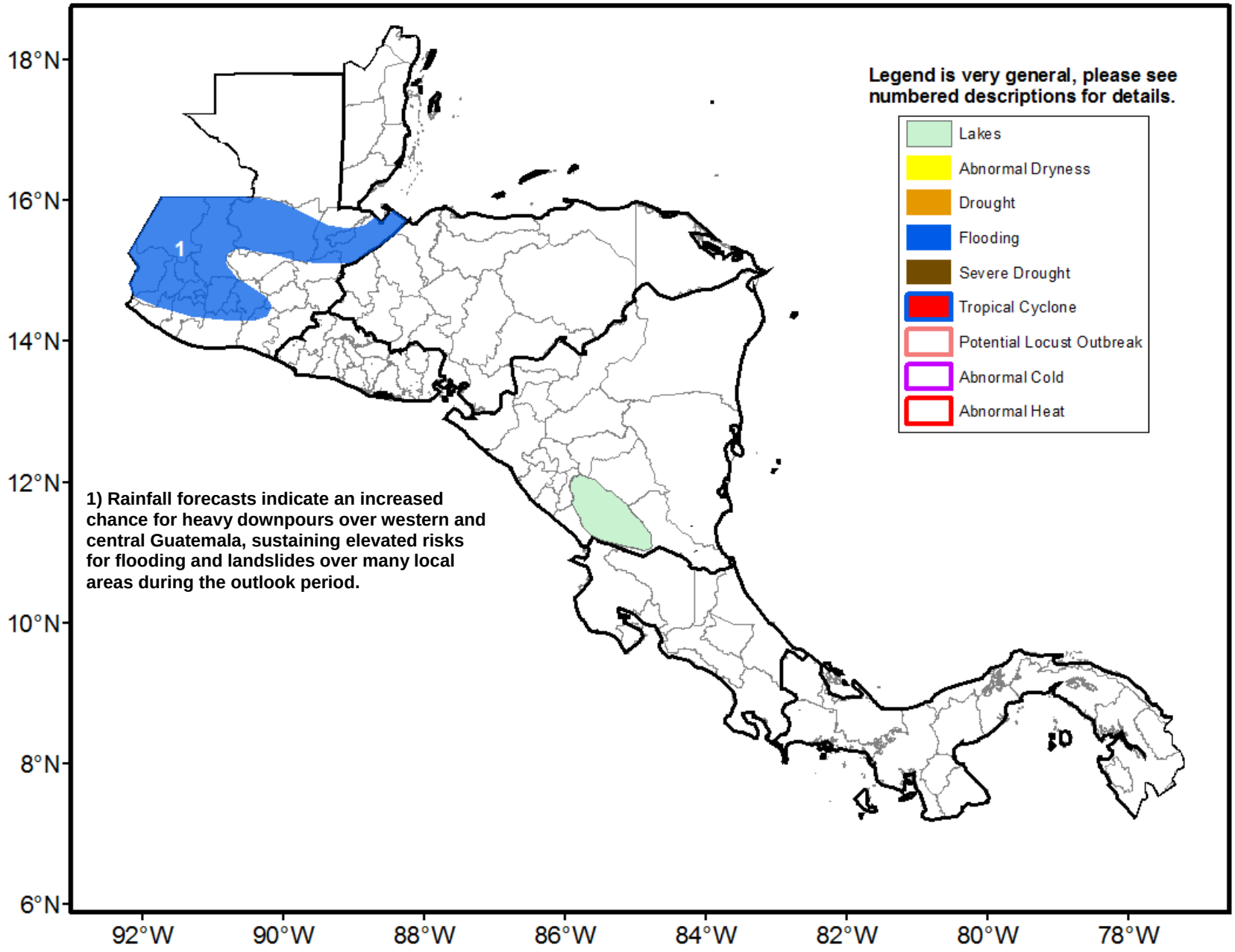
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
August 31 – September 6, 2017

Enhanced rain forecast along the Pacific Basin, while reduced rain expected elsewhere during the next week.



1) Rainfall forecasts indicate an increased chance for heavy downpours over western and central Guatemala, sustaining elevated risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas during the outlook period.

Limited and below-average rain expected over the inland of Central America during the next week

During the past observation period, light to moderate rain fell throughout the interior of Central America, while locally moderate rain was observed over parts of north-central and southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Honduras, and Panama, according to satellite rainfall estimates. In Guatemala, heavy rain resulted in flooding and affected people over areas of the Alta Verapaz and Petén departments, based on reports. However, this past week's rainfall totals were, overall, below-average over the region and could signal the end of the May-August rainfall season. Since late July to present, negative rainfall anomalies persisted over southern Belize, portions of southern Guatemala, central Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and eastern Panama. In contrast, thirty-day positive anomalies dominated along the Gulf of Honduras, Gulf of Fonseca, and the Pacific Rim of the Southern Caribbean. An analysis of the percent of average rain for the accumulated rain over the past ninety days showed adequate (80-120 percent of average) performance for the May-August season, except east-central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and eastern Costa Rica, where seasonal rain has accounted only between 50-80 percent of the average. Recent indices from crop performance models also indicated mostly favorable conditions throughout the region.

For next week, heavy downpours, which could result in flooding, landslides, and overflowing of local rivers, are forecast over western and central Guatemala. Heavy rain is also expected along the Pacific Rim of Central America, while reduced, with light to locally moderate rain is forecast elsewhere. The forecast limited rain could increase moisture deficits further and potentially negatively impact crops in their late development stages over some local areas of the dry portions of Central America.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)
August 30 – September 6, 2017

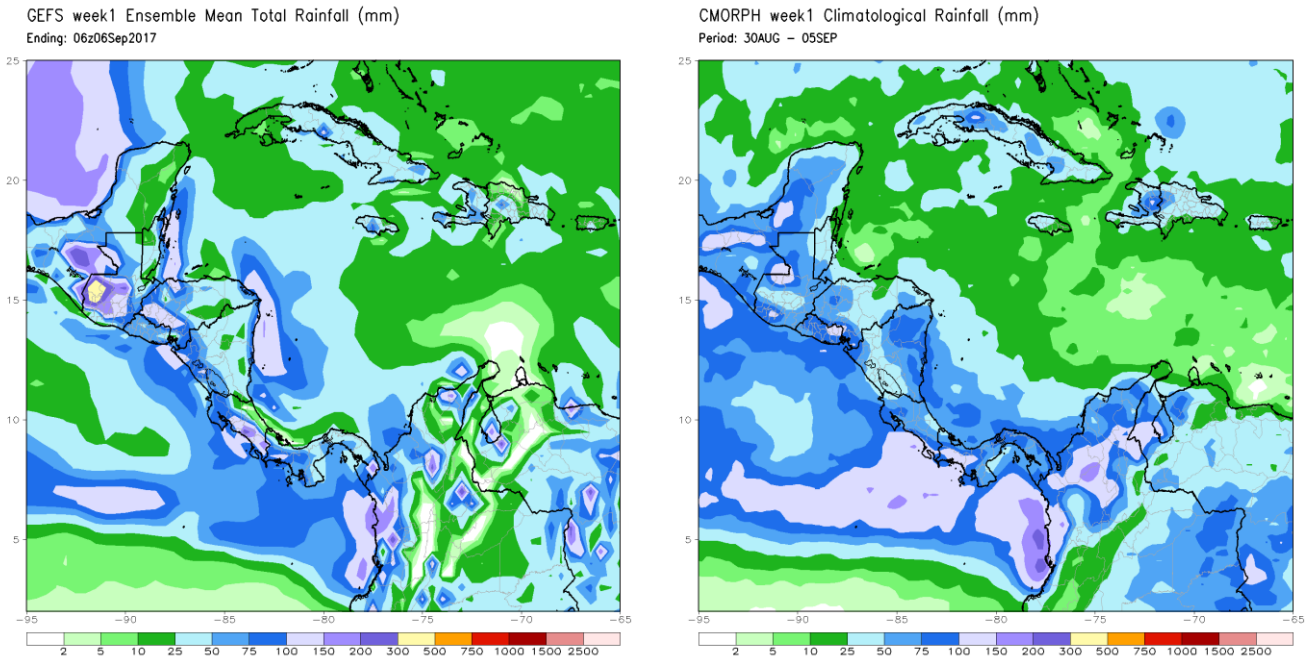


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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