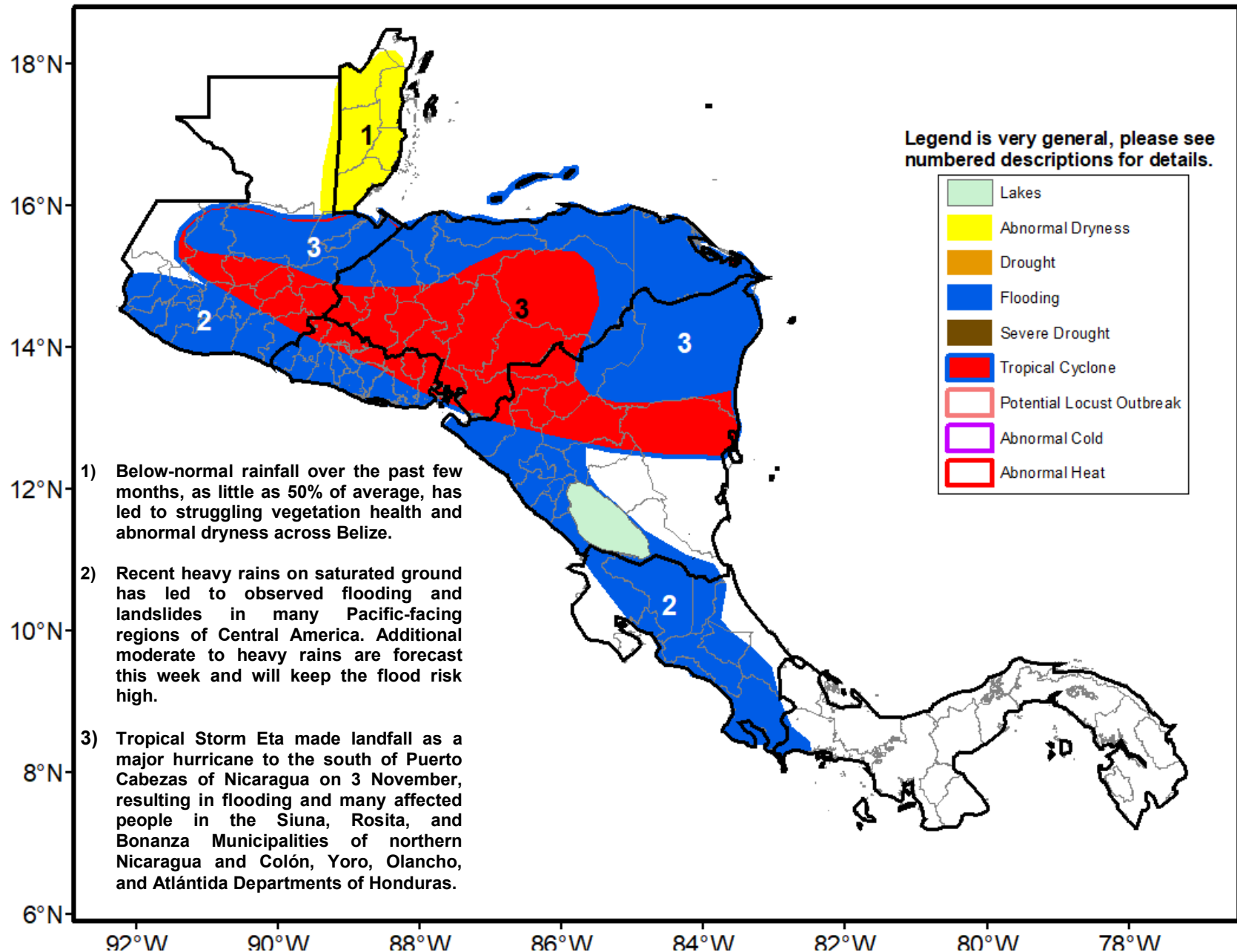# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
November 5 – 11, 2020

Tropical Storm Eta is moving west across northern Nicaragua and likely to trigger major flooding.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- Lakes
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Flooding
- Severe Drought
- Tropical Cyclone
- Potential Locust Outbreak
- Abnormal Cold
- Abnormal Heat

1) Below-normal rainfall over the past few months, as little as 50% of average, has led to struggling vegetation health and abnormal dryness across Belize.

2) Recent heavy rains on saturated ground has led to observed flooding and landslides in many Pacific-facing regions of Central America. Additional moderate to heavy rains are forecast this week and will keep the flood risk high.

3) Tropical Storm Eta made landfall as a major hurricane to the south of Puerto Cabezas of Nicaragua on 3 November, resulting in flooding and many affected people in the Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza Municipalities of northern Nicaragua and Colón, Yoro, Olancho, and Atlántida Departments of Honduras.

Despite weakening Tropical Storm Eta, the forecast associated heavy rains could cause widespread flooding and landslides.

Tropical Storm Eta made landfall with major hurricane force over northeastern Nicaragua on 3 November 2020. Heavy rains and strong winds caused flooding and affected many people in the Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza Municipalities of the northern Atlantic Region of Nicaragua and Colón, Yoro, Olancho, and Atlántida Departments of Honduras. While Eta is moving west and weakening across northern Nicaragua at the time of writing of this bulletin, its forecast west northwest track and associated large rainfall accumulation could cause massive flooding over the region. During the past week, torrential (> 100 mm) rains fell over localized areas of Central America, including parts of central and southwestern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, northern Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. Wetness has led to landslides and fatalities in the Nejapa Municipality of San Salvador of El Salvador, based on report. During October, wetter-than-average conditions prevailed throughout Central America, with the largest moisture excess between 100 – 300 mm in southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, north-central Nicaragua, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama.

During the next week, Tropical Storm Eta is forecast to track west northwestward, moving across central Honduras to emerge over the Gulf of Honduras or northwestern Caribbean Sea by the early period of the outlook period. In terms of rainfall accumulation, model forecasts indicate torrential and abundant rains throughout portions of northern Nicaragua, central and northern Honduras, and central and eastern Guatemala. With the ongoing excess moisture and oversaturated grounds, high risks for flooding and landslides exist over a wide area of Central America.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)
November 04 – 11, 2020

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC