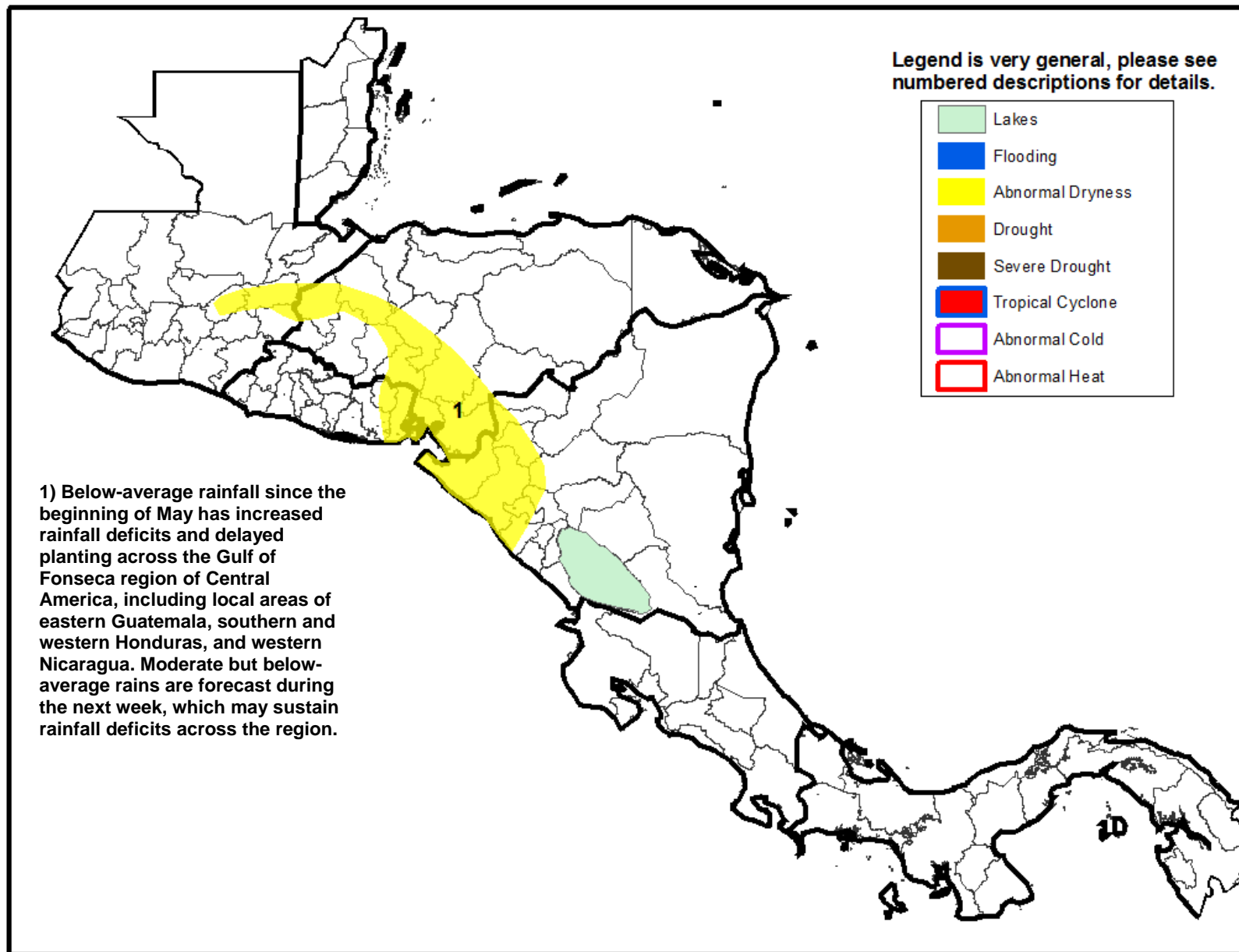




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 28 – June 3, 2015

- A sluggish onset of the first rainy season has led to abnormal dryness across many areas of Central America.



A timid start to the first rainy season expected during the next week.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies since the beginning of May has revealed that large seasonal deficits have developed across many areas of Central America. These included the Gulf of Fonseca region, western Honduras and eastern Guatemala, where negative anomalies have ranged between 50 – 200 mm. These dry portions of Central America have received only less than 25 percent of their average rainfall since the start of the first rainy season. During the past week, little to light rains prevailed across much of the interior of the region, while moderate to heavy rains were recorded along the Pacific Basin of Guatemala and over the Southern Caribbean. The continued drier than average conditions during the past few weeks have already negatively impacted cropping activities such as delayed sowing over many local areas of Central America. The most recent vegetation indices have indicated further degradation of conditions over parts of eastern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. A further delay on the onset of seasonal rains could adversely impact crops growing cycle over many local areas.

During the next week, more widespread, but below-average rainfall is forecast throughout Central America. Moderate to locally heavy showers are expected over western Guatemala, El Salvador, localized areas of western Honduras, and the Southern Caribbean. However, the forecast accumulation is likely to remain slightly below-average. Light rains are also forecast across southern Honduras and north-central Nicaragua.

