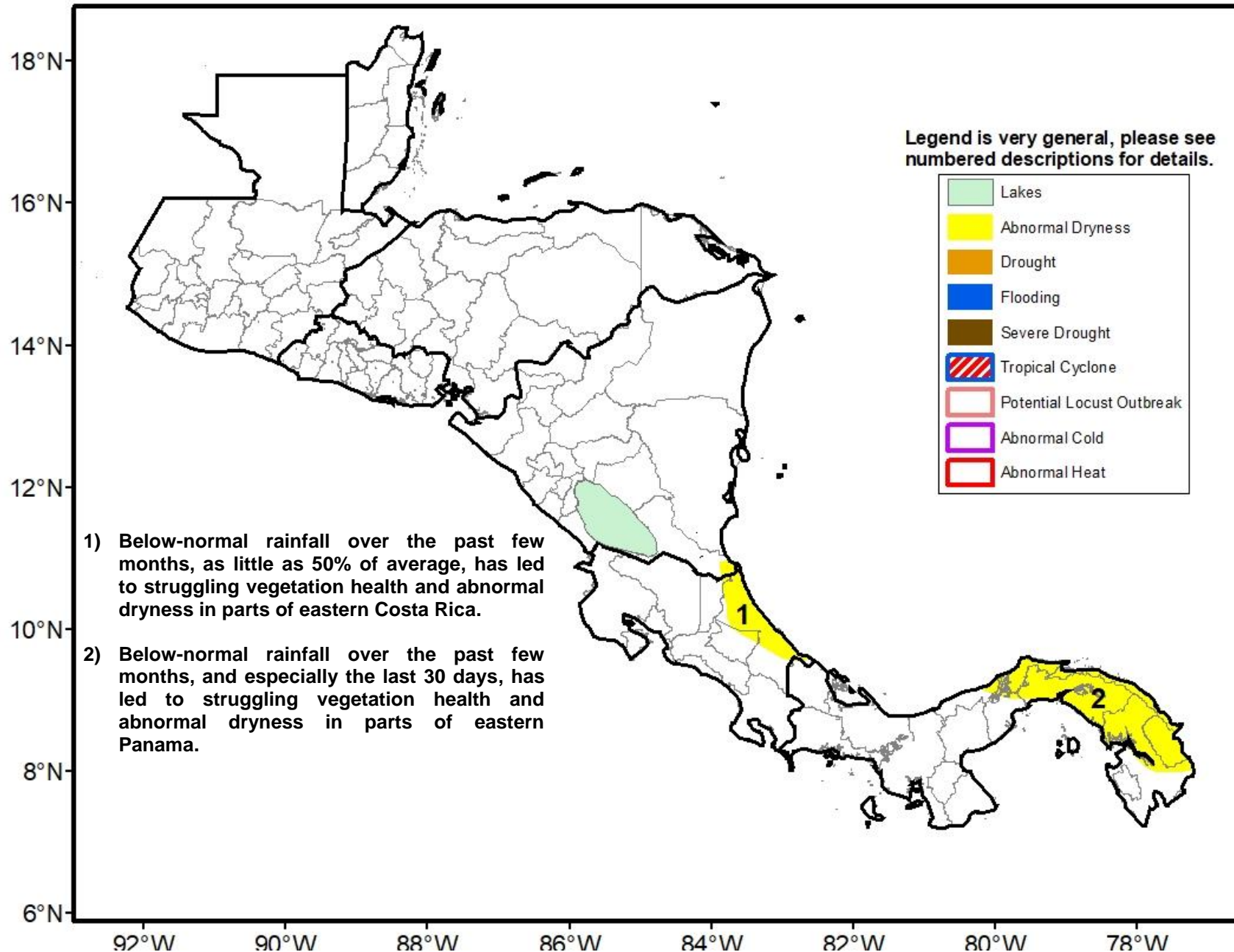




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 14 – January 20, 2021

Rainfall increased along the Caribbean coast this past week, but not much over abnormally dry areas.



Enhanced rains are likely to continue this coming week, especially in northern portions of the region.

Moderate rains were observed again across many Caribbean-facing portions of the region. More than 50mm of rainfall was observed in Belize and northern Honduras and Nicaragua according to gauges. Light to moderate rains were observed in western/northern Guatemala, as well as in Costa Rica. Northeastern Panama received 100+mm of rainfall. This rainfall pattern was typical in distribution, 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 southeastern 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 slightly negatively affected in Costa Rica and Panama according to VHI. Abnormal dryness is posted in Costa Rica and Panama where rainfall deficits are greatest.

During the outlook period, enhanced rains are expected to continue, especially for northeastern Honduras, Belize, and the eastern Yucatan Peninsula, with more than 50mm likely along the coast. Moderate rain is likely for parts of Costa Rica and Panama, as well, potentially helping to alleviate dryness there. Any substantial rain in eastern Nicaragua comes at an important time in crop phenology within the region. Temperatures are forecast to be near average throughout the region, so subfreezing temperature will not be a major threat.

