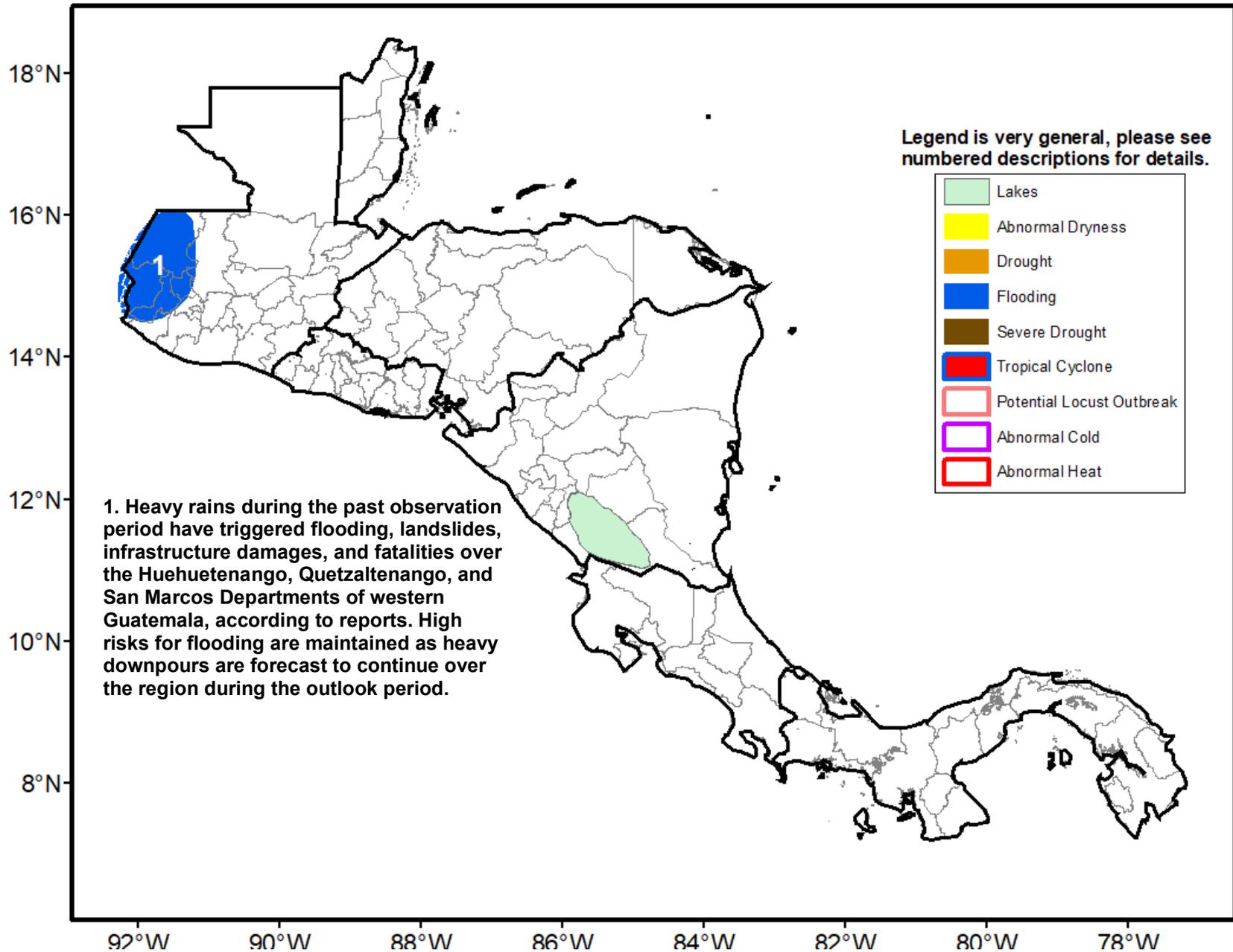




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 14 – 20, 2020

- The forecast heavy downpours during the next week maintain high risks for flooding in western Guatemala.



Enhanced rains forecast over the Pacific-facing regions of Central America during the next week.

During early May, widespread moderate to locally heavy rains were observed over northern Central America, including northern, western, and southern Guatemala, The Gulf of Honduras, El Salvador, and southwestern Honduras. This past week's abundant rains triggered flooding, landslides, infrastructure damages, and fatalities over the San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, and Huehuetenango Departments of western Guatemala, based on local reports. Strong winds were also reported to have caused damages to houses in Guatemala City. Meanwhile, limited rainfall was registered over central Honduras, much of Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. Over the past thirty days, above-average rainfall persisted over northern and southern Guatemala and southwestern Honduras, while below-average rainfall with deficits ranging between 25-50 mm continued over western Honduras, portions of the Gulf of Fonseca, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The observed drier-than-average conditions resulted from an uneven distribution of rainfall and sluggish start to seasonal rainfall over some areas. However, vegetation conditions, inferred from remote sensing still indicated a slight improvement over the Pacific-facing regions due to consistent rainfall over the recent weeks.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest increased rains over northern Central America, particularly western Guatemala and the Pacific-facing regions, which maintain elevated risks for flooding and landslides over many saturated and previously-flooded areas. Light rains are forecast over eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. Farther south, heavy downpours are expected over Costa Rica and Panama. The forecast increased rainfall amounts should help erode short-term moisture deficits and benefit cropping ongoing cropping activities over many local areas.

