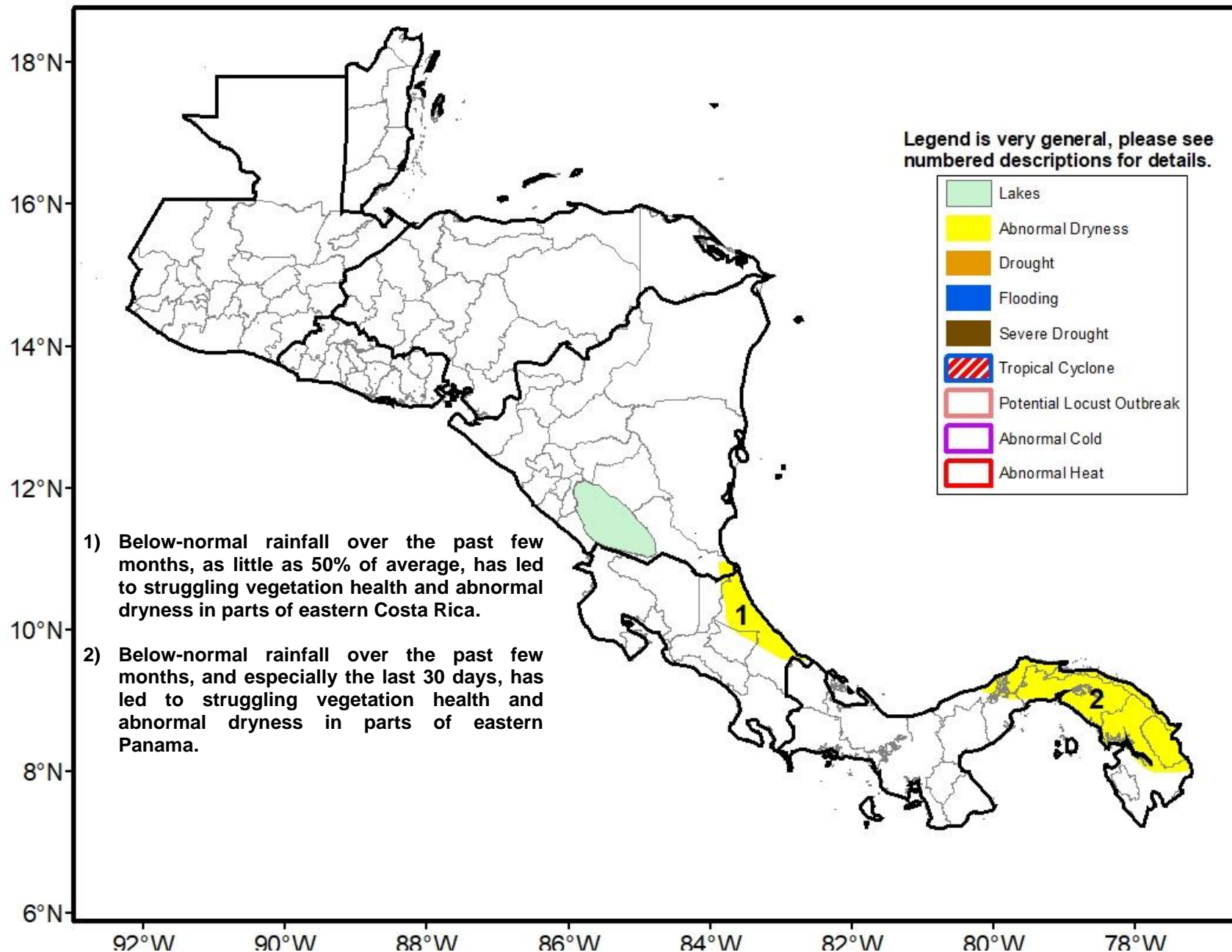




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 7 – January 13, 2021

Poor rainfall performance continues to cause abnormal dryness in southern parts of the region.



Caribbean-facing portions of the region received moderate rains this past week and should continue to do so next week.

Moderate rains were observed across many Caribbean-facing portions of the region. More than 50mm of rainfall was observed in Belize, eastern Honduras and Nicaragua according to gauges. 25+mm of rain (along with a hail storm) was observed in southwestern Guatemala. This spatial pattern of rainfall was typical, if slightly wetter than average, for January. Over the past 30 days, rain has been suppressed in the southern Caribbean. Large deficits are evident in Panama, Costa Rica, and eastern Nicaragua. The largest negative rainfall anomalies, more than 100mm, are observed in parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Similar rainfall deficits exist in longer 90-day period, while large surpluses proliferate the rest of the region. After the recent uneven rainfall performance, vegetation health is negatively affected in Costa Rica and Panama according to NDVI. Abnormal dryness is posted in Costa Rica and Panama where rainfall deficits are greatest.

During the outlook period, enhanced rains are expected to continue for eastern portions of the region, with more than 50mm likely along the coast. The increased rains come at an important time in crop phenology within the region. There is potential for some moderate rainfall in western Guatemala. Guatemala's Quetzaltenango and San Marcos departments recorded freezing temperatures last week. Temperatures are forecast to be slightly cooler than average in Honduras and Guatemala. Minimum temperatures may approach zero in the mountains of Guatemala.

