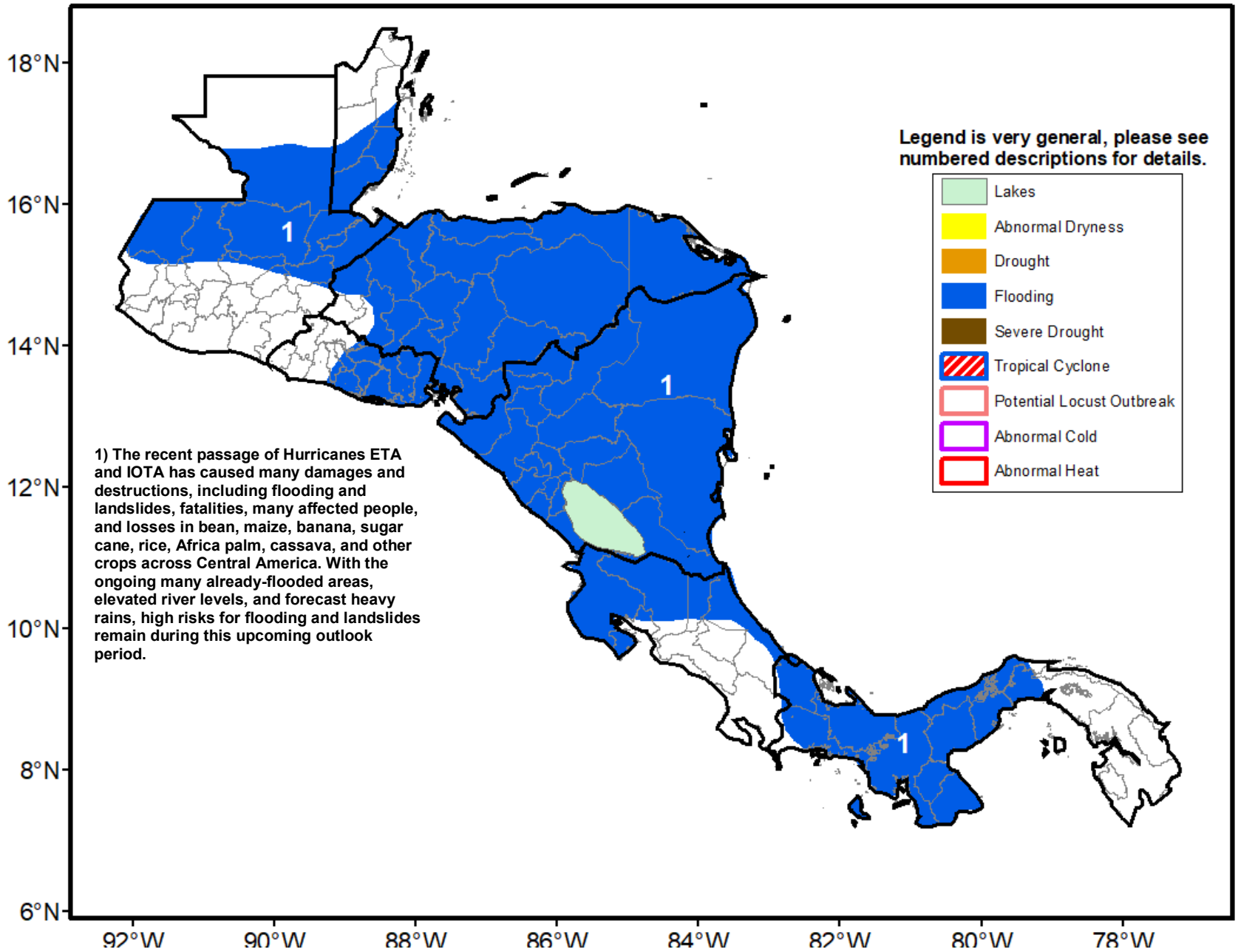
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
November 26 – December 2, 2020

High flood risks remain as additional, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week.



The forecast, increased rains could exacerbate conditions on the ground in the aftermath of Hurricane ETA and IOTA.

During the past seven days, torrential (> 100 mm) rains fell over many areas of Central America, including the Gulf of Honduras, northern and eastern Honduras, much of Nicaragua, and parts of Panama. Moderate to heavy rains spread in central Honduras, central and southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, and southern Costa Rica. Meanwhile, light rains were recorded over a few areas elsewhere. This past week's heavy downpours were largely attributed to the landfall of Hurricane IOTA over northeastern Nicaragua, southern Honduras, and El Salvador, which has caused flooding, landslides, infrastructure damages, and affected people over many areas. Since late October to present, the recent passage of Hurricanes has led to widespread and large positive rainfall anomalies over Central America. Thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceeded 200 mm in eastern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. This wetness has contributed to swollen and elevated river levels throughout many areas, including the Machaquila, La Pasion, Rio San Pedro, Usumacinta Rivers, Motagua, Chixoy, Rio Xaclbal, and Camotan Rivers of Guatemala, according to reports. Conversely, thirty-day rainfall deficits were registered over eastern Costa Rica and parts of eastern Panama.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of moderate to heavy rains over Central America, particularly the Atlantic-facing regions and Panama. Moderate rains are expected to persist over southern and north-central Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. With the ongoing oversaturated soil, the forecast, additional rains are likely to worsen conditions on the ground and, therefore, maintain high risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)
November 25 – December 2, 2020

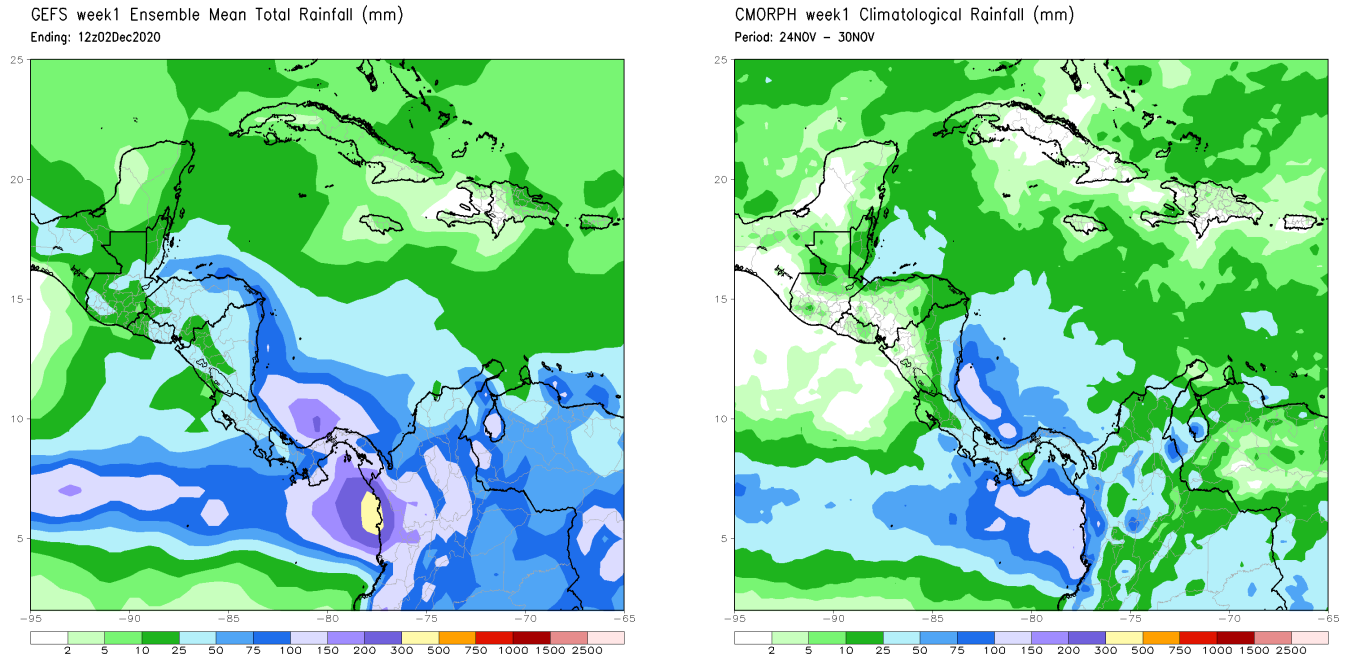


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.