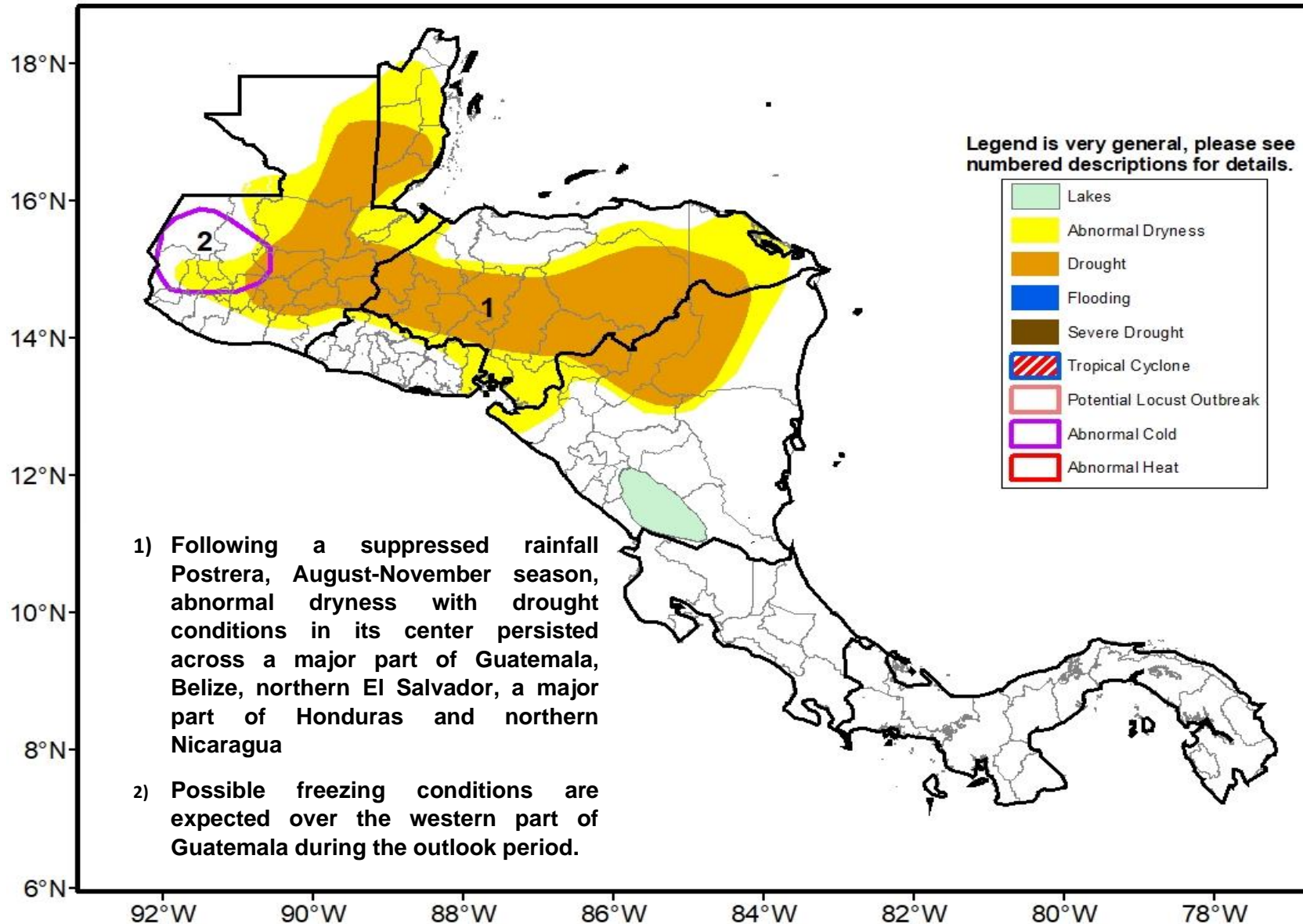




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 16 – 22 December 2021

Abnormal dryness persisted across northern Belize as the August-November season ended



Dry with cold temperature is expected across the western part of Guatemala during the coming outlook period

Since mid-November, late season *Postrera* and early season *Apante* related moisture deficits (5-25 percent of normal rainfall) continue to prevail across much of Central America. Much of the short-term abnormal dryness follows a poor rainfall distribution since earlier this summer, as several local areas have failed to receive adequate rainfall totals due to dry spells and anomalous low number of rain days leading from abnormal dryness to drought conditions across eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, southern and central Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the poor rainfall performance with deteriorated ground conditions concentrated over southeastern Guatemala, Honduras, northwestern Nicaragua which is likely to adversely affect cropping activities throughout the region. Above normal temperatures prevailed across Guatemala, El Salvador, and northern Belize while seasonal temperature prevailed across the remaining area of Central America. Several heat points were observed along the coastal countries facing Pacific Ocean which are related to the sugar cane activities. In contrast, the heat points facing the coastal countries facing the Caribbean are related to forest fire and would be monitored during the outlook period.

During the coming outlook period, seasonable rainfall is expected across a major part of Central America except Atlantic Ocean coastal area of Nicaragua and Honduras which could expect above average rainfall. Seasonable 5-10 degrees Celsius is expected across western Guatemala going through southwestern Honduras while 20-25 degrees Celsius is expected across the remaining area of Central America. The cold front associated with strong winds mainly across high latitude of Guatemala and Honduras could trigger freezing conditions during the outlook period.

