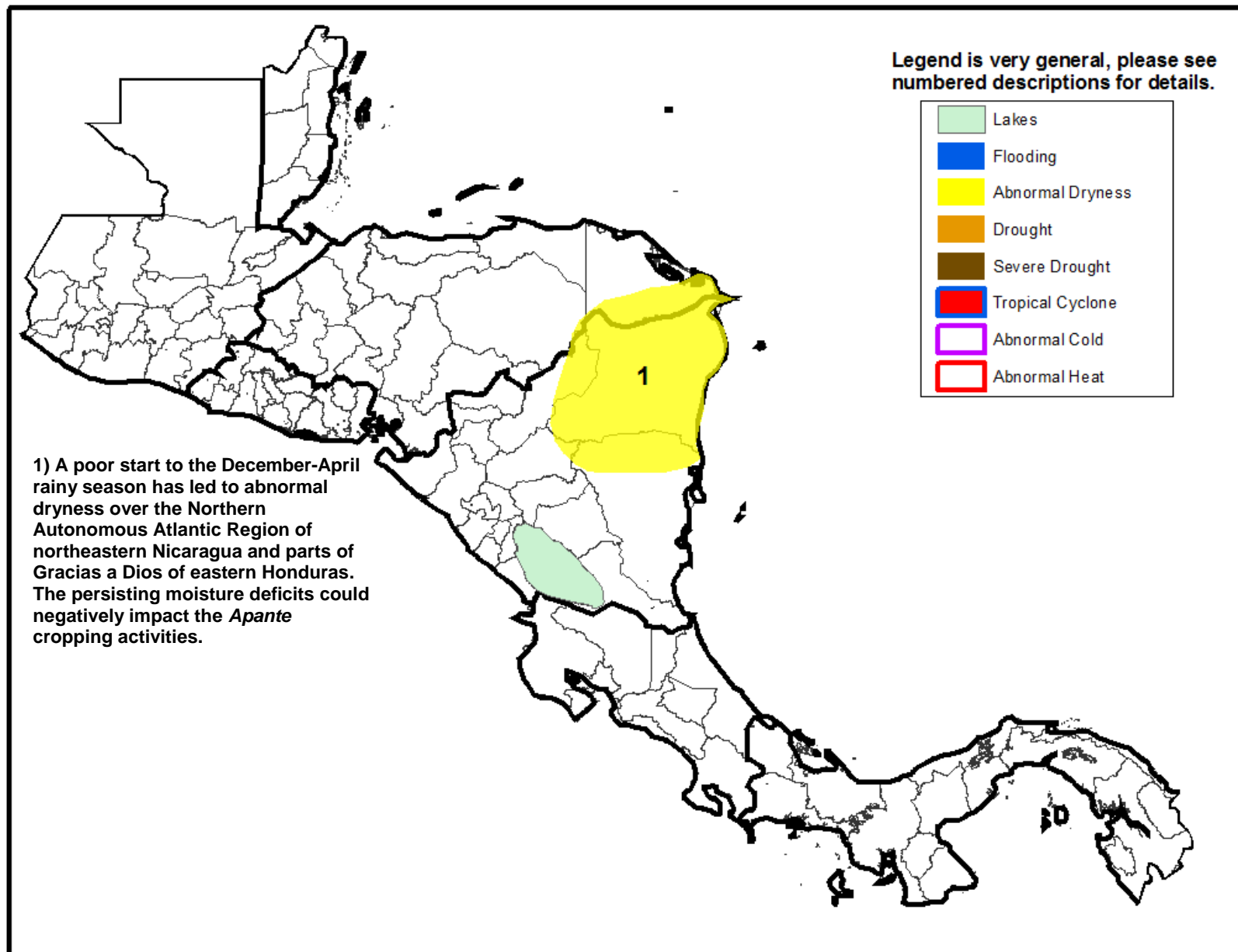




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 5 – March 11, 2015

- Increased rains expected to help relieve several anomalously dry areas in Central America



## Poor rains lead to developing dryness in northern Central America.

During the last week, a slight reduction in the quantity and distribution of seasonal precipitation was observed over Central America. Compared to rains received in late February, lesser rainfall amounts were received for several coastal and interior areas in Guatemala and Honduras. The highest weekly accumulations continued across the southern Caribbean, bringing seasonal amounts of moisture into parts of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Since the beginning of February, satellite rainfall analyses indicate prevailing below-average precipitation conditions over the northern half of Central America region, with the greatest moisture deficits concentrated over northern Guatemala and Belize. Here, many local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation, which has led to deteriorating ground conditions and may adversely impact ongoing Apante cropping activities. Additionally, the suppressed rains in the region favor environmental conditions for forest fires over many local areas of Central America. This could also reduce crop yields over dryness-affected areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, an increase in rainfall is forecast over eastern Nicaragua and into parts of the Gulf of Honduras. A more seasonable distribution of rainfall is expected elsewhere during early March.

