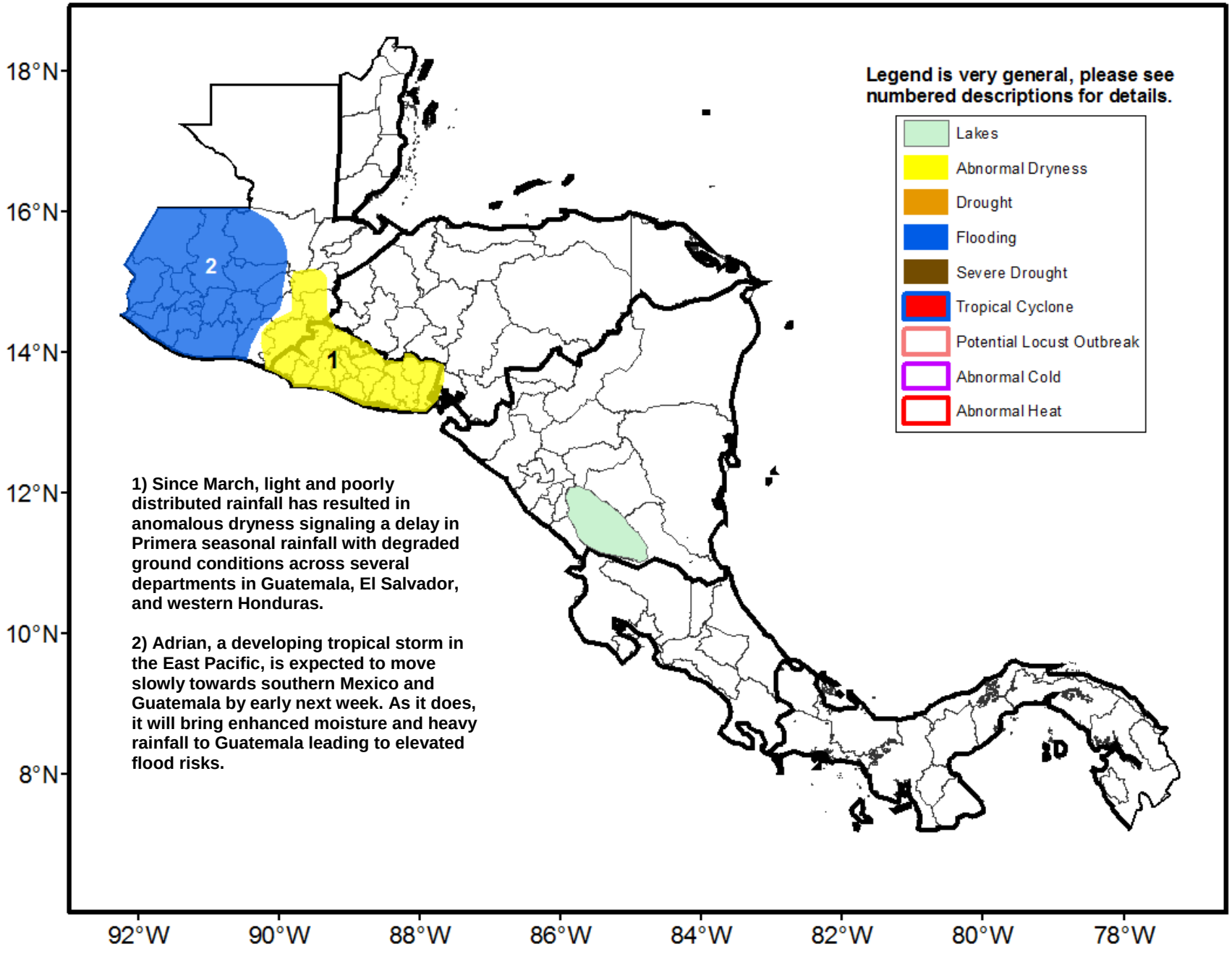
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
May 11 – 17, 2017

- **Widespread beneficial rainfall was received across the region**



1) Since March, light and poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in anomalous dryness signaling a delay in Primera seasonal rainfall with degraded ground conditions across several departments in Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras.

2) Adrian, a developing tropical storm in the East Pacific, is expected to move slowly towards southern Mexico and Guatemala by early next week. As it does, it will bring enhanced moisture and heavy rainfall to Guatemala leading to elevated flood risks.

An enhancement in rainfall last week eliminated moisture deficits for many areas of Guatemala and El Salvador

A pattern shift last week has led to a large increase in rainfall across a wide portion of the region. This is especially true for many areas in which the Primera season has started poorly. According to satellite estimates, regions along the Pacific side of Central America received large amounts, well in excess of 100mm, especially in southwestern Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Nicaragua. Northern Guatemala also saw large rainfall totals exceeding 100mm. Many other parts of the region received moderate rainfall, while northeastern Nicaragua and localized parts of northern Honduras received only very light rains. The week's pattern yielded positive 7-day anomalies for many portions of the region. This went a long way towards eliminating deficits that were built during the past 30 days or so in Southern Guatemala and El Salvador. Some local areas of El Salvador and central Honduras continue to exhibit moisture deficits. The Vegetation Health Index still indicates poor ground conditions and even a negative tendency. However, conditions reflected by the index are time lagged and, after the increased moisture, the trend is expected to reverse soon.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, the pattern of enhanced rainfall is expected to continue. Heavier rainfall totals greater than 100mm could be even more widespread than last week. The greatest rainfall should be found in the southern half of Guatemala where a developing tropical storm (Adrian) will enhance rainfall. Rainfall totals could exceed 200mm for some local areas bringing risk of floooding. Moderate rains of at least 25mm are likely to be widespread through the entire region. Very heavy rain is possible for parts of Costa Rica. Another week of average and above-average rains as forecasted will put abnormal dryness concerns to rest.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
May 10 – 17, 2017

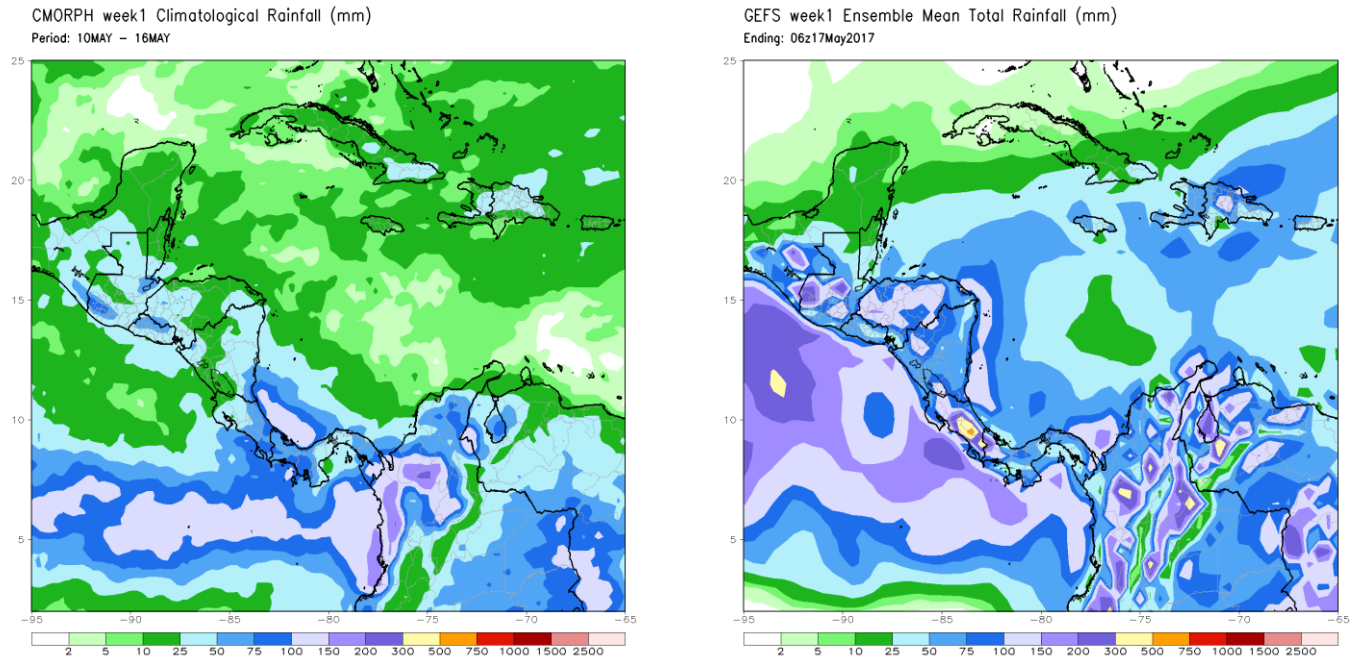


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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