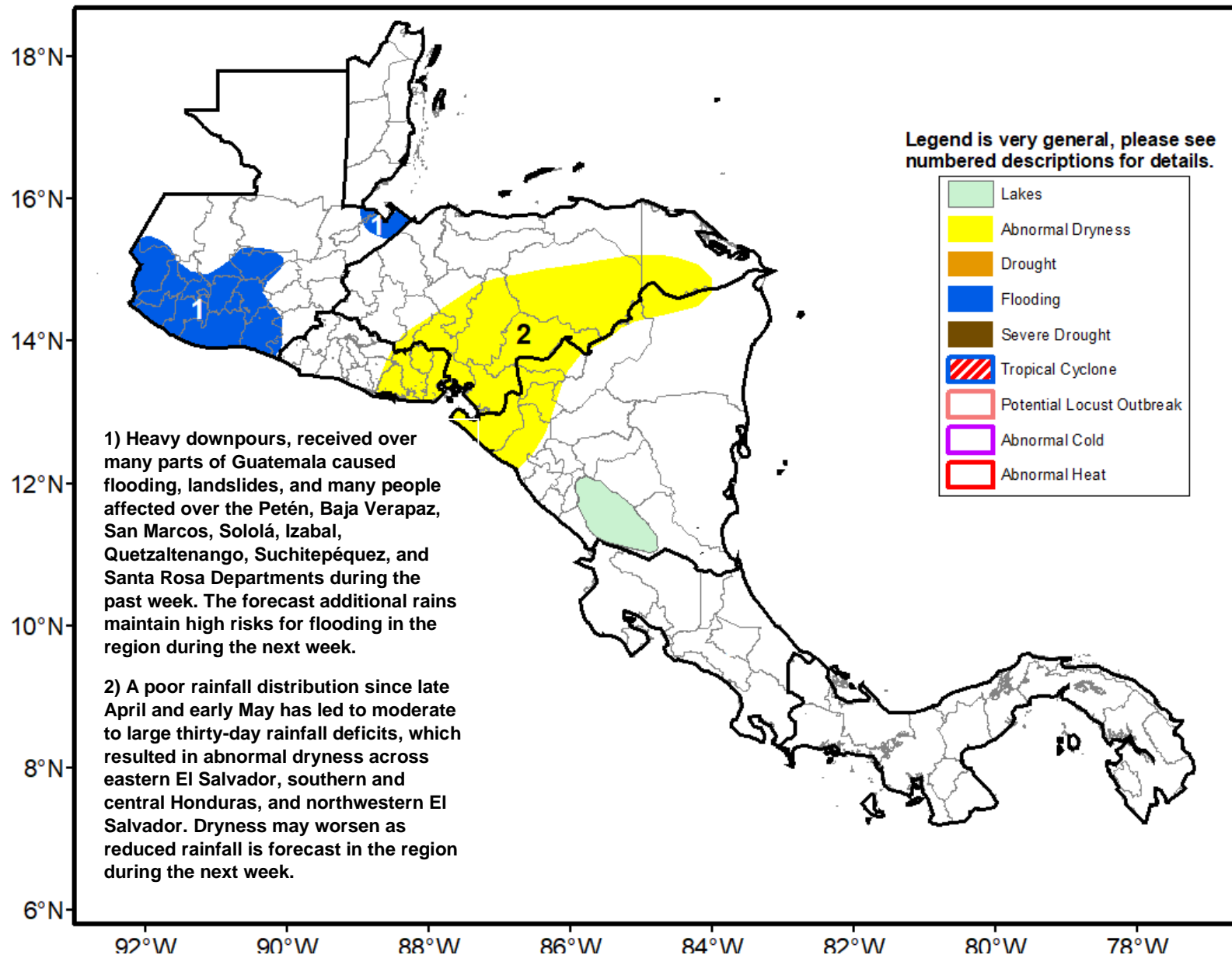




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 27 May – 2 June 2021

While wetness continues over Guatemala, abnormal dryness settles in over the interior of Central America.



This upcoming week's forecast reduced rains are likely to exacerbate dryness over the dry portions of Central America.

During this past week, heavy rains fell over the northern parts of Central America and areas in the southern Caribbean. Rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm were received in the southwestern, northern, and eastern parts of Guatemala; Belize; the Gulf of Honduras; areas of Costa Rica; and Panama. In Guatemala, reports indicated that flooding, landslides, and strong winds have affected over ten thousand people in the Baja Verapaz, Izabal, Petén, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Sololá, and Suchitepéquez Departments. In contrast, little to no rainfall was registered elsewhere. Over the past thirty days, moisture deficits strengthened over the central parts of Central America, with the largest (100 – 200 mm) departures along the Gulf of Fonseca. This drying tendency was due to a poor rainfall distribution since late April and early May. Consequently, the vegetation health index already depicted stressed biomass over many local areas in southern and central Honduras. Ground conditions could further deteriorate and negatively impact the *Primera*, May – August, agricultural activities if poor rains persist over the upcoming weeks.

For next week, forecasts suggest that heavy rains will continue over southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Over Guatemala, not only could the forecast additional rains exacerbate soil oversaturation over already-impacted areas, but also enhance the flow of lahars over volcanic complexes such as the Santiaguito. In contrast, limited and below-average rainfall is expected across the interior of Central America. Finally, no Tropical cyclone activity is expected over the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Basins in the near term.

