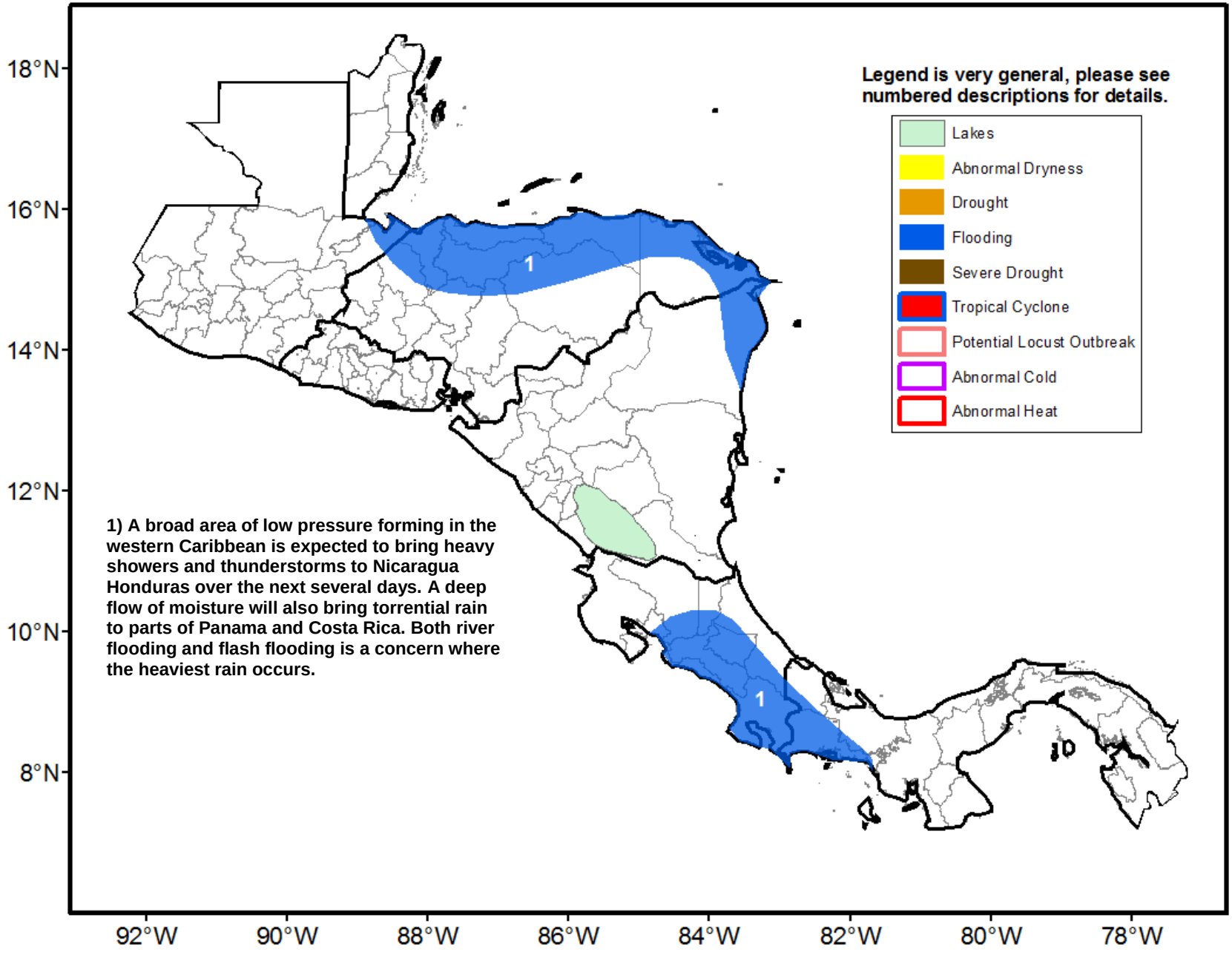
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
October 26 – November 1, 2017

Increased rainfall in eastern Nicaragua has shrunk moisture deficits there.



A slow moving area of showers and thunderstorms is expected to bring abundant rain to the region.

In a change from the previous week's pattern, light rains were observed over central Guatemala and western Honduras, while heavy rain was observed in eastern Nicaragua. The greatest observed rainfall totals in the region (150-200mm), according to satellite estimates, were in eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. In addition, large totals exceeding 100mm were observed in areas that include El Salvador, and local parts of Guatemala's Petén department. On the other end of the spectrum, parts of central Guatemala received no rain. There was general suppression of precipitation for many other parts of Central America. Heavier rain in eastern Nicaragua diminished existing substantial 30-day rainfall deficits, which are now relegated to a small area of the northeast. Over longer 90-day periods, moisture deficits are less significant, with the season as a whole experiencing near normal performance. The Vegetation Health Index shows average ground conditions in much of the region, with some recent improvement in eastern Nicaragua. The index also shows some patches of poorer values in northern Guatemala and Belize. 30-day SPI highlights poor performance now only in northeastern Nicaragua.

A broad area of disturbed weather over the western Caribbean will drift slowly northward over the next 4 days. The system is expected to greatly enhance rainfall across most of the region. Areas in eastern Nicaragua and northern Honduras could easily receive 200mm of rain or more. Forecast models also indicate that Costa Rica and Panama may see large amounts of rain as well. Rainfall should erase any lingering Nicaragua moisture deficits, but may also lead to flooding throughout the region.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
October 25 – November 1, 2017

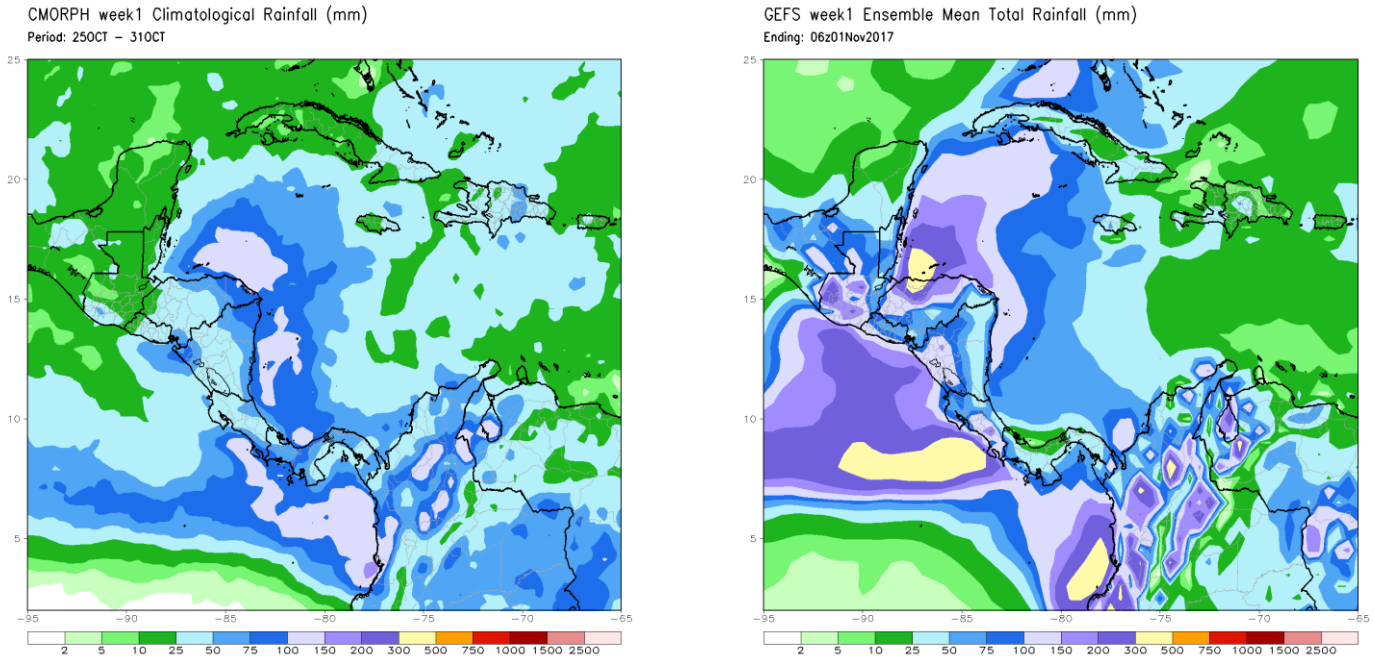


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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