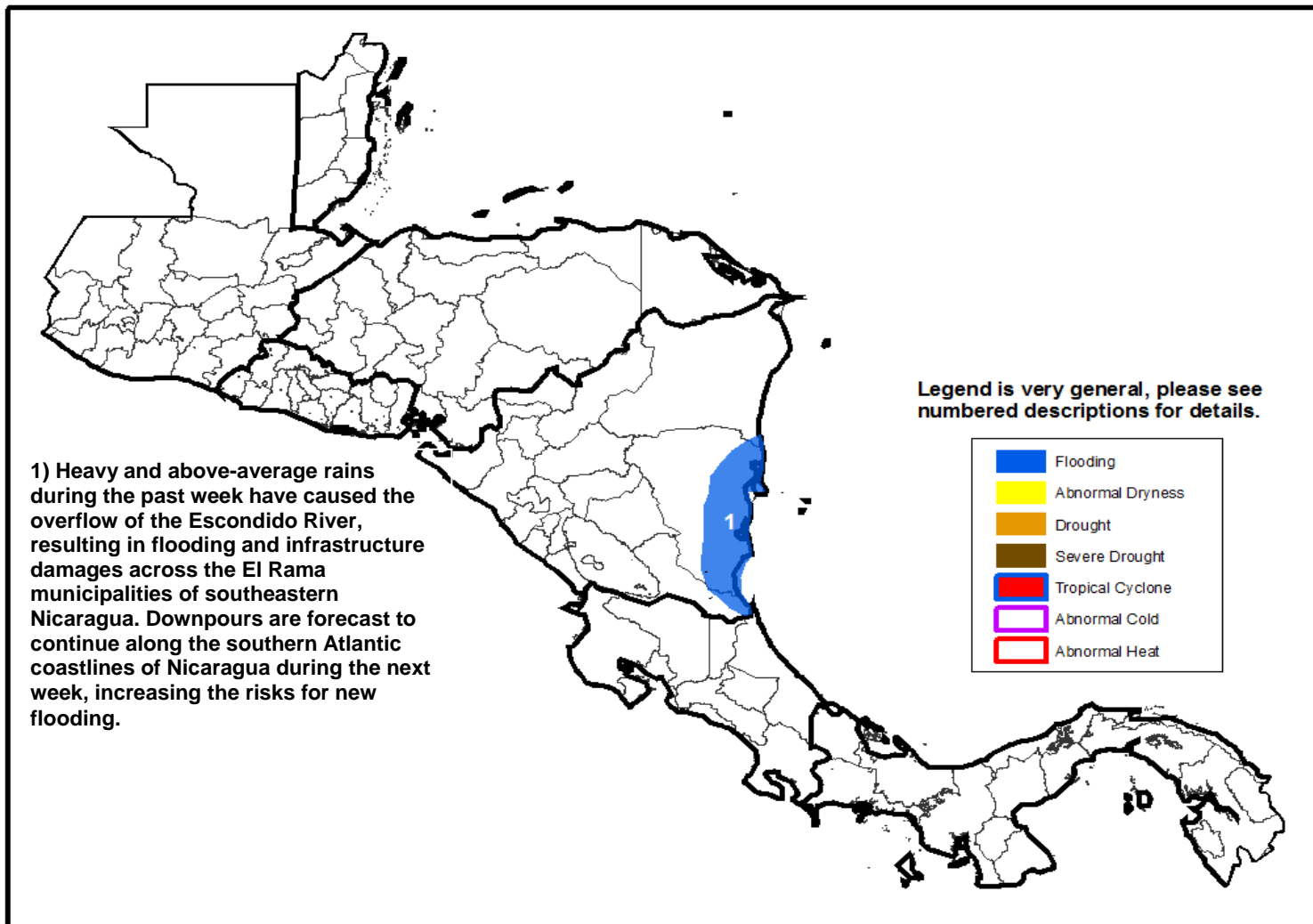




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 25 – July 31, 2013

- Reduced rainfall is expected across Central America during the next week.



Reduced rain forecast to continue.

During the past week, a reduction in rainfall was observed over the inland of Central America, with light rain recorded over central Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, and the central and southern portions of Honduras. The observed reduced rainfall amounts could indicate the occurrence of the dry *Canicula* period over Central America. Meanwhile, heavy rain continued over the Pacific region, parts of Quiché, Petén, and Izabal departments of Guatemala, maintaining rainfall surpluses over the past thirty days. The heaviest (> 200 mm) rain fell over the southern Atlantic region of Nicaragua, which helped to turn thirty-day rainfall deficits into surpluses across the region. Over the southern Caribbean, moderate to heavy rain was registered over Costa Rica and Panama. Since the start of the *Primera* rainy season, despite the lack of rainfall amounts across the Gulf of Fonseca and along the Atlantic Basin, Central America has, in general, received relatively frequent rainfall to sustain adequate soil moisture for cropping activities. Conversely, an excess of moisture could also favor fungus disease outbreaks and damage crops over some areas.

During the next outlook period, a reduction in rainfall is generally expected over Central America, with little to light rain forecast across much of the inland of the region. Isolated heavy showers are, however, still possible over Guatemala, the Gulf of Honduras, and eastern Honduras. Farther south, an active Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and enhanced easterly winds are expected to produce another week of heavy rain along the southern Autonomous Atlantic region of Nicaragua, increasing the risks for new flooding. Heavy rain is also forecast over Costa Rica and Panama.

