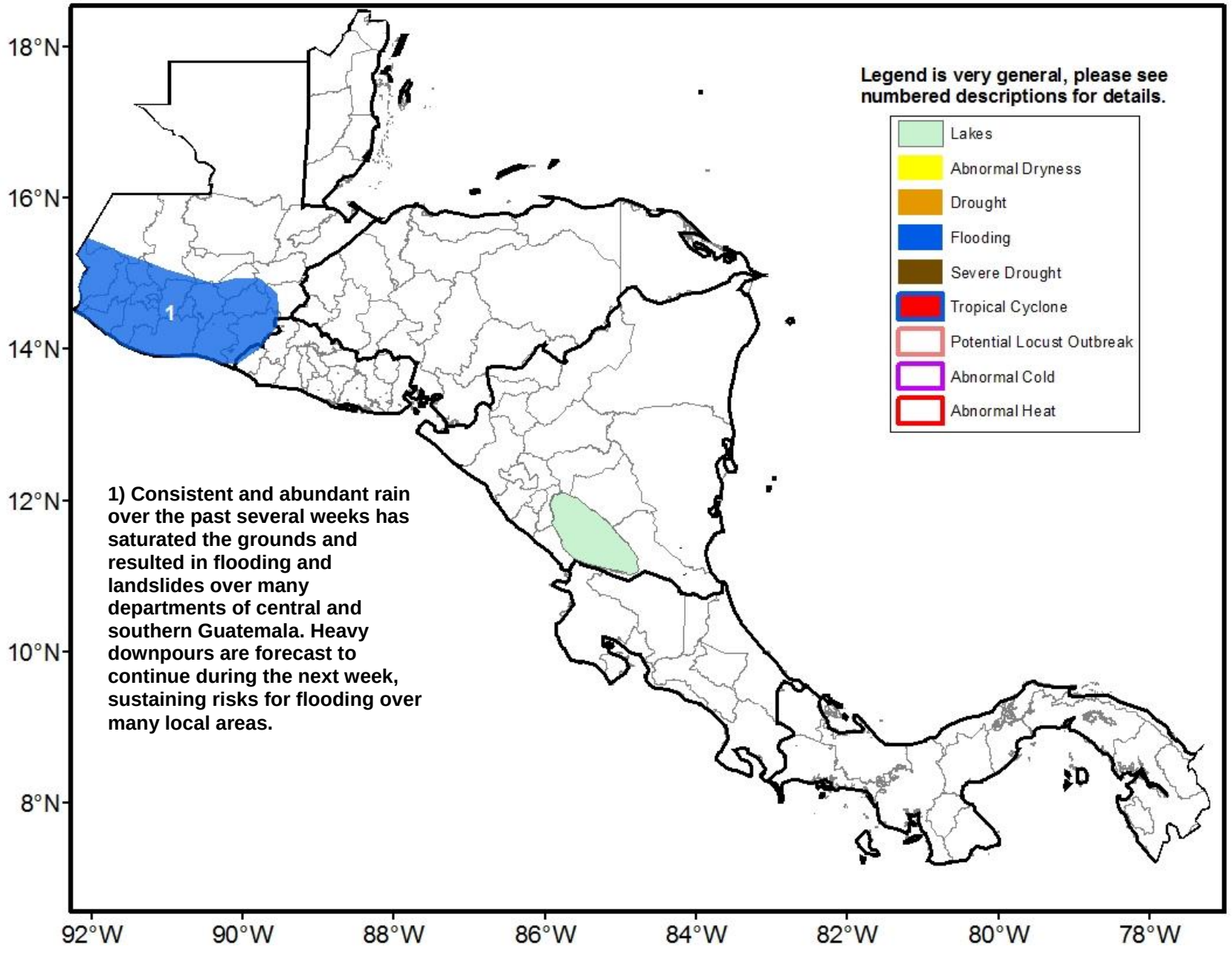
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
May 31 – June 6, 2018

Abundant and widespread rain is forecast across Central America, potentially causing flooding and landslides over many at-risk areas during the next week.



High risks for flooding and landslides to continue over many local areas during the next week

During late May, widespread heavy rain fell throughout the southern portions of Central America. Torrential rain was received across southern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, while moderate to locally heavy rain continued over the coastal regions of southern Guatemala and El Salvador. In Guatemala, the consistent rain resulted in flooding, landslides, and many affected people over areas of the Totonicapán, Guatemala, and El Progreso departments, according to local media reports. In Costa Rica, landslides, which caused cut off roads, were also reported over the Las Hortensia and Ciudad Colón areas. In contrast, limited with little to no rainfall was recorded across the north-central and northern parts of Guatemala. Due to an uneven rainfall distribution over the past several weeks, while positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies persisted along the Pacific Rim of Central America from southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, Nicaragua, to portions of the southern Caribbean, negative rainfall anomalies continued to strengthen over northern and central Guatemala. Although the continuation of seasonal rain could exacerbate ground conditions over many already-saturated areas, a favorable spatial and temporal distribution of rain should help to improve soil moisture and aid current season's agricultural activities over the dry portions of Central America.

For next week, rainfall forecasts indicate widespread, heavy rain, which may announce the establishment of the May-August rainfall season over Central America. Heavy downpours are expected over central Guatemala, western Honduras, and Costa Rica, maintaining high risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas of the region.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
May 30 – June 6, 2018

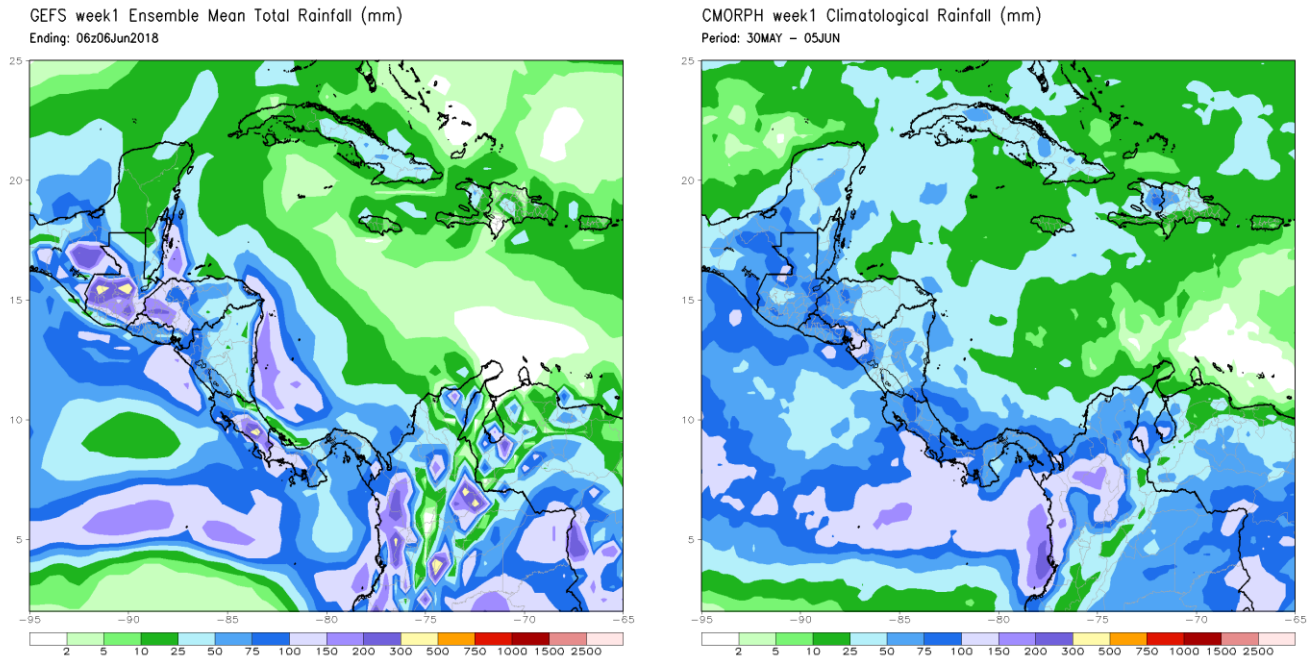


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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