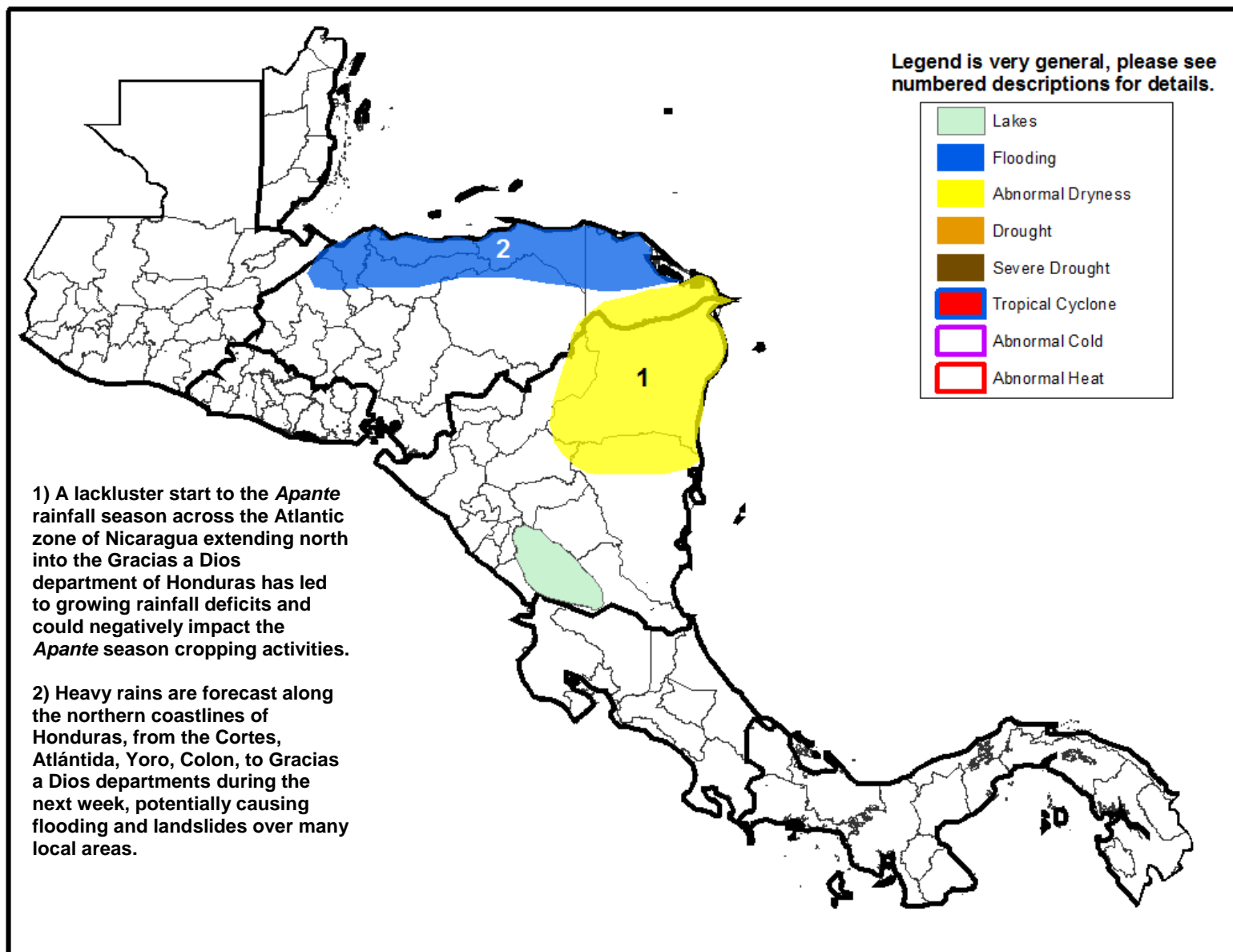




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 19 – 25, 2015

- Heavy rains forecast along the Atlantic Basin of Central America during the next week.



Increased rains expected along the Atlantic coastlines.

During the past week, dry weather prevailed over Central America. Little to no rainfall fell across the interior of the region, while light rains were registered over northern Honduras and northern Guatemala. In contrast, moderate to heavy rains were registered over Costa Rica. During the past thirty days, negative rainfall anomalies were observed over western and northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua, with deficits ranging between 25-100 mm. Neutral to positive rainfall anomalies were observed elsewhere. Since the beginning of the December-April rainy season, many areas including Guatemala, southern Honduras and north-central Nicaragua have received below-average rainfall accounting for only between 25-50 percent of their average. An increase in rainfall is needed to mitigate dryness over already-impacted areas of eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua.

During the next week, an increase in rainfall is expected over Central America, particularly, along the Atlantic Basin. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast along northern Honduras, the eastern littorals of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The forecast increased rains should help reduce thirty-day moisture deficits over the dry portions of Central America, but they could also trigger flooding and landslides over flood-prone areas. Meanwhile, little to light rainfall is expected across the interior of the region.

