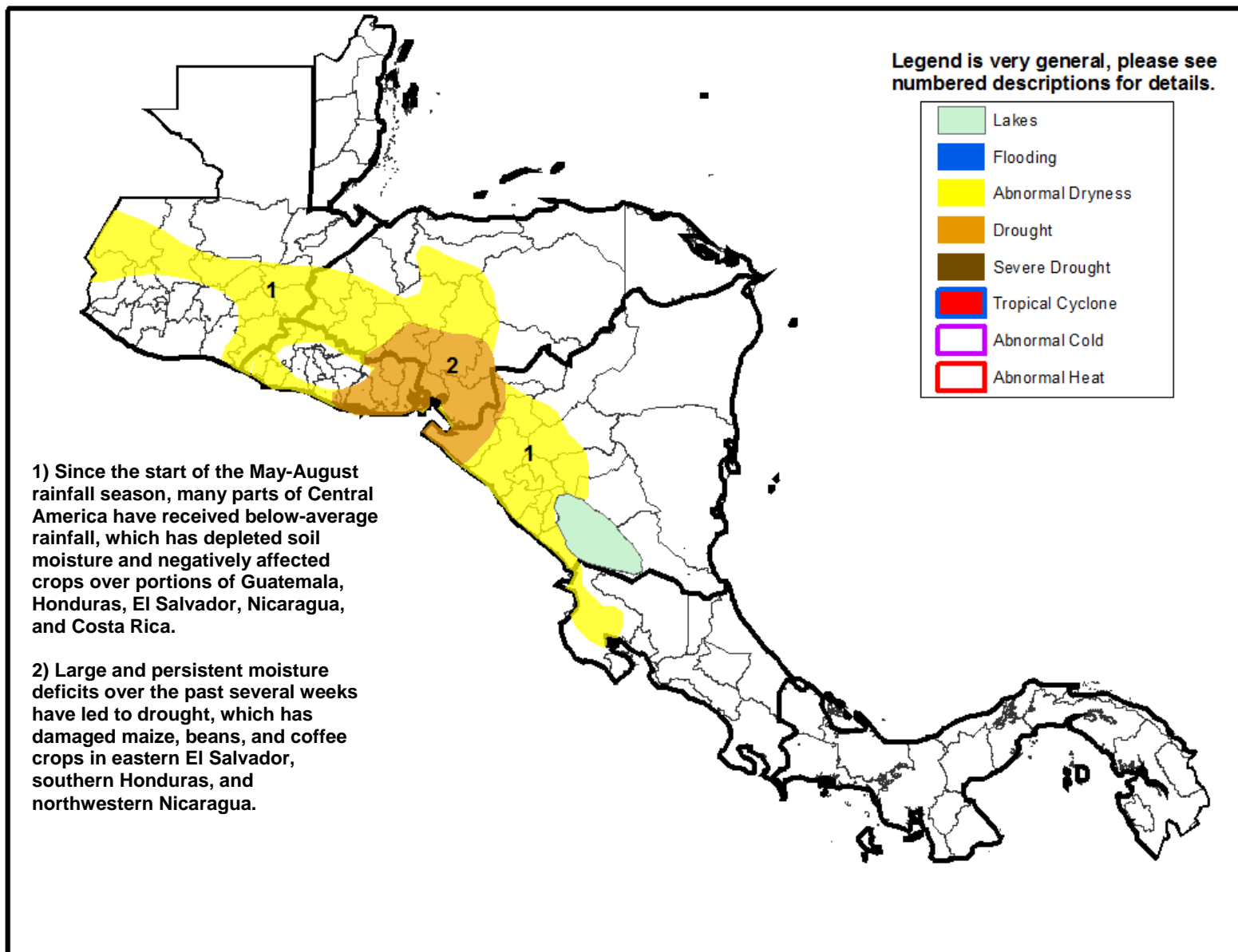




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 16 – 22, 2015

- Persistent, below-average rainfall has resulted in drought along the Gulf of Fonseca.



## A poor performance of the May-August rainfall season observed.

During the second week of July, an increase in rainfall was observed over Central America relative to that of the prior period. Moderate to heavy and above-average rainfall fell in southwestern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. However, little to light (< 25 mm) and below-average rainfall was again recorded over Honduras and the Gulf of Fonseca region. This has contributed to further increase moisture deficits throughout the dry portions of Central America. Since mid-June, while much of Central America has received 50-80 percent of the average rain, some areas of eastern El Salvador and northwestern Nicaragua have accumulated only between 5-25 percent of their average rainfall. The severe lack of rainfall has already damaged maize, beans, and coffee crops in central and eastern El Salvador, according to reports. In Honduras, local authorities have also declared emergency and activated plan of actions against drought for municipalities, which have already been affected by the drought. Copious and consistent amounts of rainfall are needed to fully eliminate accumulated moisture deficits over many local areas of the region.

For next week, locally heavy rain is forecast along the Pacific Basin of Central America, including western Guatemala, western El Salvador, and southwestern Honduras. Abundant rain is also expected over the Southern Caribbean and along the Atlantic littorals of Nicaragua. Meanwhile, moderate and likely to be below-average rain is forecast across the interior of Honduras and Nicaragua.

