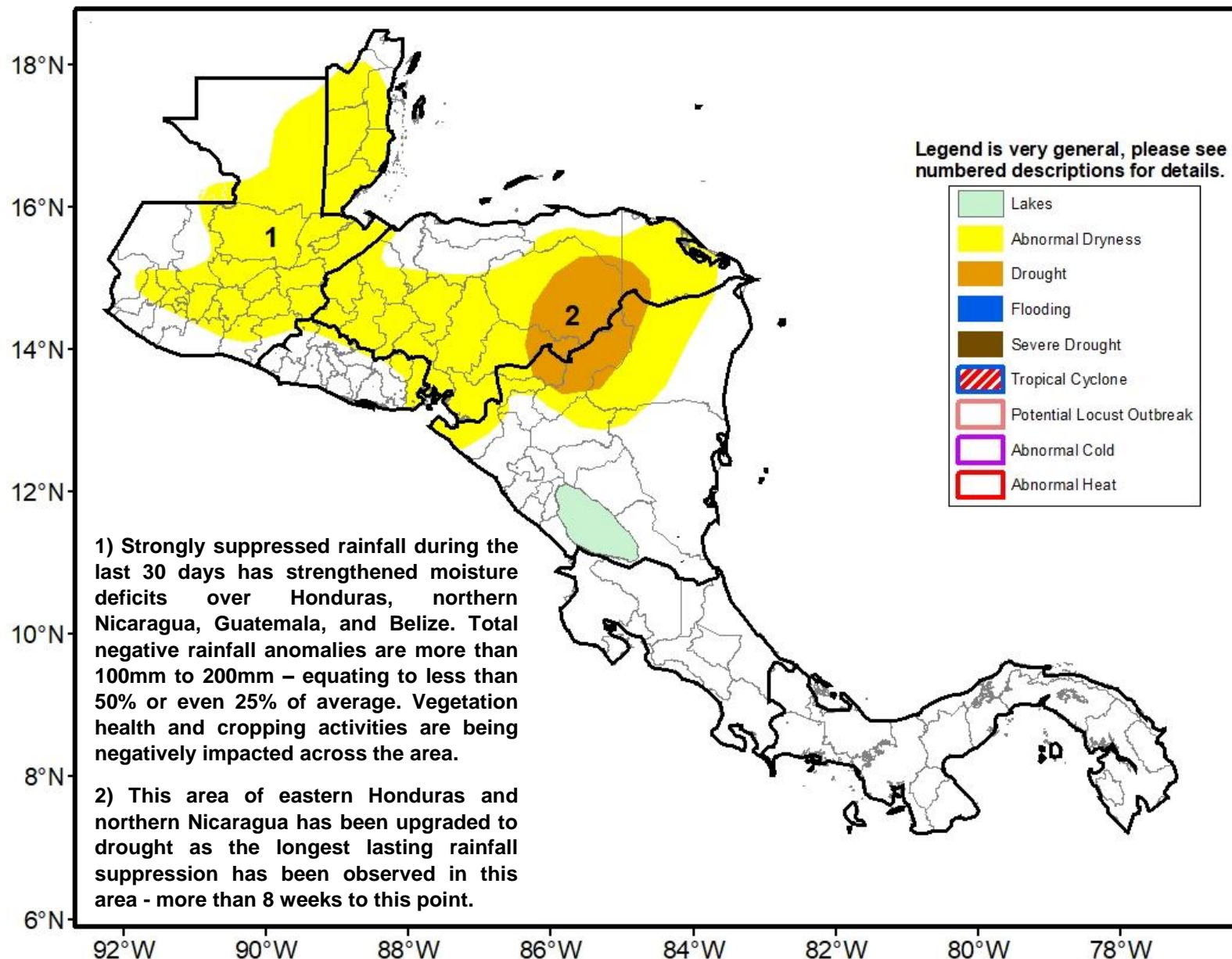




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 21 October – 27 October 2021

The continuation of extremely limited rainfall continues to deepen rainfall deficits and expand abnormal dryness



Very little rainfall was received over a large swath of Central America last week.

Dry conditions returned to the region last week after some increase in rains during the prior week. Much of Guatemala, Belize, and western Honduras did not receive any rain. Eastern Honduras and Nicaragua only received light rain – generally less than 25mm. Small areas in southern Guatemala, and the Gulf of Fonseca region received larger amounts of up to 100mm or more. The most widespread heavy rainfall occurred in Costa Rica and Panama where as much as 100-200mm was observed. Negative anomalies of 25-100mm were prevalent across the whole area from northern Costa Rica northwards. On the 30-day time scale, negative anomalies have rapidly deepened and expanded so that 100mm or greater deficits cover much of the area of northern Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize. Coverage of abnormal dryness continues to rapidly expand as a result. Over longer time scales, deficits aren't as extreme, but their coverage includes many of the same areas. The region has also observed a marked decrease in rainfall frequency during the past 30 days with 10-15 less rain days than usual. This trend dates further back in eastern Honduras. Corresponding to the lack of rain, warmer-than-average conditions have been present. This has increased stress on crops.

Models are predicting increased rainfall during the outlook period, especially in Guatemala. More than 50mm is possible across most of the region according to the GEFS model. However, this model has over forecasted rain recently and so near or below average rain is more likely based on trends. Tropical development is not expected to impact the region during the period.

