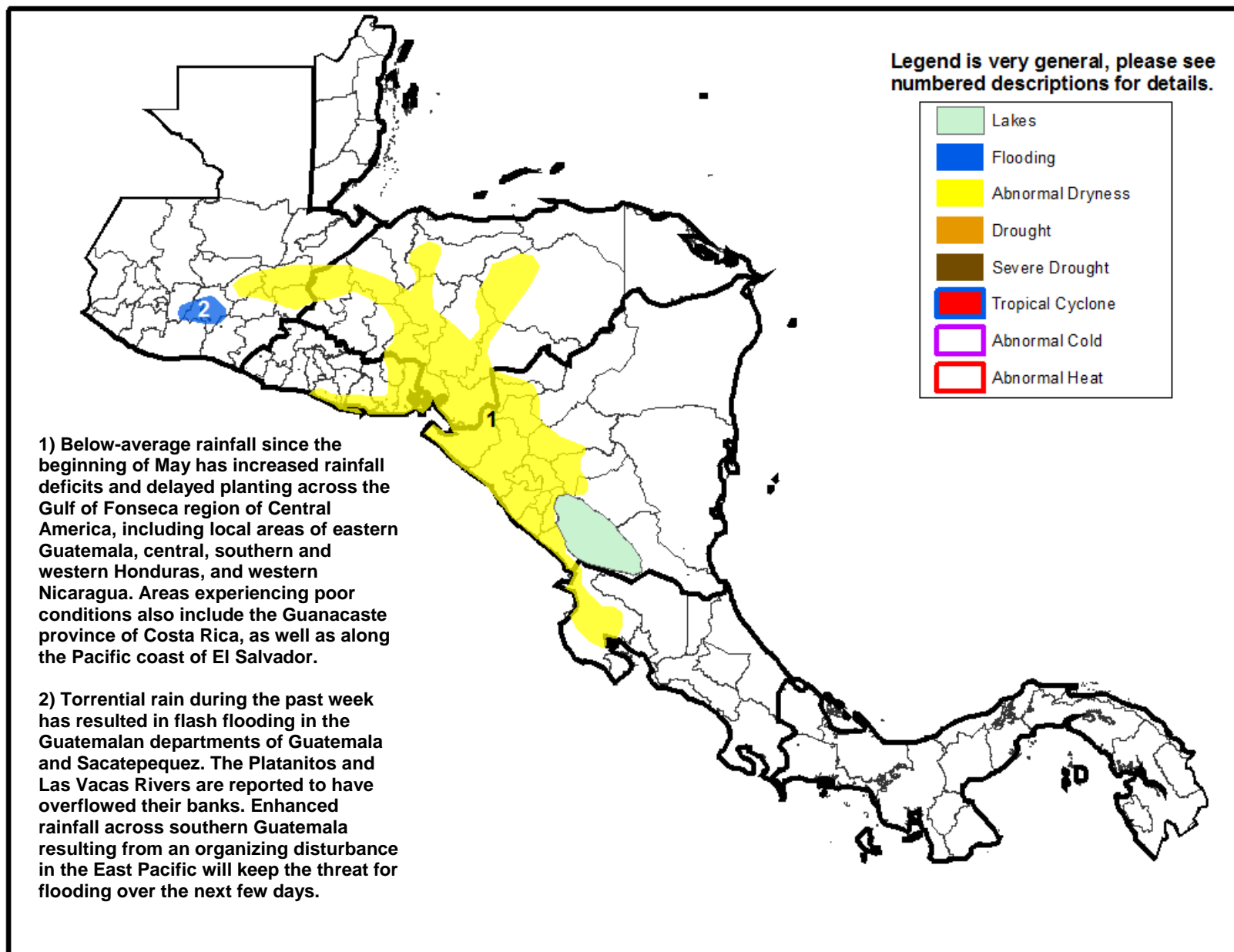




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook June 11– June 17, 2015

- Beneficial rains over the past seven days for many areas should continue into next week.



Widespread above-average rainfall is expected again during the next 7 days.

Rains increased substantially during the past 7 days across many parts of Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador. According to TRMM, the heaviest rain was observed in northwestern Nicaragua where greater than 300 mm fell (**Figure 1**). Other areas experiencing wet conditions include eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua, along with Costa Rica and Panama, and southern Guatemala. Analyzing rainfall anomalies since the second dekad of May reveals that large deficits still exist, but have been reduced in many of these areas. 30-day anomalies continue to strengthen for areas in northern and western Guatemala which experienced another week of below-normal rainfall. The worst performing areas include the Gulf of Fonseca region, western Honduras, central and northern Guatemala, according to the 30-day percent of normal rainfall. These driest portions of Central America received less than 50 percent of their average rainfall since the start of the first rainy season. The continued drier-than-average conditions during the past few weeks have delayed sowing for many local areas of Central America. The most recent vegetation indices indicate that ground conditions continue degrade in parts of eastern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, western Nicaragua and expanding southward into Costa Rica. A continued increase of seasonal rains is important during the next couple of weeks to avoid adverse impacts on crop growing cycles over many local areas.

During the next week, widespread, above-average rainfall is forecast for Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and western Nicaragua. Moderate to heavy downpours are likely throughout the region. The forecasted rainfall amounts would be beneficial for providing sufficient soil moisture for successful planting activities. Areas in eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama are forecasted to receive near or below normal rainfall.

