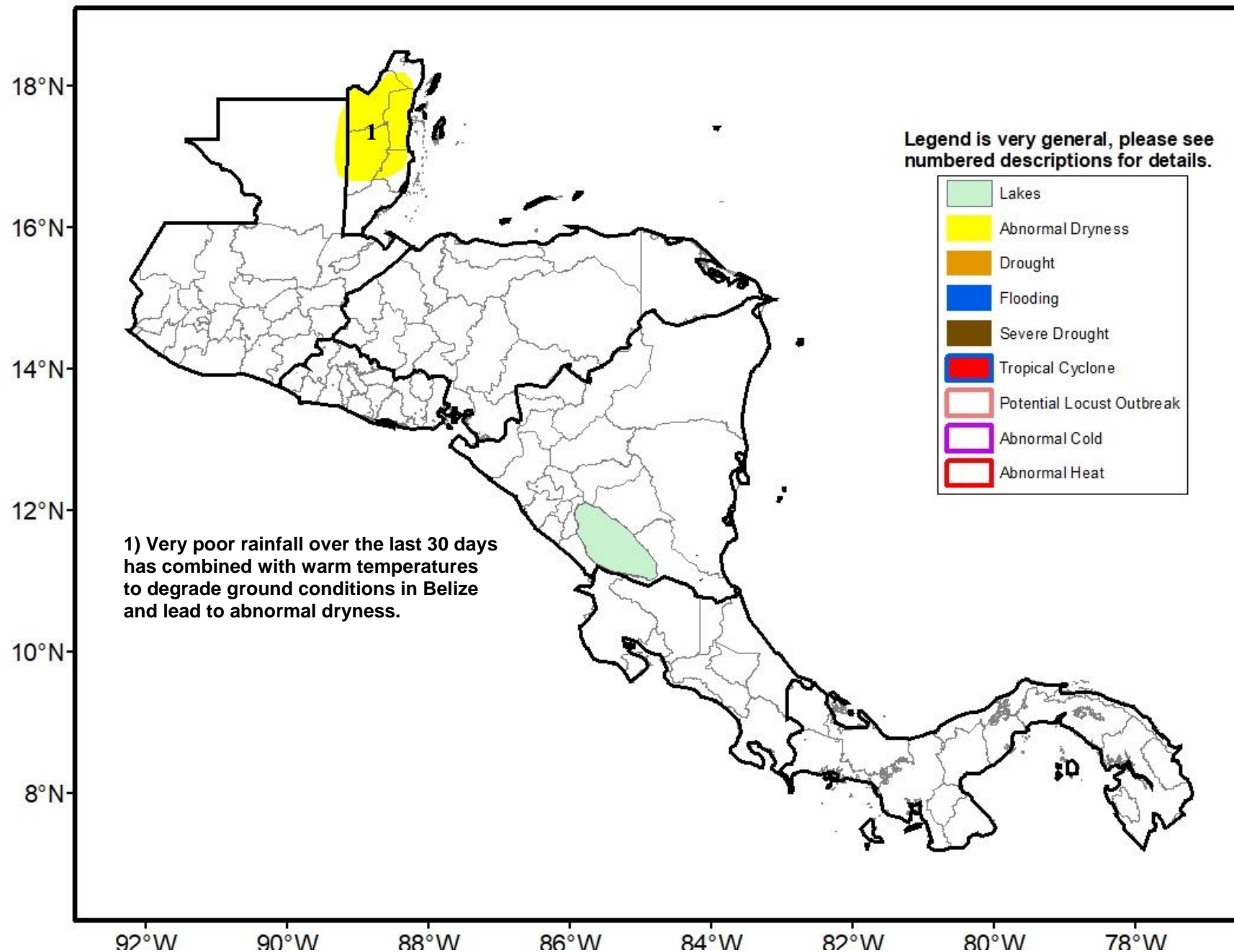




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 30 – August 5, 2020

- Drying conditions in northern Guatemala and Belize are being closely monitored.



Heavy rains were received in many Pacific-facing regions of Central America and in the southern Caribbean

The past week brought uneven rainfall performance across Central America. Some areas, including southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Guatemala, and parts of Panama observed more than 100mm according to satellite estimates. Totals in these areas resulted in 7-day rainfall surpluses. On the other hand, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and Belize received light rainfall amounts (<25mm). The result was weekly deficits of 50-100mm in these areas. Rainfall performance has been inconsistent throughout the region during the past several weeks. Areas of significantly negative 30-day anomalies greater than 100mm are visible in northern and central Guatemala, several portions of Honduras, as well as in northeast Nicaragua. Most regions of Central America exhibit near or above-average rainfall performance over the last 90 days. Drought monitors and vegetation health indices still suggest that ground conditions are largely good in the region. Local areas of Belize and northern Guatemala are the exception showing poor values in both the VHI and the WRSI.

During the outlook period, model guidance shows that some heavy rains (>75mm) are likely in southwest Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. Elsewhere, near or below-average rainfall is likely. In addition to the heavier rainfall, pyroclastic activity of the Fuego and Pacaya volcanos exacerbates the flood and landslide risk. Rainfall less than 25mm is likely in central portions of Nicaragua northern Honduras as well as northern Guatemala and Belize.

