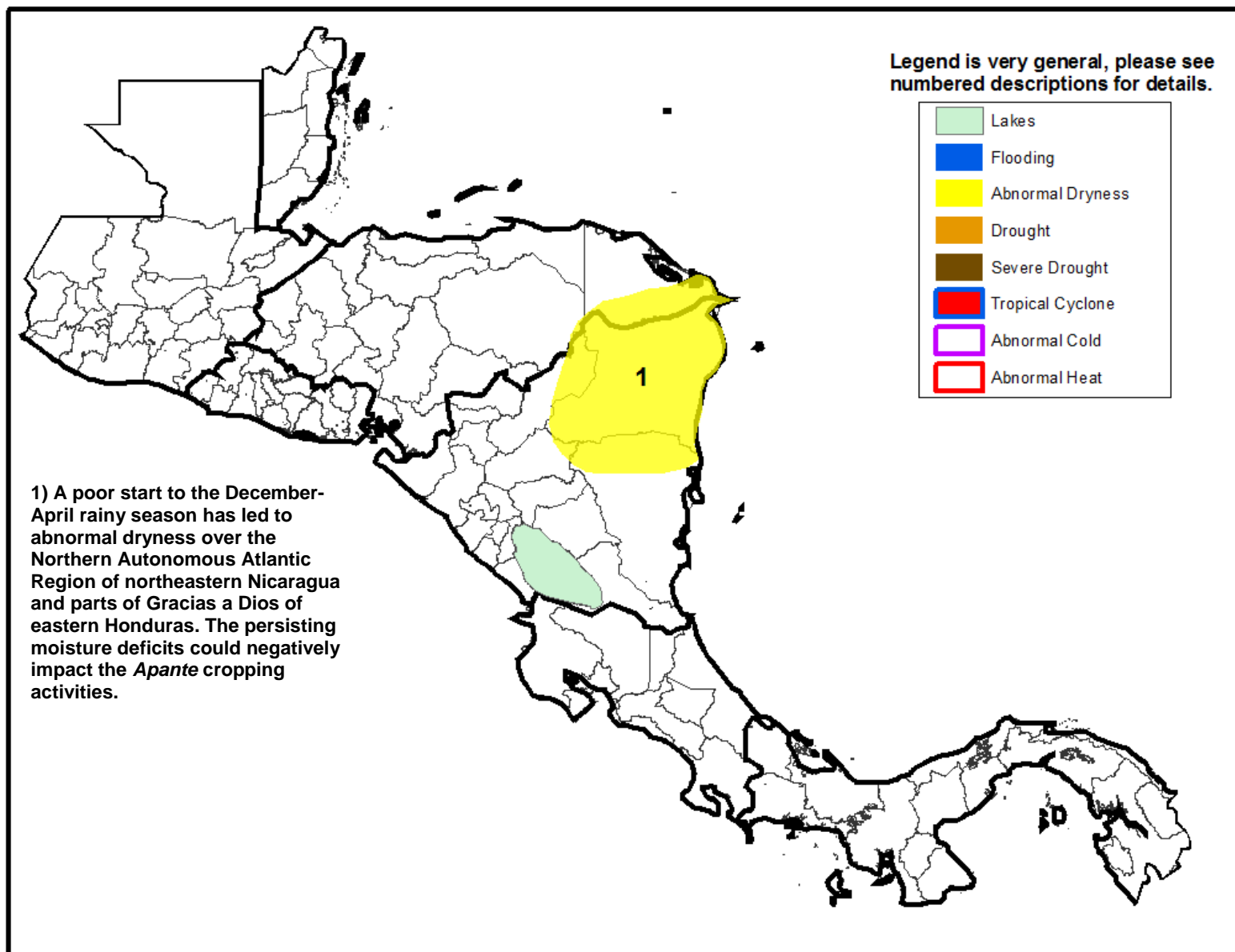




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 26 – March 4, 2015

- Heavy rains observed along the Gulf of Honduras region during the past week.



Seasonal rains to continue.

While suppressed rains continued throughout the interior of Central America, heavy rains fell along the Gulf of Honduras during the past week. Over 50 mm of rainfall was received over Puerto Barrios of eastern Guatemala and Tela and La Ceiba of northern Honduras, based on local rain gauge measurements. This marked an increase in rainfall relative to rainfall totals during the week prior. To the south, light rains were recorded along the Caribbean Basin of Costa Rica. This past week's rainfall distribution reflected typical weather patterns during the dry season, although rainfall was slightly above-average in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. The continued near-average rainfall over the past few weeks contributed to maintaining seasonal deficits over western and northern Guatemala and northeastern Nicaragua. Additionally, the lack of rains favors environmental conditions for forest fires over many local areas of Central America. It could also reduce crop yields over dryness-affected areas.

For next week, a slight decrease in rainfall is forecast along the Gulf of Honduras relative to past week's observations, with scattered light rains in northern and eastern Guatemala, Belize, and northern Honduras. In contrast, a slight increase in rainfall is expected in eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua, which should help reduce accumulated deficits and partially improve conditions in the region. Meanwhile, little to no rainfall is forecast along the Pacific Basin and across the inland of Central America.

