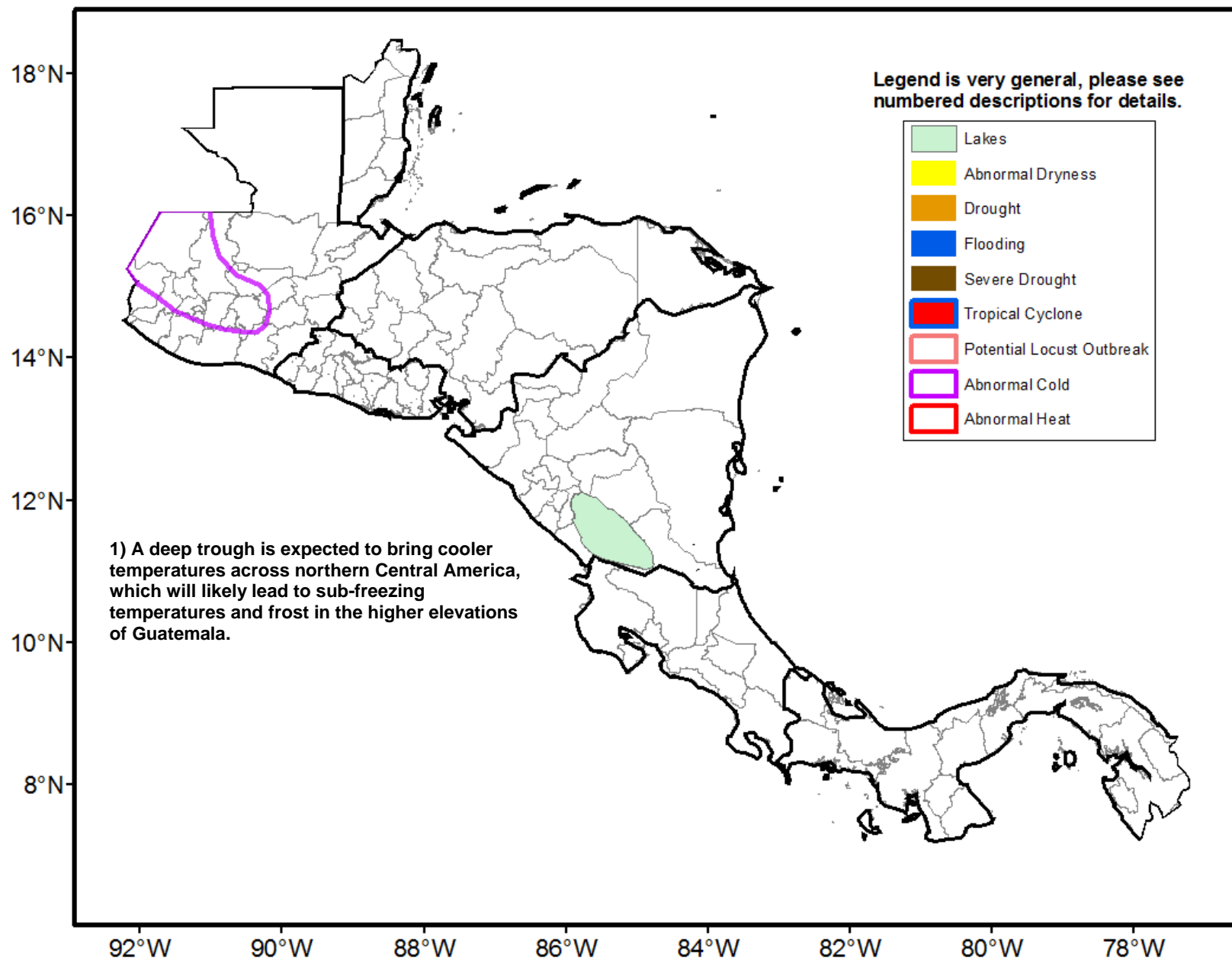




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 18 – January 24, 2017

A seasonable rainfall pattern persisted over the region.



Cooler than normal temperatures and increased rain chances are in the forecast.

The majority of the Central America region experienced seasonably dry conditions during the past week, while many areas along the Caribbean coast received light or moderate rain showers. An area of heavier rainfall accumulation (greater than 100mm) was observed by satellites over eastern Costa Rica. Thus far, performance during the Apante season has been near normal across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and western Honduras. Contrastingly, moisture conditions proved wetter than average over areas of eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with positive rainfall anomalies exceeding 100mm since December 1. Vegetation indices point towards healthy ground conditions. A few local areas, such as in eastern Nicaragua, show some middle range values. Overall, there has been a positive trend in index values during recent weeks. Observed temperatures were cooler than average.

Over the next 7 days, an increase in precipitation is possible along the Caribbean coasts. Moderate and even heavy rainfall on the order of 100mm is possible in northern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Some lighter amounts are possible in central portions of the region. Temperatures are forecast to remain cooler than normal for the northern Half of the region. Minimum temperatures will approach or dip below freezing in the higher elevations of Guatemala. This may negatively impact the livelihoods of those living in the region. Expect temperatures to begin to moderate in the second half of the period.

