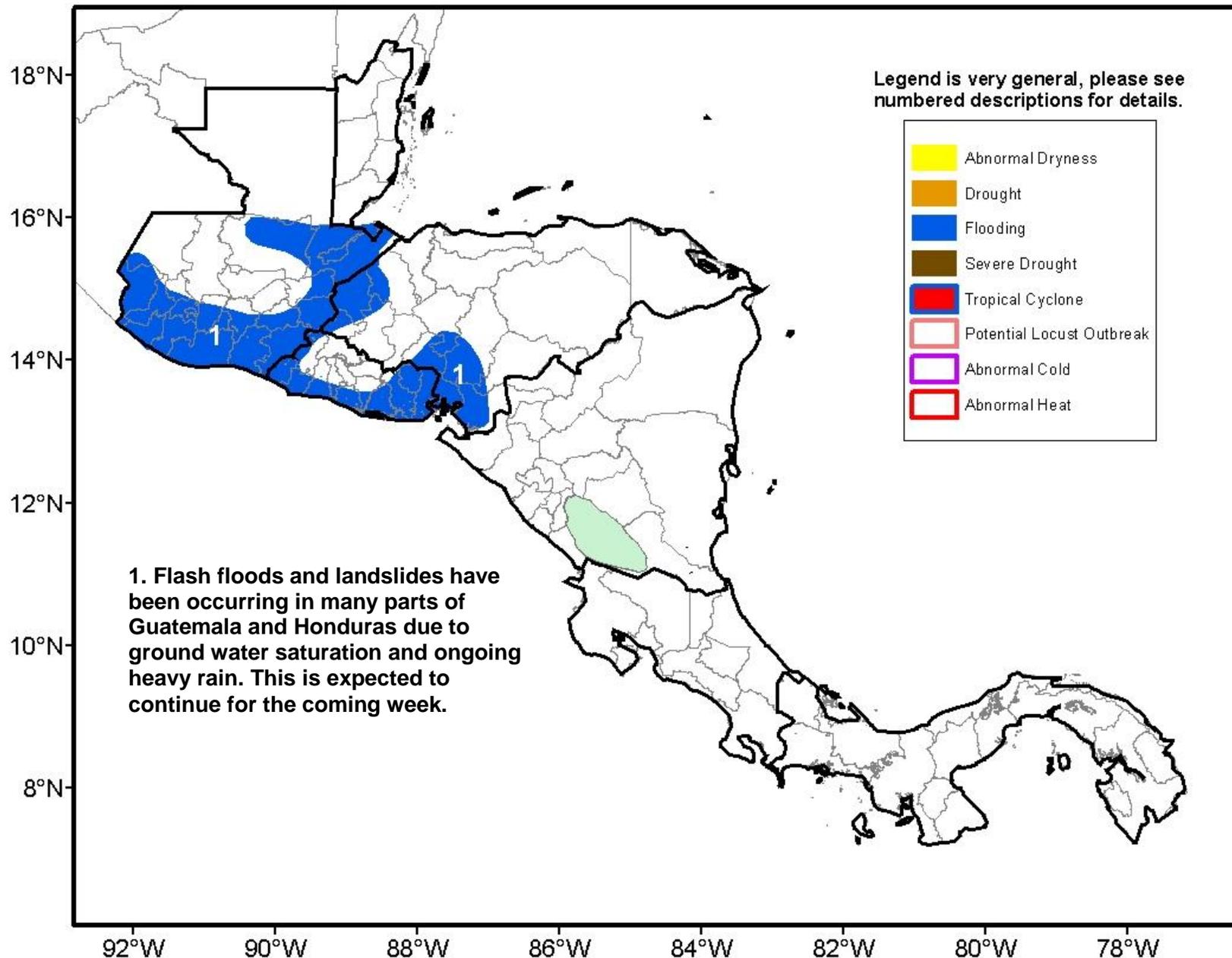




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 17 – October 23, 2019

Flooding still remains a threat for western portions of the region.



Rainfall was still well-distributed last week, but it was generally a bit lesser than in magnitude.

During the past week, locally heavy rainfall was prevalent across Central America. Many local areas recorded more than 100mm of rainfall according to satellite estimates. The greatest rainfall was in El Salvador and the Gulf of Fonseca region. Flooding problems have been reported again in Copan and Comayagua departments in Honduras and in El Salvador. Lighter and slightly suppressed rainfall (<25mm) was observed in some interior portions of Nicaragua, Honduras and the coastal areas around the Gulf of Honduras. The week's pattern resulted in positive rainfall anomalies for a few parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, much of Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. As a result of the prolonged period of enhanced rains, large parts of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Belize are experiencing much-improved moisture conditions over the last 30 days. Seasonal moisture deficits still exist in parts of central Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. However, deficits have improved to between 50% and 80% of average rainfall accumulation since August 1st. On the ground, vegetation health is still struggling in regions that include Belize, northern Guatemala, and a few local areas in central Honduras, but positive week-to-week trends are widely observed in the region.

The forecast for the outlook period is that most of Central America will return to near-average, or below-average rainfall conditions. A few areas where the heaviest rainfall totals are likely to occur in southern Guatemala, coastal portions of El Salvador could remain enhanced this week. More than 75mm of rain is likely. Heavy rains are also likely in Costa Rica and Panama. The threat for flooding remains in Guatemala, El Salvador and western Honduras. Eastern portions of Honduras and Nicaragua should receive lighter, suppressed rains. Two tropical lows that were impacting the area with heavy rain have moved away.

