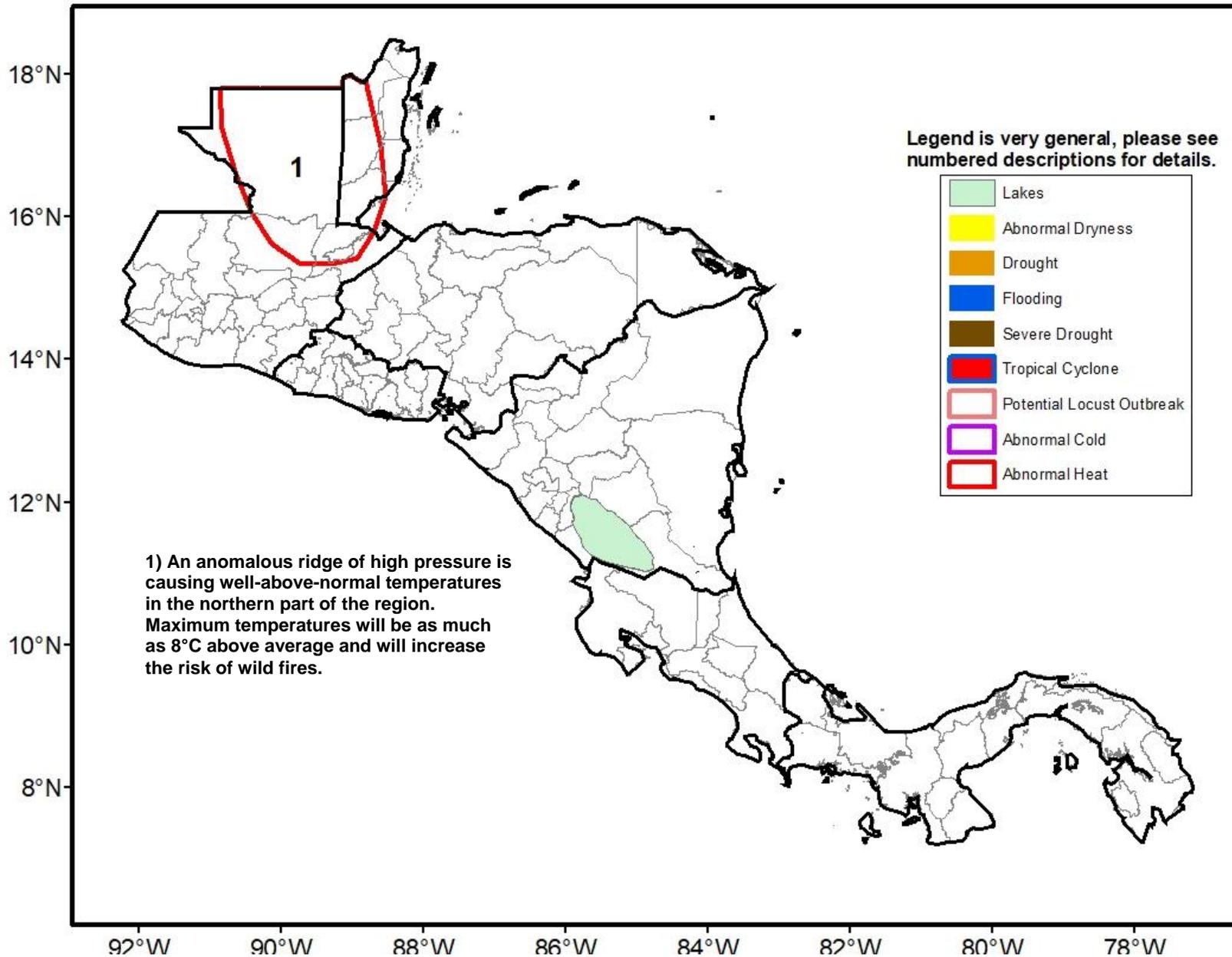




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 16 - 22, 2020

- A few scattered showers and storms were observed over parts of Honduras and Guatemala



A broad upper level high is bringing abnormal heat and dry conditions to portions of the region

Less rainfall was observed in the region during the past 7 days compared to the previous week. A few light showers and thunderstorms were observed in southern Guatemala and western Honduras. According to satellite estimates local totals were less than 25mm. Elsewhere, only very light rain was observed in parts of western Nicaragua, and locally moderate rain in Costa Rica and Panama. Moisture conditions had generally been sufficient and near or above normal in the region during the Apante season. However, during the last couple weeks, some regions have begun to develop moisture deficits as the Primera rains have been slow to increase. Negative 30-day anomalies of more than 25mm are visible in northern Guatemala and Belize. Early-season deficits are also building in the southern Caribbean. Costa Rica and Panama exhibit negative anomalies reaching 50mm. Drought monitors and vegetation health indices still suggest that ground conditions are largely good in the region. A few local areas of Belize and northern Guatemala may be the exception.

During the outlook period, seasonable light and moderate rain is expected in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southern Honduras. In contrast, rains should continue to be suppressed in northern Guatemala and Belize. Weather models predict an increase in rainfall across Costa Rica and Panama, where totals are likely to exceed 50mm in local areas. Abnormally hot temperatures, continuing from the past week are forecast to continue into the outlook period raising wild fire risk.

