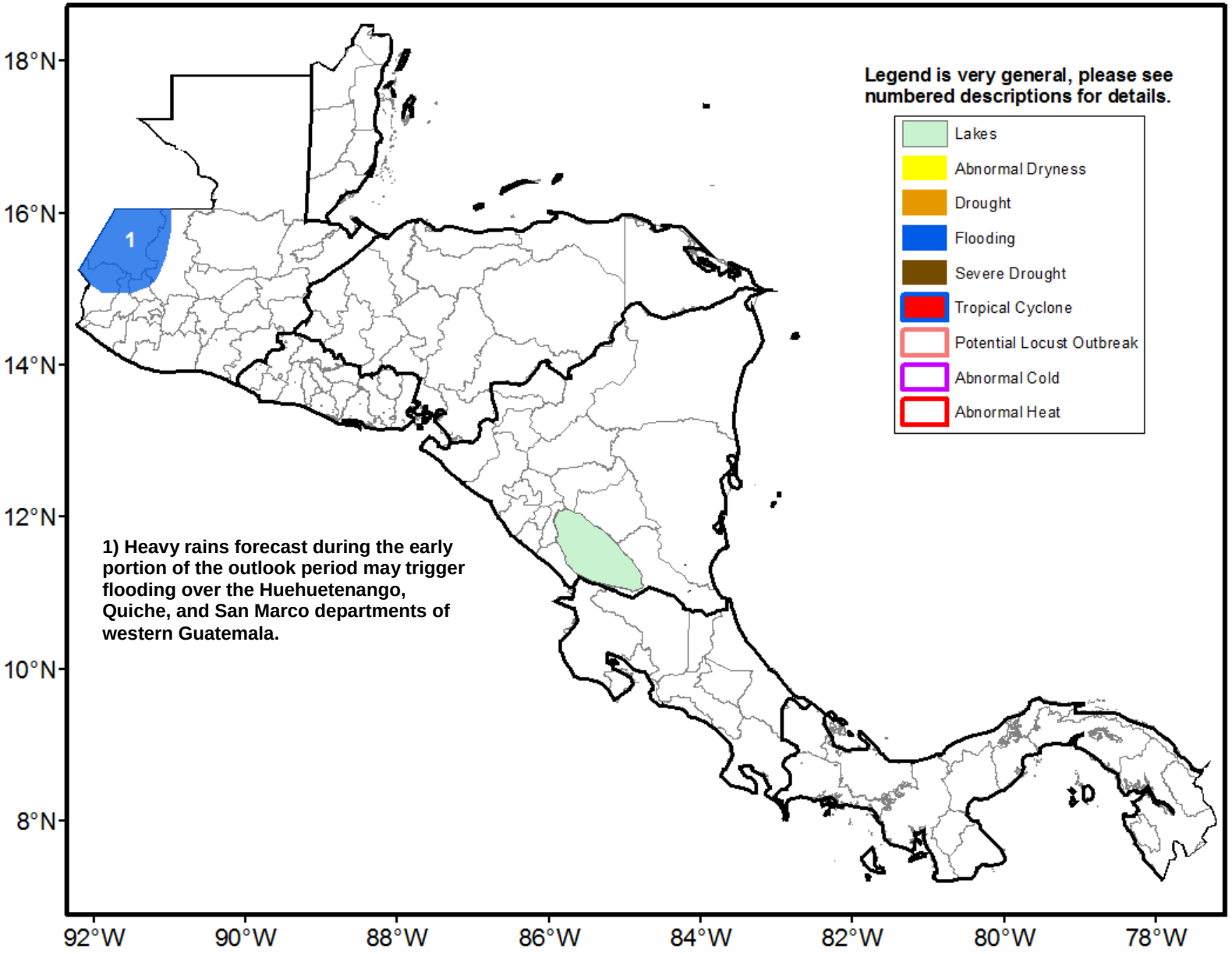
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
September 14 – September 20, 2017

Heavy rains forecast increase risk for localized flooding over parts of western Guatemala.



1) Heavy rains forecast during the early portion of the outlook period may trigger flooding over the Huehuetenango, Quiche, and San Marco departments of western Guatemala.

Large decreases in seasonal rains observed over Honduras and Nicaragua.

While the passage of tropical cyclone Irma resulted in significantly heavy precipitation throughout the Caribbean, many regions in Central America saw decreased rainfall amounts during the last week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) were received across many departments in southern Guatemala and El Salvador, with considerably lower amounts (5-25mm) registered across much of Honduras and Nicaragua. Towards the south, heavy rainfall accumulations were received across Pacific facing departments of Costa Rica and the Gulf of Nicoya region.

The suppressed rainfall in Nicaragua and Honduras during the last week has considerably strengthened seasonal moisture deficits in the region. Over the last 30 days, the central department of Nicaragua and Honduras have experienced between 50-80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since mid-August, with some local areas received less than half of their normal rainfall. Vegetation health indices also indicate less than favorable conditions where anomalous dryness has developed.

For next week, increased shower activity is forecast for western Guatemala as well as for areas in the Gulf of Fonseca region. However, light to locally moderate rain is forecast over eastern Honduras and central Nicaragua, which may result in a strengthening of mid-season moisture deficits and negatively impact cropping activities.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)
September 13 – September 20, 2017

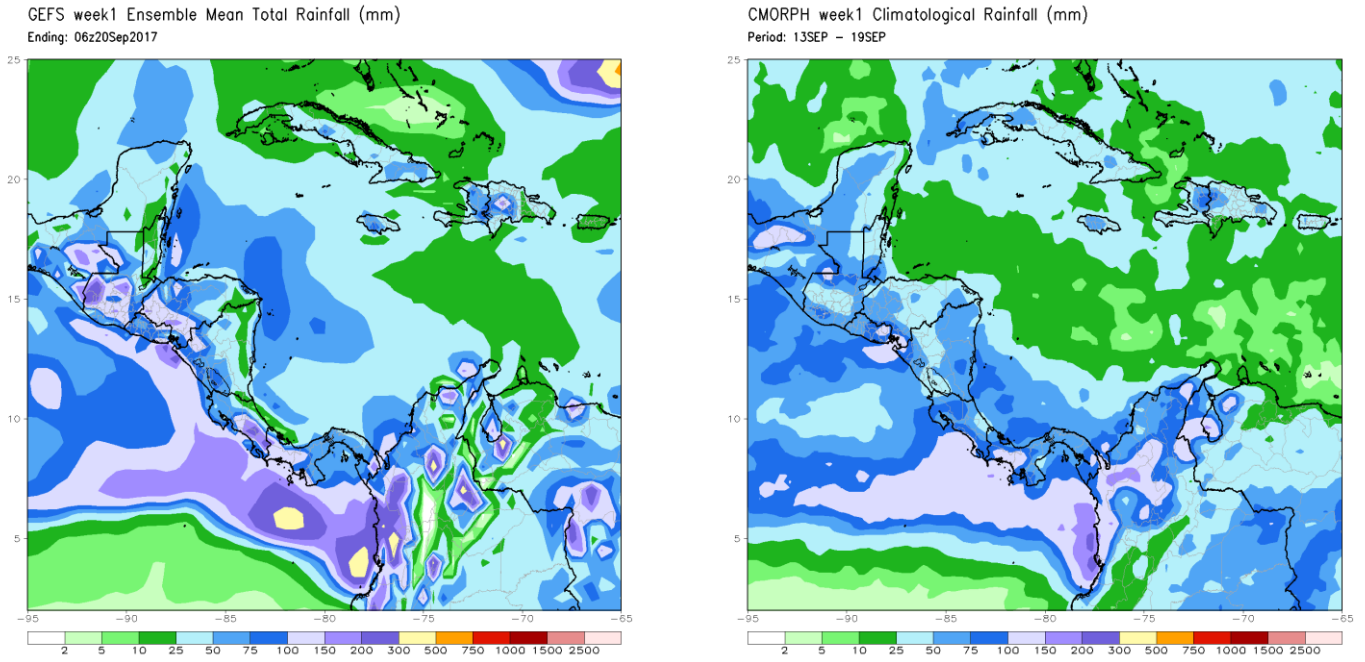


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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