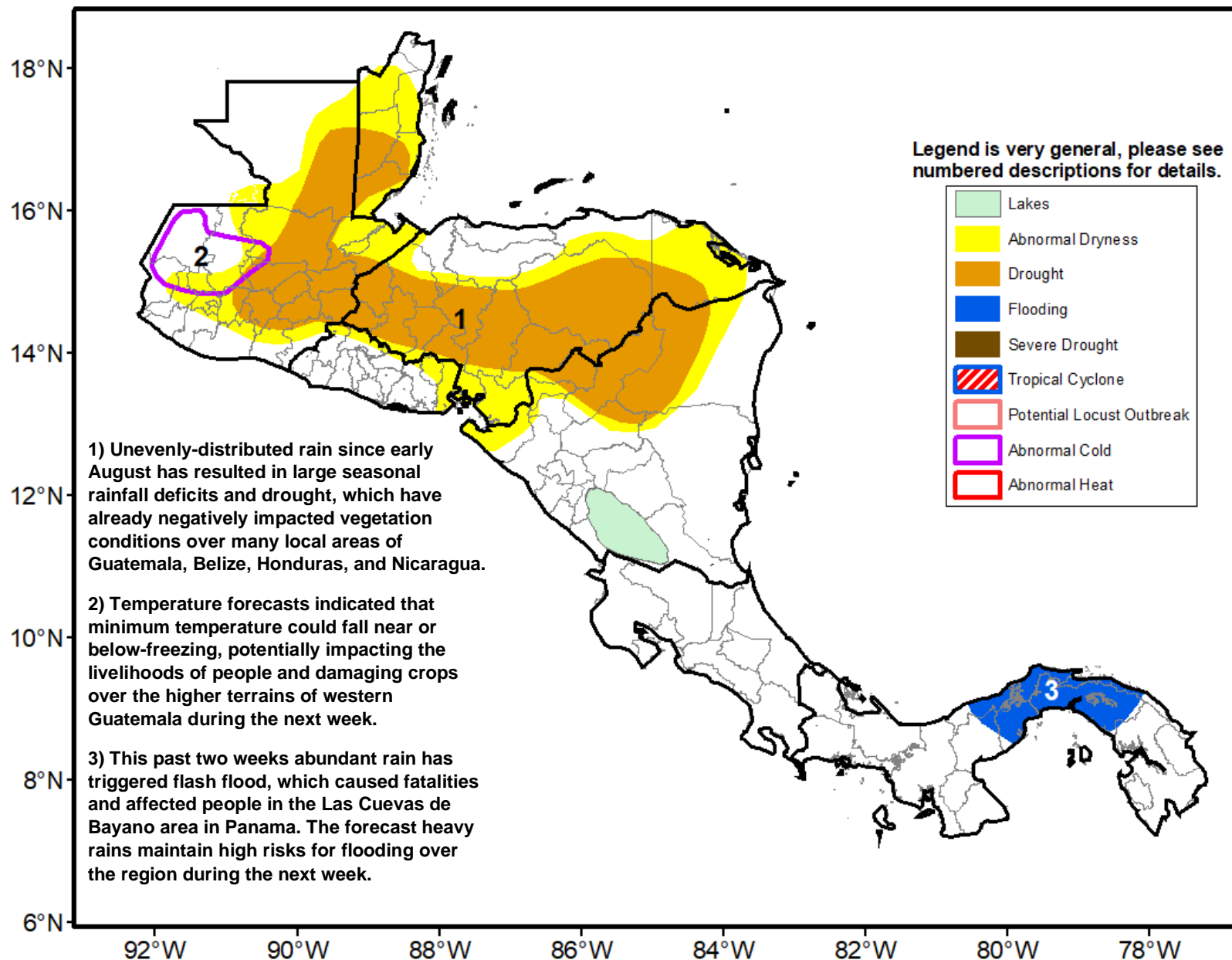




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 2 – 8 December 2021

Dry conditions to continue over much of Central America, except along the Atlantic coastlines



Dry conditions are expected to continue during the next week.

During the past seven days, suppressed rainfall dominated over Central America. However, moderate to heavy rains fell along the Atlantic coasts of the region and parts of the southern Caribbean. Conditions over the past month showed strengthening short-term moisture deficits across central and southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, central Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. In contrast, atypical enhanced rains resulted in moisture surpluses over parts of northwestern, western, and east-central Guatemala and the Caribbean coasts of Honduras. In Guatemala, the unusual increased rains triggered flooding over localized areas in the Alta Verapaz Department over the past recent weeks, according to reports. For the August – November rainfall season, below-average rain spread throughout the region. This past ninety-day, cumulative rainfall ranged only between 25 – 80 percent of the average. Consequently, while sufficient soil moisture was observed along the Atlantic tier of Central America, moisture stress and even wilting conditions were depicted across the inland and Pacific-facing region, based on the recent soil water index analysis. Additionally, as the rainfall season has ended, ongoing dryness and potentially strong winds form an environment, conducive to forest fires over many local areas.

For next week, dry conditions are forecast to continue over much of Central America. However, moderate to heavy and possibly above-average rains are expected along the eastern coasts of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The forecast heavy rains maintain high risks for flooding over previously-flooded areas of Panama. Meanwhile, temperature forecasts indicated that near to below-freezing nighttime or early morning temperatures are to continue over the higher elevations of Guatemala, which could pose hazards to the livelihoods of residents and crops.

