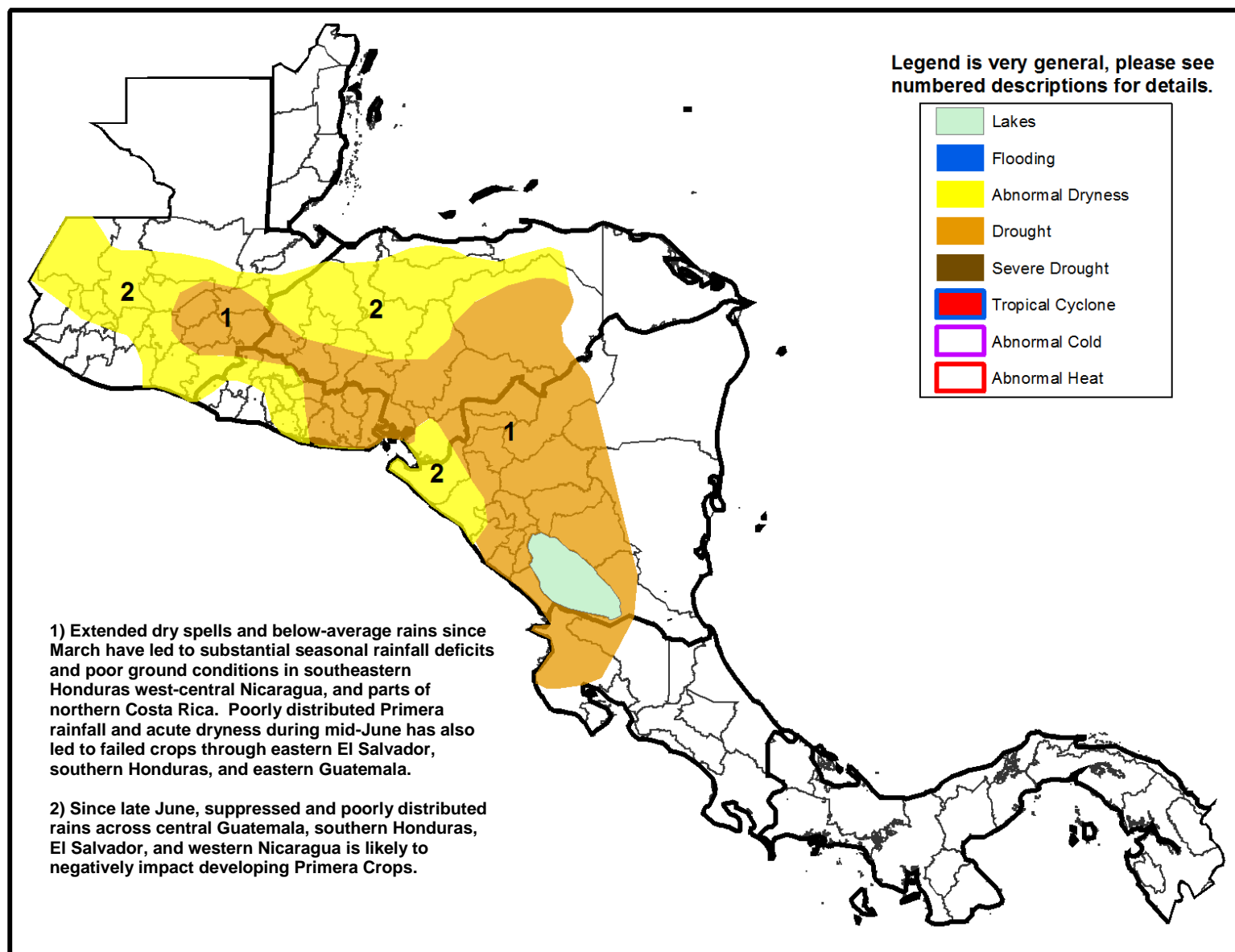




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 14 – August 20, 2014

- Increased rains bring much needed moisture to drought-stricken areas of Central America.



## Anomalous dryness worsens throughout many areas in Central America.

During the last week, an increase in precipitation was received throughout Central America, providing some relief for many areas that have experienced anomalous dryness this summer. The highest weekly rainfall amounts (>75mm) were received across parts of El Salvador and southern Honduras, with lighter, but favorable amounts received throughout many local areas in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Following a very poor July, increased rains since the beginning of August has helped offset both short-term and long-term moisture deficits that have already affected several regions in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. However, both local rain gauges and satellite estimated rainfall anomalies since the beginning of May show large moisture deficits ranging between 10 to 50 percent of normal across the Pacific side of Central America, with the greatest dryness affecting the Gulf of Fonseca region. Much of this dryness is in addition to the drought conditions that developed over west-central Nicaragua and Honduras, and has already resulted in failed and wilted crops over many local areas.

During the next seven days, model rainfall forecasts indicate a continuation of above-average in rainfall along the Pacific side of Central America for the upcoming week. Precipitation amounts in excess of 50mm are expected to be favorable for many regions in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua; however, several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall are most likely needed in order to fully eliminate seasonal moisture deficits.

