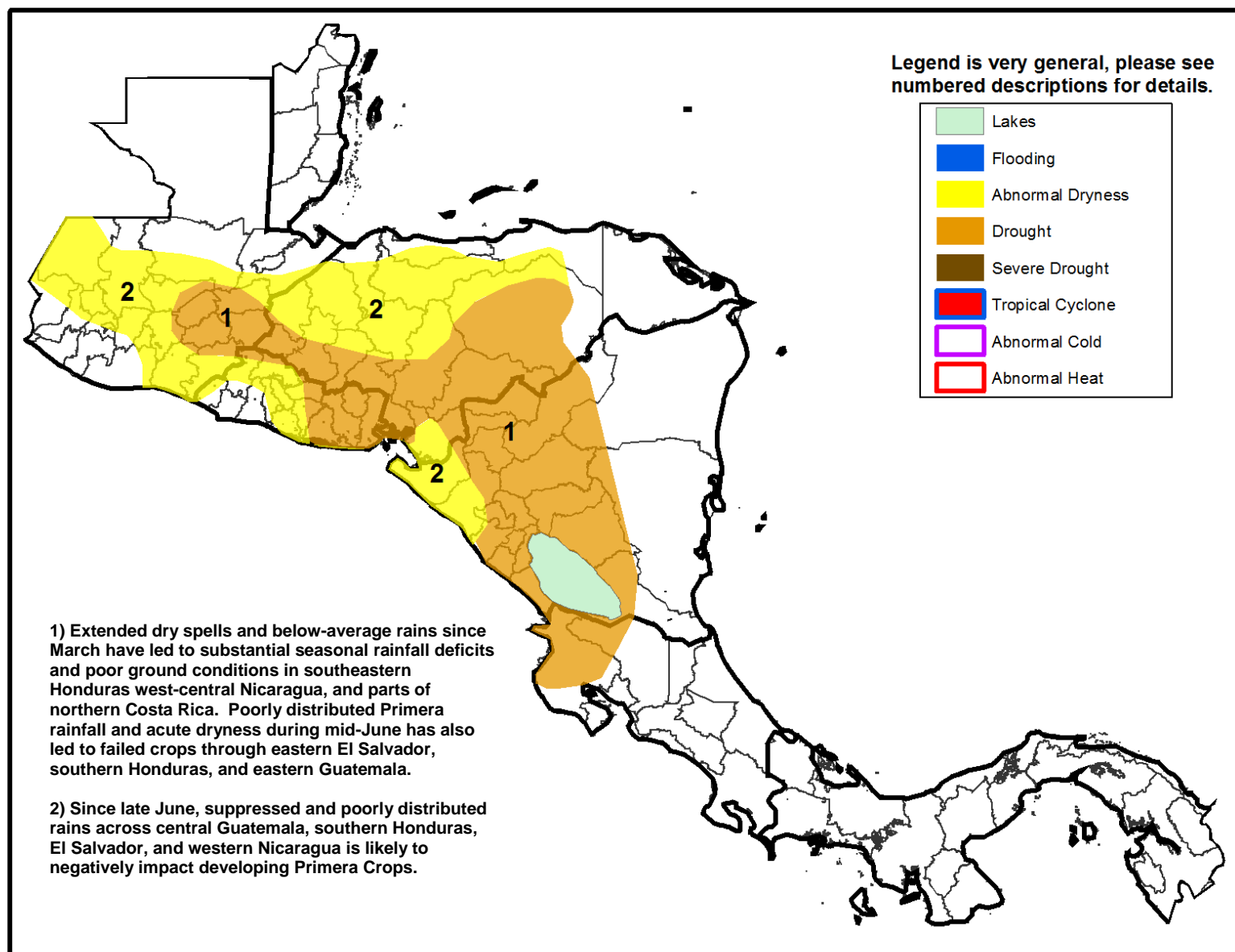




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 21 – August 27, 2014

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



## Increased rainfall during middle of August continues to replenish ground conditions.

During the last week, heavy amounts of precipitation were mostly received along the Atlantic side of Central America, as the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were felt across much of northern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. Lesser, but well-distributed weekly amounts (10-25mm) were received across many interior areas of Central America, bringing some relief to several areas affected by abnormal dryness and seasonal drought in central Guatemala, southern Honduras, and central Nicaragua. On the Pacific side, enhanced rains were also received across southern Guatemala, as well as, throughout parts of El Salvador and Costa Rica. Following very poor rains in July, increased rains since the beginning of August has improved 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 still show large moisture deficits ranging between 10 to 50 percent of normal across the Pacific side of Central America. Much of this dryness has already resulted in failed and wilted Primera crops over many local areas.

During the next seven days, model rainfall forecasts indicate a fairly broad scale suppression of rainfall across much of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with most of seasonable rainfall limited to the southern Central America region. Despite the recent moisture recovery, the return of below-average precipitation is likely expected to strengthen seasonal moisture deficits by the end of August.

