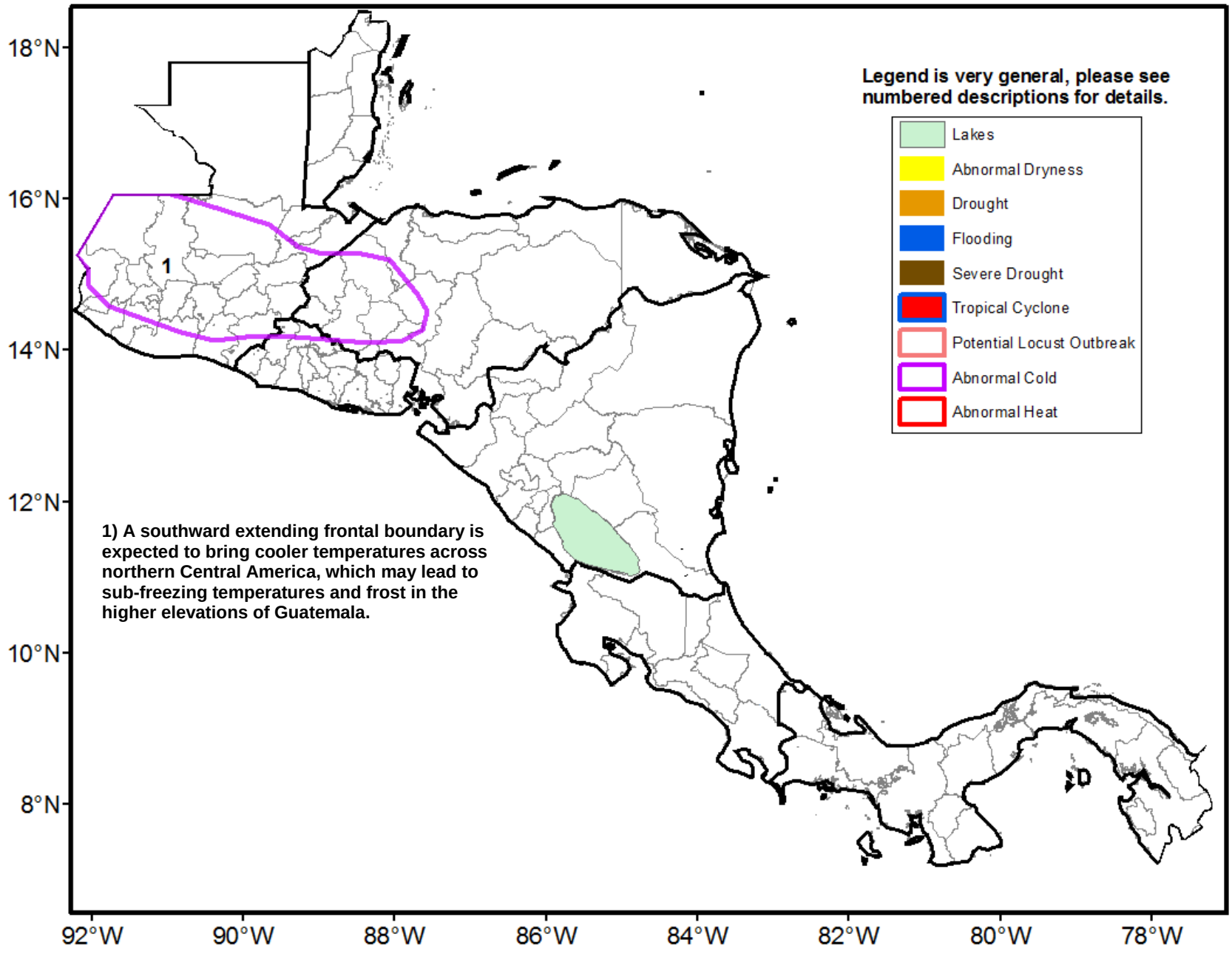
# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
## December 14 – December 20, 2017

**Cooler than average temperatures forecast to continue in Guatemala and Honduras during mid-December.**



**Heavy and well above-normal rains were observed across eastern and southern portions of the region during the past week.**

Increased amounts of precipitation were received during the past week over many parts of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. Prevalent showers and thunderstorms activity associated with a frontal passage resulted in significant rainfall totals as high as 200mm or more in eastern Nicaragua. Rainfall amounts exceeding 100mm were also observed northward into Honduras according to satellite estimates. Western parts of the region were much dryer, with only scattered light or moderate rain showers. Consequently, the week's rainfall was well-above normal, leading to positive 7-day rainfall anomalies of greater than 100mm. These increased rains helped to lessen many moisture deficits present in the region due to poor November rainfall. However, residual moisture deficits over the past 30 days are still observed in parts of southern Guatemala. Combined with strong surface winds, anomalous dryness in parts of Guatemala may be conducive to forest fires over local areas. According to remotely sensed vegetation health indices, ground conditions show neutral to favorable ground conditions in much of the region, with some recent improvement in eastern Nicaragua compared to last week. However, unfavorable values in remain across northern Guatemala.

Over the next 7 days, moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast to persist in eastern Nicaragua, northern Honduras with increased amounts in Guatemala. Pacific facing parts of the region will remain seasonally dry. Temperatures are forecast to be below normal in conjunction with a post-frontal air mass during the beginning of the outlook period. Minimum temperatures are likely to approach very close to freezing in the higher elevations of Guatemala. This may negatively impact livelihoods of those living in the region.

**Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)**
**December 11 – December 18, 2017**

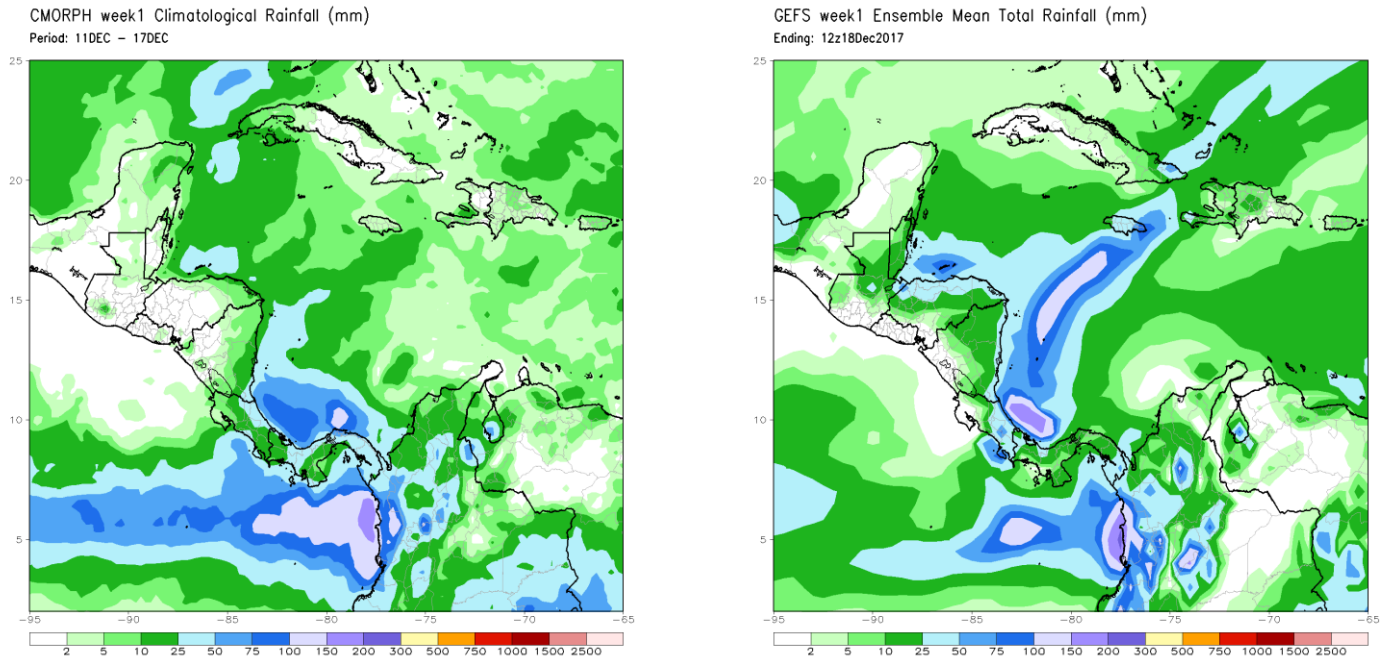



**Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC**

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