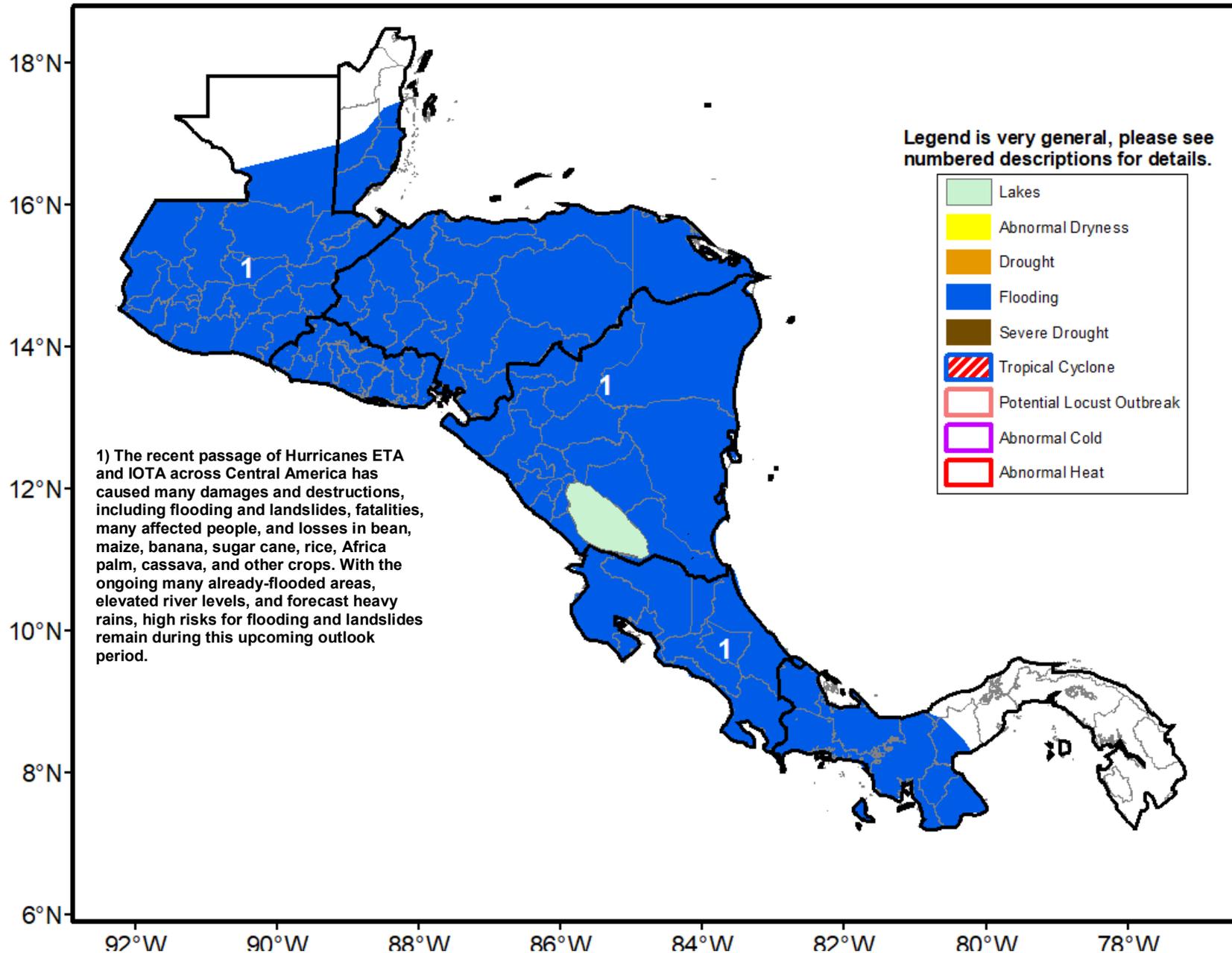




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook November 19 – 25, 2020

The passage of Hurricane IOTA to worsen impacts and delay the *Apante*, December-April, growing season



The passage of Hurricane IOTA to worsen impacts of Hurricane ETA over Central America

During the past week, drier weather pattern with scattered light to moderate rains was observed over Central America. Suppressed rainfall dominated the region, particularly the northern portions. While decreased rains helped partially relieve excess moisture in the aftermath of Hurricane ETA, wetness with large (> 100 mm) rainfall surpluses persisted over many areas during the past thirty days. As a result, oversaturated soil led to landslides, killing many people in the Agua Caliente village in the municipality of Camotán in the Chiquimula Department of Guatemala, according to media reports. Recently, Hurricane IOTA also made landfall in northeastern Nicaragua as a major hurricane on November 17, which has already led to flooding, landslides, fatalities, infrastructure damages, and many affected people in Nicaragua, Honduras, and as far south as Panama, based on reports. The two consecutive passages of hurricane are likely to significantly reduce crop yields during the *Postrera*, August-November season, and also delay subsequent *Apante*, December-April, growing cycle.

During the upcoming outlook period, although the remnants of IOTA are expected to move to the south west from El Salvador and dissipate over the northeastern Pacific, heavy rains are forecast to persist throughout Central America. The largest (> 100 mm) accumulation is forecast along the Gulf of Honduras and the Caribbean littorals. The forecast, additional rains are likely to increase oversaturation and exacerbate conditions on the ground over many areas. Therefore, very high risks for flooding and landslides remain over a wide portion of Central America.

