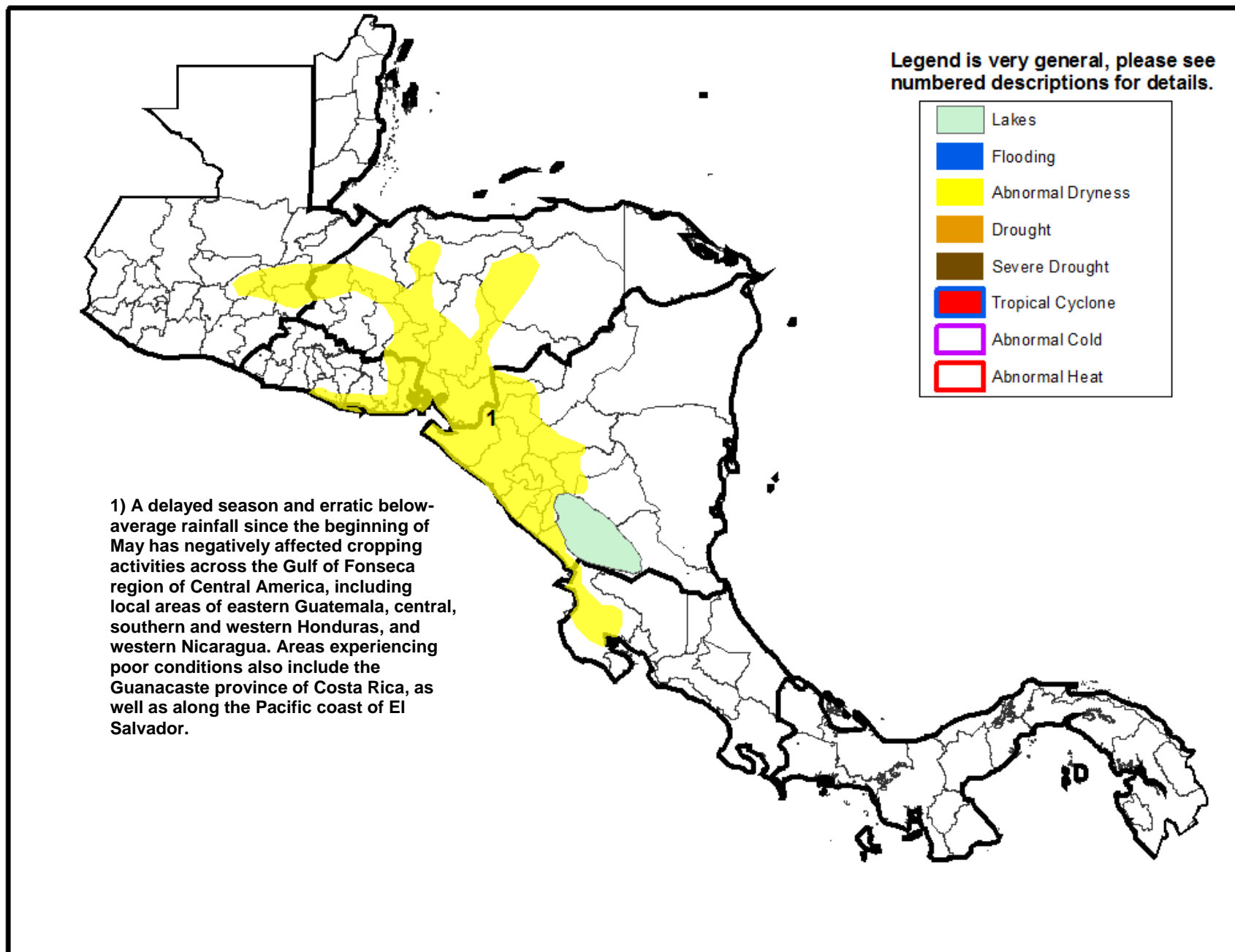




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook June 25– July 01, 2015

- The drying trend over the past 7 days may signal the beginning of the canicula



## Precipitation has backed off substantially for many parts of the region

After 2 weeks of soaking rainfall across the majority of Central America, the past week has reverted to drier-than-normal conditions. The most substantial rainfall totals (>200mm) were observed, according to TRMM, over northern parts of Guatemala and Costa Rica. Conversely, the Gulf of Fonseca region and western Nicaragua observed very little rain. Though moderate rains were observed in eastern Nicaragua, the magnitude was significantly less than climatology. This observed cessation of rainfall magnitude across the majority of the region may be associated with an early start to the canicula. This is an unfortunate sign, as the brief and erratic nature of rains to this point of the primera season has already caused difficulty for many cropping activities. Even in some areas that show near or above-average seasonal precipitation, such as central Honduras, the short duration of rains has not been very supportive of crops. The most recent vegetation indices still indicate poor ground conditions for parts of eastern Guatemala, El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, western Nicaragua and expanding southward into Costa Rica. Eastern Nicaragua, an area that has seen rapidly increasing moisture deficits, also shows the greatest deterioration in NDVI anomaly and is an area that bears close watching moving forward.

During the next week, near-normal conditions are forecasted for many areas. Portions of western Nicaragua are likely to receive less rain than normal. Areas across the northern tier of Honduras and into the Gulf of Honduras region are likely to pick up above-average precipitation. Locally heavy rains may fall along the immediate Caribbean coast of Nicaragua. With wetter conditions emerging in the forecast, the question of whether the canicula has set in early or not remains to be answered.

