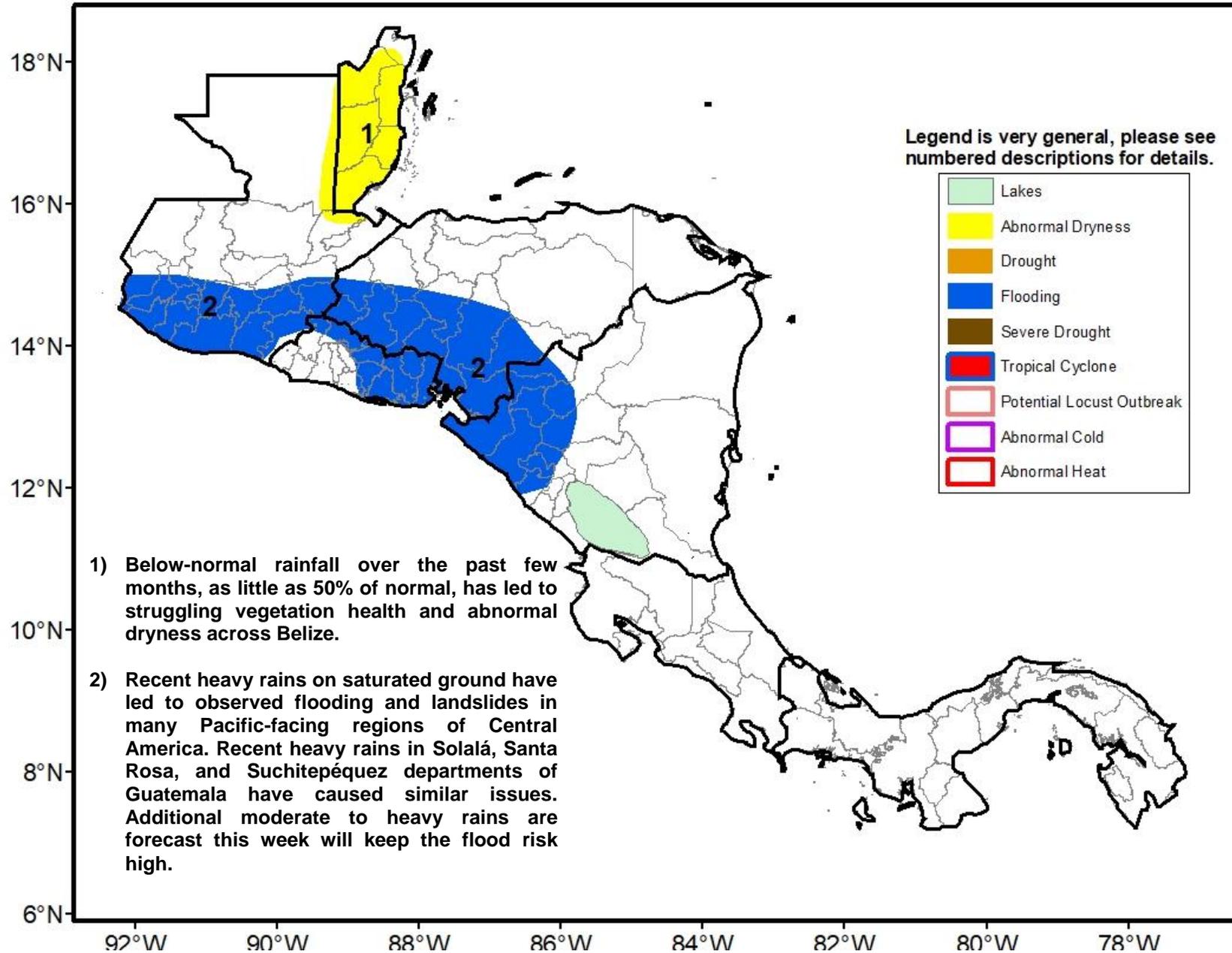




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 15 – 21, 2020

Heavy rains are causing negative impacts for southern portions of Guatemala.



The focus of heavy rains is expected to shift to the Caribbean side of the region this week.

During the past week, heavy rainfall (100-200mm) was registered over parts of southern Guatemala, central Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. Several reports of flooding and landslides, including fatalities, have come out of Guatemala as a result. Very heavy rains were observed over much of Costa Rica and Panama. Positive rainfall anomalies of more than 50mm are evident in central Guatemala and northern Nicaragua. In contrast, light rainfall (<25mm) has been recorded over central Belize, central and northern Guatemala, along with parts of northern Honduras. The week's rainfall was well-below normal for much of Belize and Northern Guatemala. Significant 30-day rainfall deficits (50-200+mm) are apparent throughout Belize and around the Gulf of Belize, as well as 90-day performance that is as little as 50% of normal. This correlates with mediocre vegetation conditions observed over the same areas. Rainfall deficits are also observed in southeastern Nicaragua and some negative impacts to vegetation health are now observed despite good frequency of rain days.

The focus of enhanced moisture and heavy rainfall is expected to shift to the Caribbean side of the region this week. Heavy rainfall of potentially more than 100mm is expected over the Gulf of Honduras, eastern Honduras and Nicaragua during the outlook period. Heavy rains should also continue in Costa Rica and Panama. Flooding is likely over the often already rain-saturated areas in southern Guatemala and Honduras. Along with the enhanced rainfall, tropical development needs to be monitored in the Caribbean by the end of the period.

