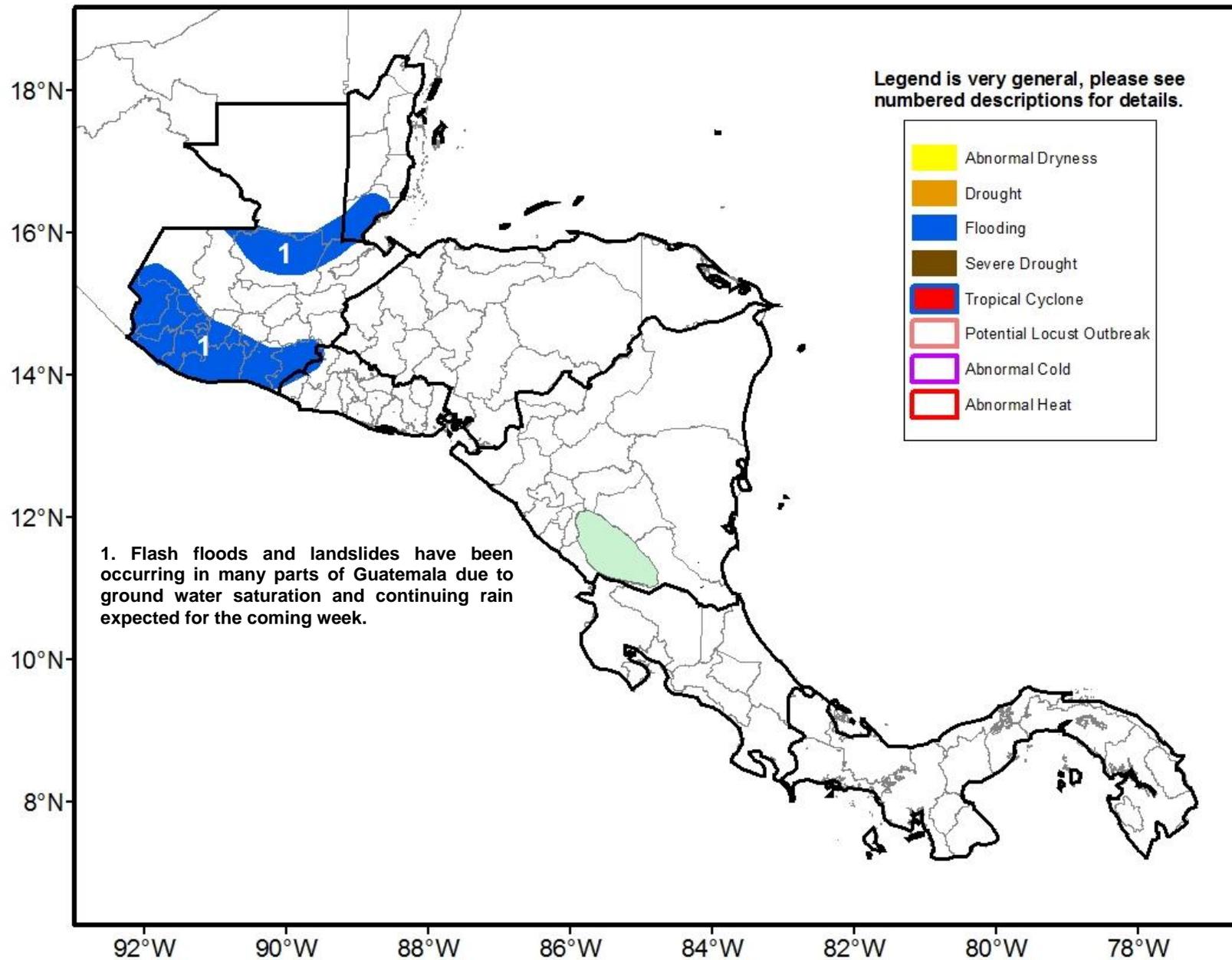




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 3 – October 9, 2019

Enhanced rainfall is improving moisture deficits but also leading to flooding concerns for some.



Recent increases in rainfall are positively impacting moisture conditions in much of the region

During the past week, rainfall was increased all across Central America. Areas experiencing the highest weekly totals include Belize, southern and central Guatemala, as well as southern and western Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua. Totals of more than 150mm were observed in these areas according to satellite estimates. Flooding problems and landslides have been reported. Lighter, but still well-distributed, rainfall was observed across the southern half of the region. The week's pattern resulted in positive rainfall anomalies for Belize, Honduras, southern and central Guatemala, as well as northwestern Nicaragua. Other areas including northern Guatemala and eastern Nicaragua recorded negative rainfall anomalies. As a result, much of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Belize are experiencing improved moisture conditions over the last 30 days, while conditions are still quite poor in parts of Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. Less than 50% of average rainfall accumulation has been observed since the start of August since the start of August. On the ground Vegetation health is struggling in several regions, both from recent rainfall performance and lingering from the Primera season. Some of the worst conditions according to veggie indices are found in northern Guatemala, Belize, and central Honduras.

The forecast during the upcoming outlook period is for continued enhancement of rainfall for many portions of Central America. Many parts of Guatemala and Honduras are likely to see more than 100 and even 150mm of rain again this week. This will lead to the threat of flooding, especially in southern and central Guatemala where soils are especially saturated. Meanwhile, tropical cyclone development is possible (20% chance) during the next week in the northern Caribbean. Either way, the disturbance will likely enhance moisture across Belize and Guatemala.

