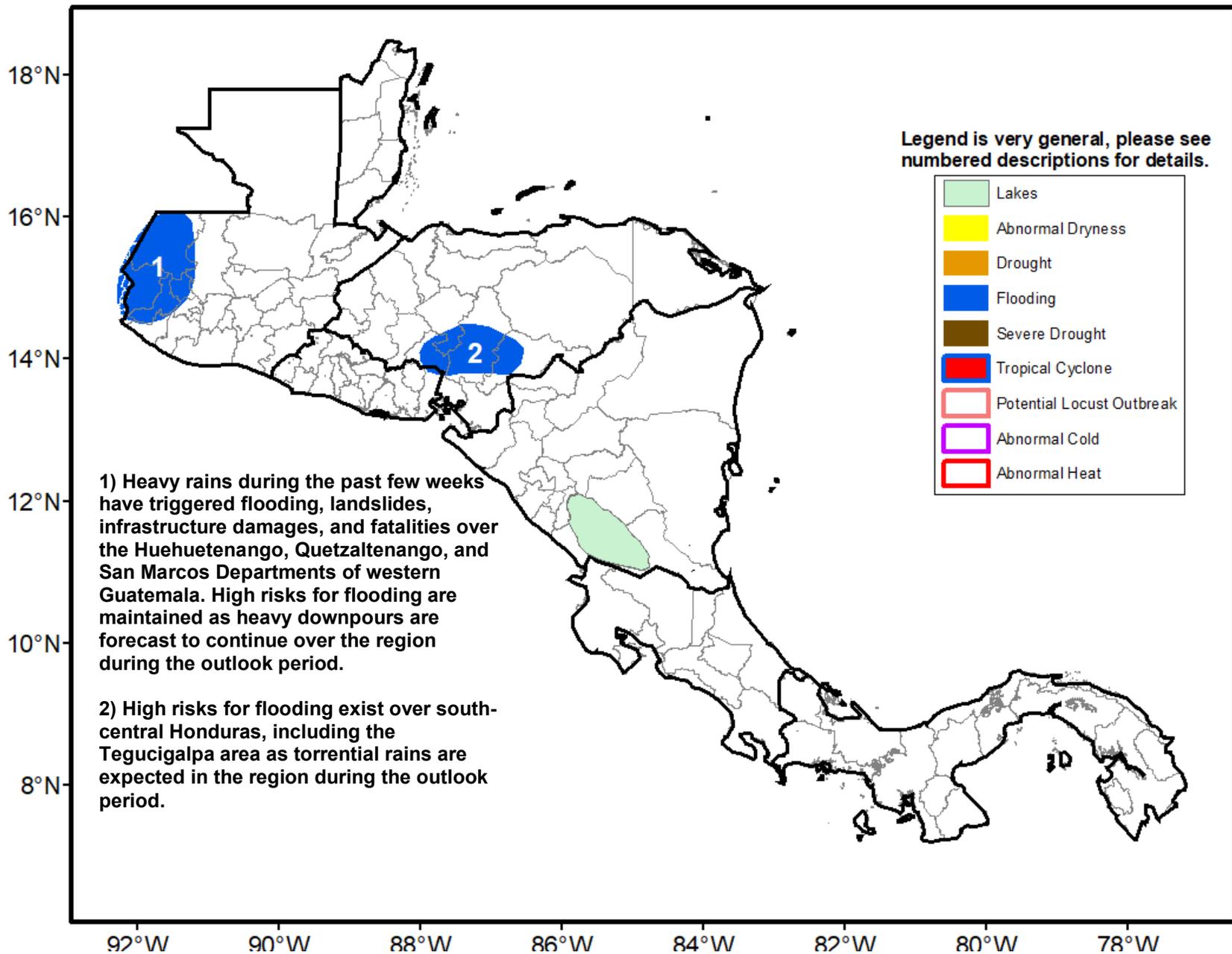




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 21 – 27, 2020

- High risks for flooding remain over many parts of Central America as heavy rains are forecast to continue.



The forecast widespread heavy rainfall could trigger flooding and landslides over many areas.

During the past seven days, widespread abundant rains continued over northern Central America. The heaviest (> 100 mm) amounts were registered along the Gulf of Honduras, Pacific regions of Guatemala, El Salvador, Gulf of Fonseca, and local areas of northern Nicaragua. Farther south, limited with light to moderate rains fell over Costa Rica and Panama. The consistent rains over the past few weeks have contributed to erode thirty-day moisture deficits over parts of Guatemala and Honduras and maintain surpluses over much of northern Central America. In contrast, insufficient rainfall increased deficits over southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. An analysis of vegetation conditions from a crop performance model indicated that favorable conditions were observed throughout much of Central America due to widespread and above-average rainfall over the past several weeks. However, more rains are needed over Costa Rica and Panama to reduce deficits and aid cropping activities in the region.

During the outlook period, heavy rains are forecast over Central America. Rainfall amounts in excess of 100 mm are possible over western and central Guatemala, southern Honduras, western Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. In Guatemala, the forecast abundant rains could trigger dangerous pyroclastic flow downstream of the catchments over the Escuintla and Retalhuleu Departments to the south of the country. While the forecast continued downpours should help further erode rainfall deficits over the dry portions of Central America, excessive moisture may exacerbate conditions over many previously-flooded areas and trigger new flooding and landslides.

