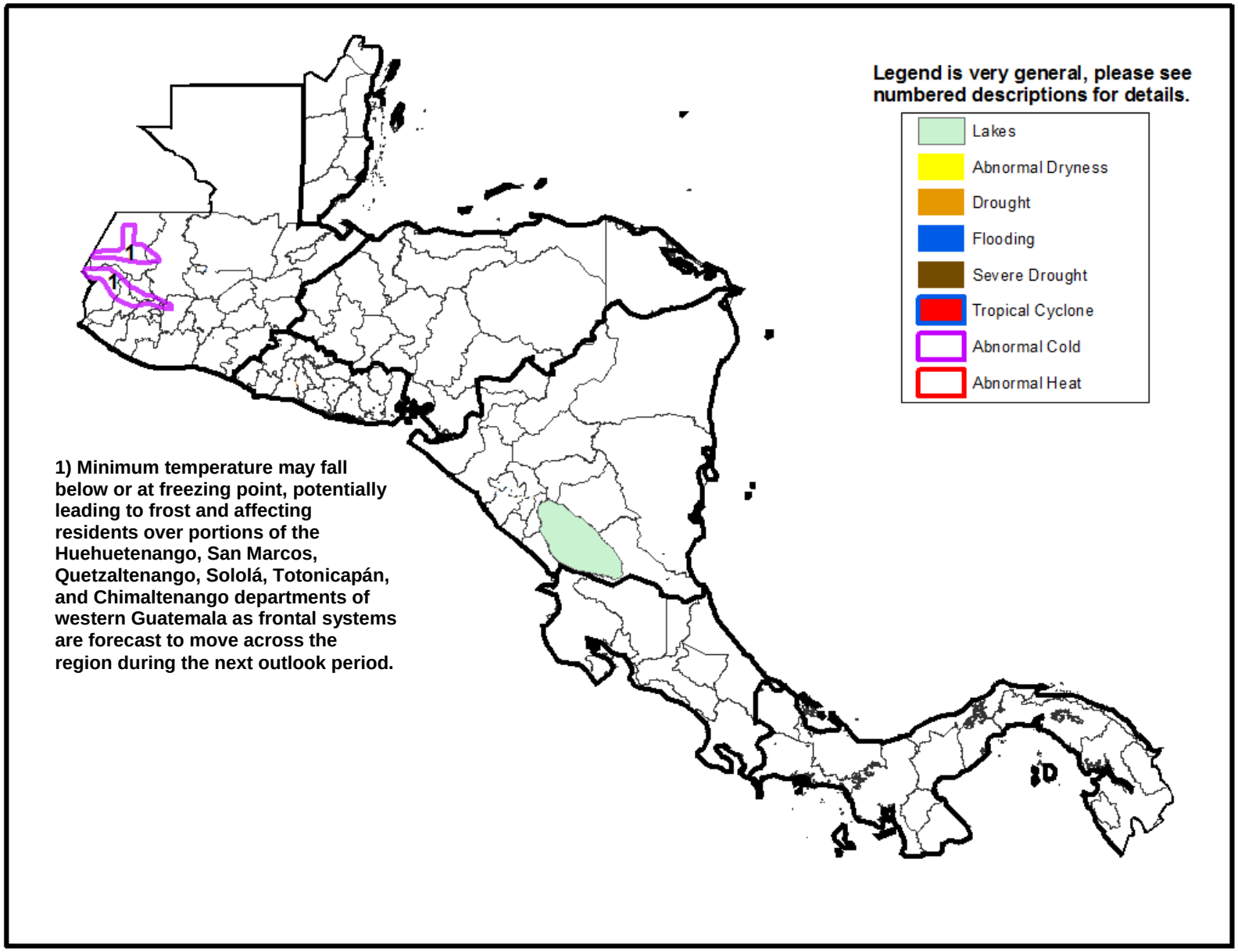
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
February 11 – 17, 2016

- **The forecast passage of frontal systems is expected to bring increased rain along the Atlantic Basin and colder than average weather across the higher elevations of Central America during the next week.**



Increased rain expected to reduce moisture deficits over Central America during the next week.

During early February, a dry weather pattern, with suppressed rain continued across much of Central America. Though, some areas along the northern coasts of Honduras received moderate to heavy (> 30 mm) rain. While suppressed rain is typical of the winter season across Central America, the persistent lack of moisture could create an environment that is favorable for forest fires over many local areas. During the past thirty days, drier than average conditions, with rainfall deficits ranging between 50-100 mm have been observed in northern Guatemala, northeastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and western Panama. This uneven rainfall distribution has continued since the beginning of the *Apante*, December-April rainfall season. Seasonal deficits in excess of 100 mm have been recorded over parts of northern Guatemala, southern Belize, southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, whereas near-neutral conditions have been observed elsewhere. Good rain is needed to reduce seasonal deficits and replenish soil moisture to maintain adequate conditions for the dry-season cropping activities over local areas of Central America.

For next week, enhanced rain is forecast along the Atlantic Basin of Central America as frontal systems are expected to move across the region. Heavy showers are expected along the northern coasts of Honduras, Caribbean Basin of Costa Rica and western Panama. The forecast heavy rain could trigger localized flooding over some areas. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain is forecast across most parts of the interior of the region. This should help to partially reduce accumulated rainfall deficits and aid agricultural activities over many local areas. For temperatures, minimum temperature could fall near to freezing point and possibly lead to frost over the highest elevations of western and central Guatemala.

Week 1 Rainfall Total and Anomaly Forecast (mm)
February 10 – February 17, 2016

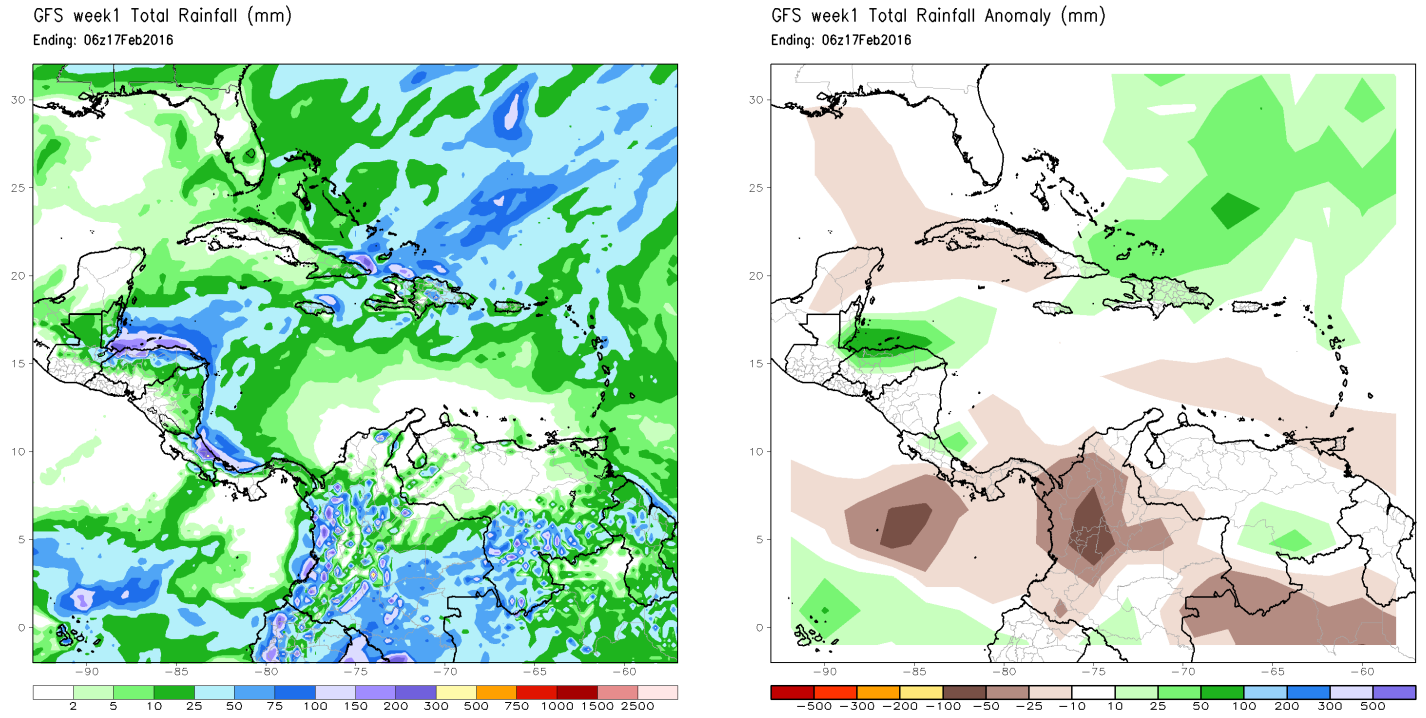


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.