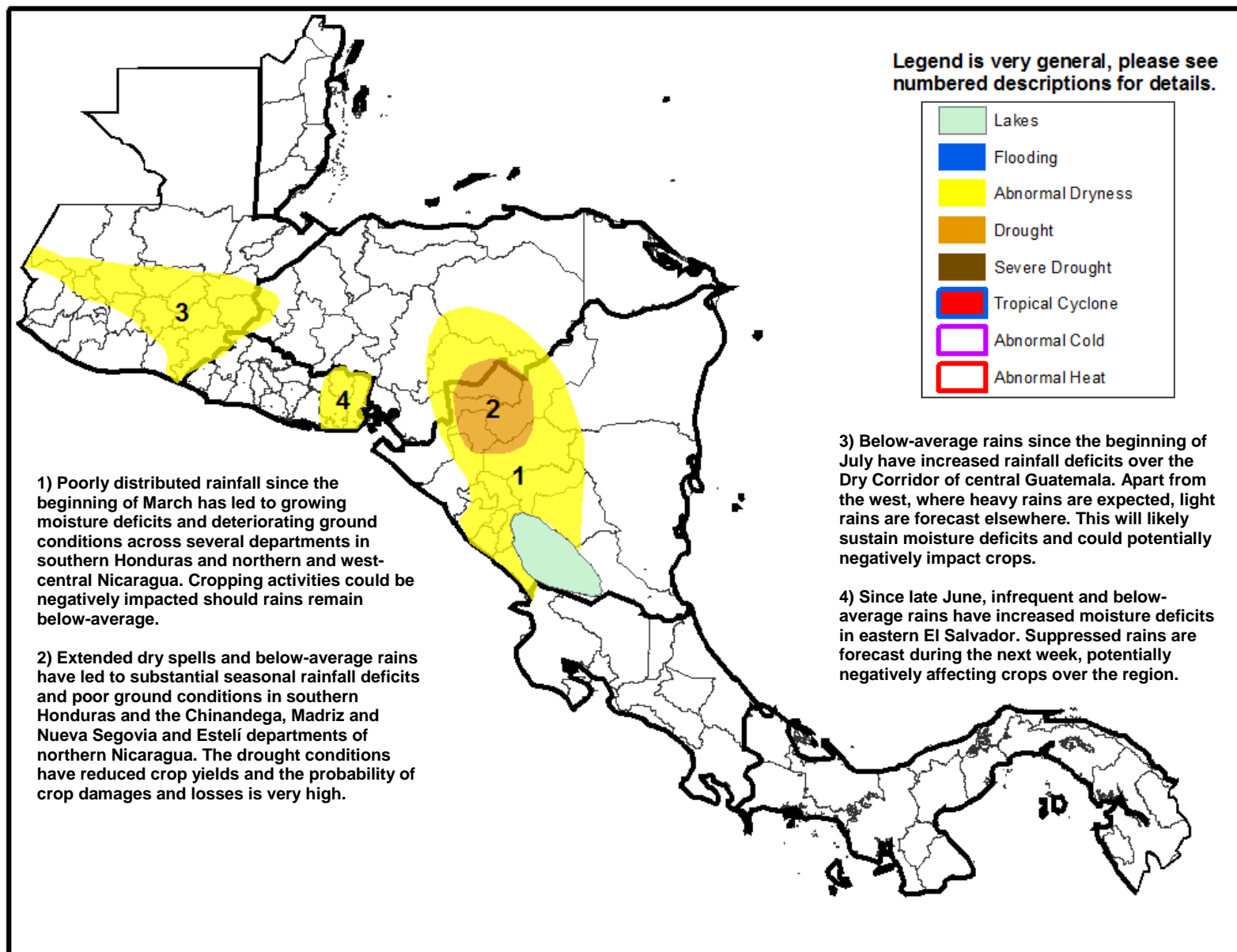




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 17 – July 23, 2014

- Below-average rains observed over Central America during the past week.



Reduced rains expected to continue.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rains were observed over the northern and southwest parts of Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and the Atlantic Basin of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama. The heaviest (> 200 mm) rains fell over southeastern Nicaragua and eastern Costa Rica. Meanwhile suppressed rains were observed along the Pacific Basin and interior of Central America. This past week's rainfall totals were below-average, which helped increase thirty-day moisture deficits across the interior of Central America. Since mid-June, east central Guatemala, the western and southern parts of Honduras, and western Nicaragua have received only between 25 and 50 percent of their average rainfall. Since the beginning of May, the largest rainfall deficits have been recorded over portions of central Honduras, extending to western Nicaragua. Recent vegetation indices have shown inadequate and below-average conditions over portions of central Honduras and western Nicaragua. If the lack of rains continues, it could negatively affect crops further and ultimately reduce seasonal yields.

During the next week, light rains are again forecast over the interior of Central America. This will likely increase moisture deficits and potentially worsen conditions on the ground. Meanwhile, localized heavy rains are forecast over western Guatemala, the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The forecast heavy rains could trigger localized flooding and landslides over already saturated grounds of western Guatemala, southeastern Nicaragua and coastal Costa Rica.

