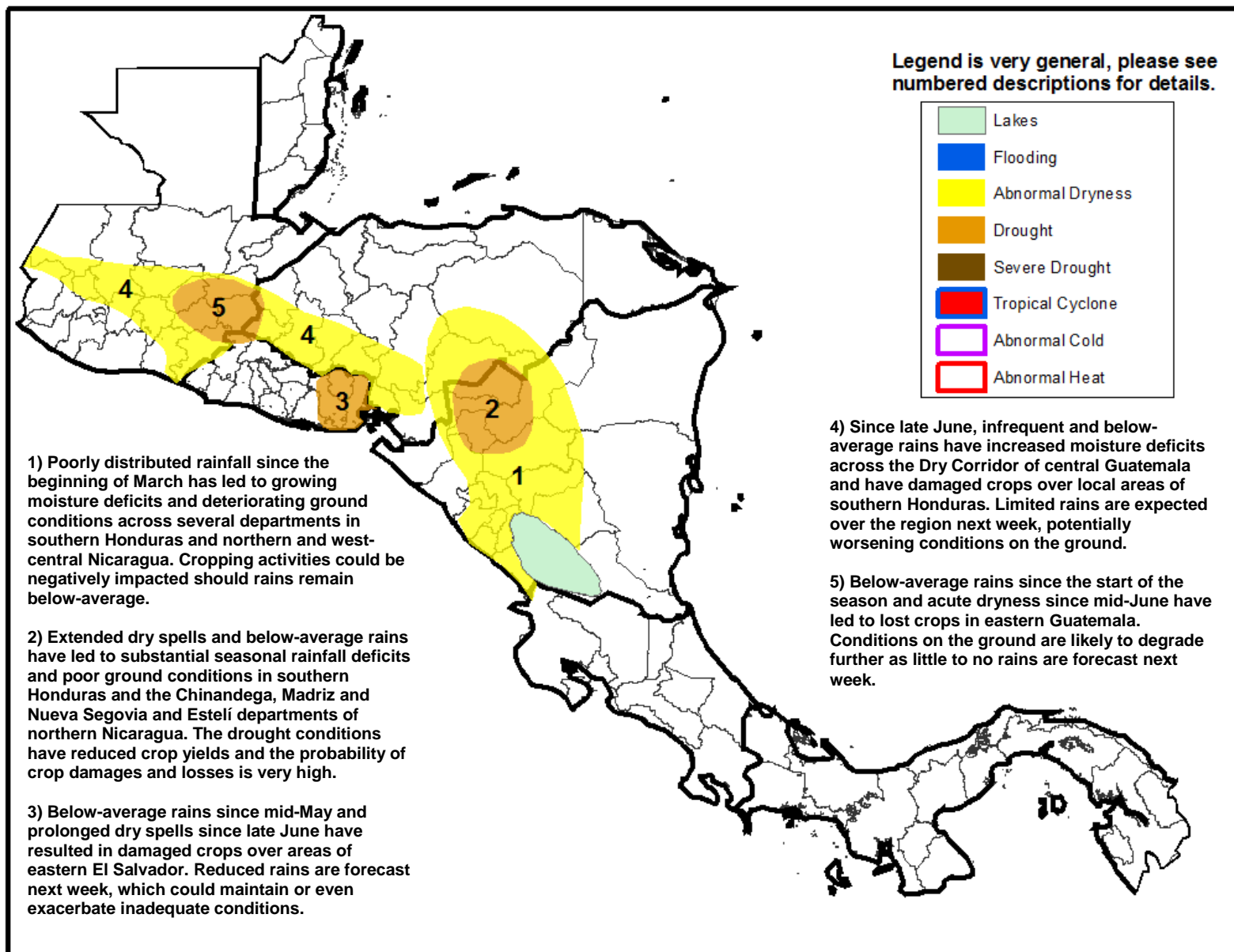




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 31 – August 6, 2014

- Dryness has continued across many areas of Central America.



A return to reduced rainfall forecast.

During the past week, torrential (> 150 mm) rains fell along the Gulf of Honduras, causing landslides and flooding over many local areas of the Izabal, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz departments of Guatemala. Heavy rains were also observed along the Atlantic Basin of Costa Rica and western El Salvador. Moderate rains were registered over parts of eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua, while little to no rainfall continued over central Guatemala and along the Gulf of Fonseca region. Rainfall anomalies since late May have shown large (> 200 mm) deficits over eastern Guatemala, western Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and central Nicaragua. The lack of rainfall over the past eight weeks has already resulted in destroyed crops over local areas of eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and eastern El Salvador. Although recent vegetation indices exhibited adequate conditions over much of Central America, below-average conditions have remained over local areas of central and southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. If the unfavorable rainfall distribution continues, it will likely result in reduced seasonal crop yields over many local areas of Central America.

During the next seven days, model rainfall forecasts suggest a return to reduced rainfall throughout Central America. Little to no rainfall is expected across the inland of the region, including the dryness-affected area of eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. Locally moderate rains are, however, possible over central Guatemala and northern Honduras. Meanwhile, heavy rains are expected to continue along southeastern coastal areas of Nicaragua, and over the Southern Caribbean.

