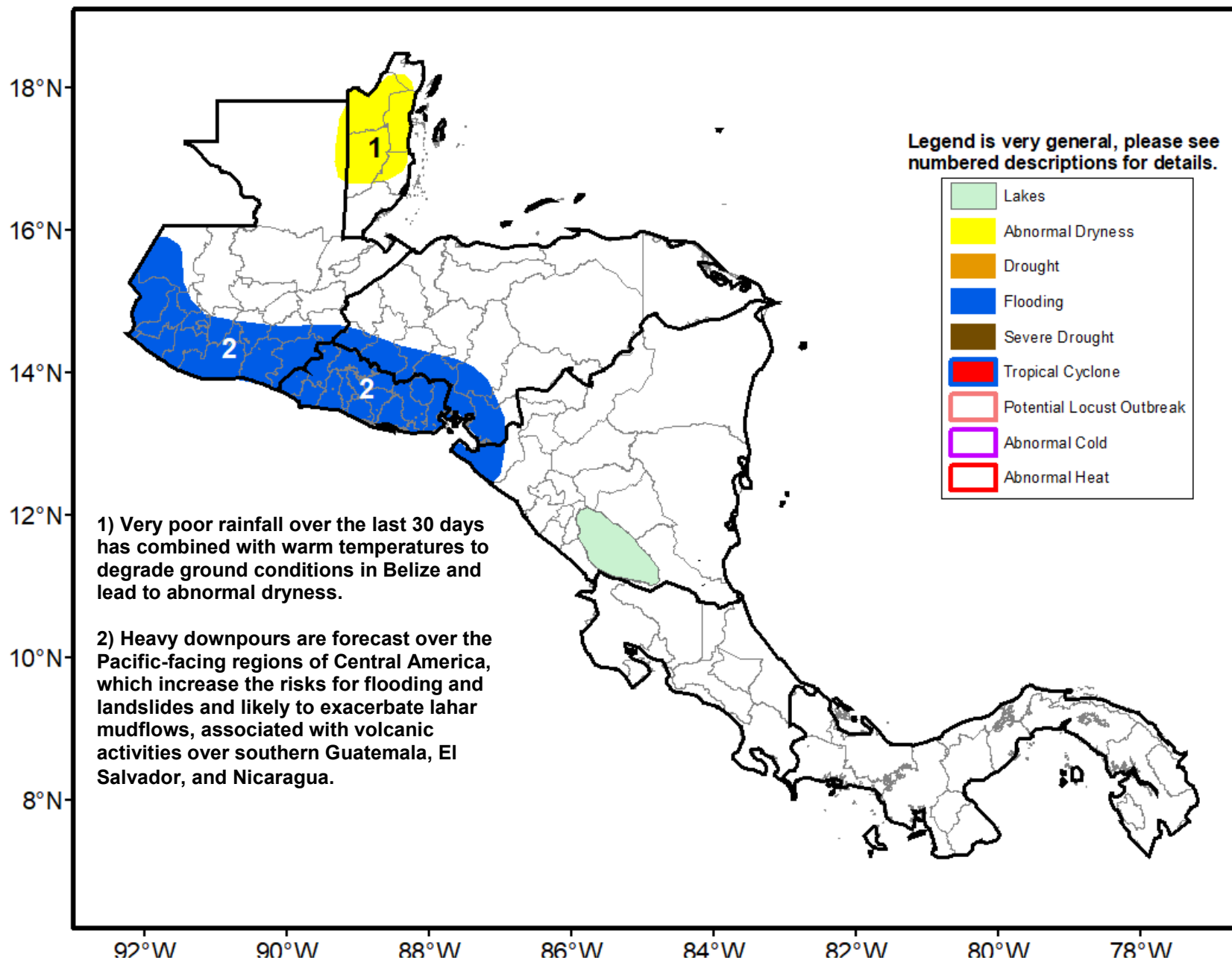




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 6 – 12, 2020

- The forecast torrential rains during the next week heighten risks for flooding and landslides over many areas.



The forecast above-average rainfall during the next week could trigger widespread flooding over many areas.

During late July, many parts of Central America received favorable rainfall accumulation with weekly totals exceeding 50 mm. These included much of Guatemala, southern Belize, the western parts of El Salvador and Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. In contrast, limited with little to light rains were recorded over the central portions of Honduras and Nicaragua. During the past thirty days, insufficient rainfall was observed across the Caribbean-facing regions of Central America, with the largest rainfall deficits over parts of Belize, the Gulf of Honduras, Atlantic littorals of Honduras; Nicaragua; Costa Rica; and Panama. An abnormal dryness hazard was posted over Belize and parts of Guatemala due to below-average rainfall and higher temperatures, which have already degraded ground conditions. In contrast, abundant rainfall with large thirty-day moisture surpluses were registered along the Pacific counterparts, including southern Guatemala, El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca, and southwestern Nicaragua. As for the May-August rainfall season performance, average to above-average seasonal rainfall was accumulated throughout Central America. Consequently, vegetation conditions as depicted by remote sensing indicated mostly adequate to good conditions, except parts of northern Guatemala, northern Belize, and other localized areas, where below-average conditions were registered.

During the upcoming outlook period, torrential rains are forecast over western and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. The forecast abundant rains could trigger flash flooding and landslides over many local areas and are likely to exacerbate lahars that are associated with the *Fuego* and *Pacaya* volcanic activities in Guatemala. Heavy rains are also expected along the Gulf of Honduras and Atlantic Rims of Nicaragua. In contrast, moderate and likely near to below-average rains are forecast over the inland of central Honduras and Nicaragua.

